



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

**Appendix 8 Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental
Report and Non-Technical Summary**

Appendix 9 Natura Impact Report and AA Conclusion Statement

June 2025



CARRICK-ON-SUIR LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

Prepared for:

Tipperary County Council



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

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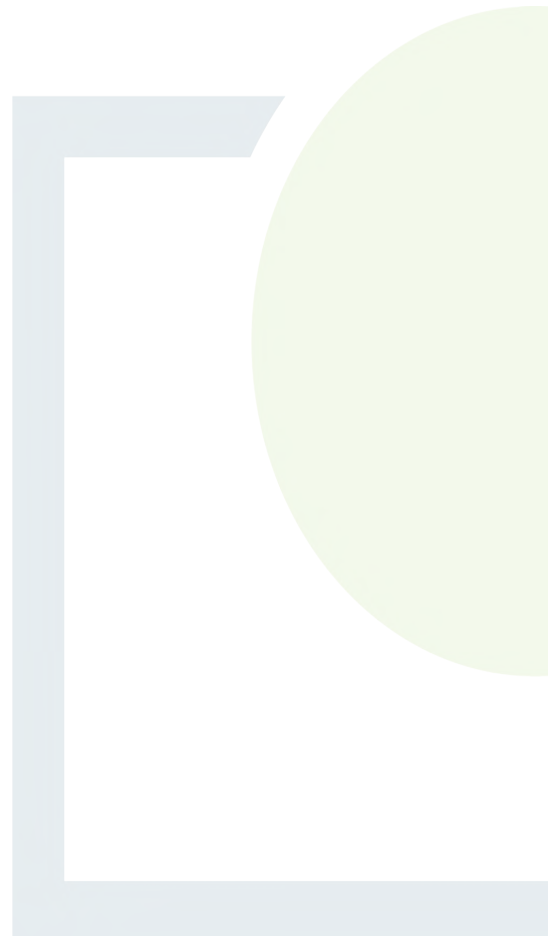
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Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report for the Carrick-On-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this SEA Environmental Report to Tipperary County Council for the Carrick-On-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Tipperary County Council has prepared the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 (herein referred to as the 'Plan' or 'LAP'). Given the LAP is being prepared for a town and environs area with a population of greater than 5,000 persons, it was determined that the LAP should be subject to mandatory Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

An SEA has been undertaken for the Plan. The purpose of the SEA is to identify and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementation of the LAP.

1.2 Plan Amendments

This document is a consolidated version of the SEA Environmental Report which has been updated in response to consultation submissions received during SEA Consultation and considering Material Alterations to the Plan and Further Amendments to Material Alterations made during the Plan-making process.

The Plan amendments arising from SEA consultation and the post consultation Plan-making process have been subject to further environmental assessment. These assessments are presented in Appendices 4 and 5. It was concluded that the amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA, and therefore further SEA of the amendments was not required.

1.3 SEA Environmental Report

This document has been produced by FT and is the SEA Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031. It forms the main written output of the SEA process and as such presents information on the environmental assessment and likely environmental issues related to the implementation of the Plan.

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

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



1.4 Background to SEA and Legislative Context

SEA is required under the EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive¹). The SEA Directive requires that an environmental assessment is carried out on certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *‘to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development’*².

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental consequences of implementing Plan or Programme (P/P) initiatives prepared by authorities at a national, regional or local level or which have been prepared for adoption through legislative means.

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government’s (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *‘formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme’*.

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

1.5 Purpose of this SEA

The purpose of SEA in this case is to enable the local authority to incorporate environmental considerations into decision-making at an early stage and in an integrated way throughout the Plan development process, and to:

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

¹ Transposing Irish Regulations: S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

² Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



1.6 Appropriate Assessment

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

The Habitats Directive³ requires, inter alia, that plans (such as the Carrick-on-Suir LAP) undergo Screening for AA (Stage 1) and if necessary the preparation of a Natura Impact Report (Stage 2), to establish the likely or potential effects on European Sites arising from plan implementation.

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

AA Screening concluded that the Plan had the potential generate likely significant effects to European sites - in the absence of mitigation. Therefore, the Plan was subject to Stage 2 of the AA process. A Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared alongside the SEA Environmental Report. This NIR has informed the carrying out of the SEA in accordance with Integrated Biodiversity Assessment principles.

1.7 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) involves a strategic-level assessment of flood risk in a Plan area. SFRA informs land use planning decisions and enables the Planning Authority to allocate appropriate sites for development, whilst identifying opportunities for reducing flood risk.

SFRA is required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014.

An SFRA has also been prepared for the Plan. The SFRA has identified the risk of flooding in the study area, delineates flood zones, and provides mitigation measures to avoid or minimize flooding. This SFRA has suitably informed the Plan, zoning decisions and the SEA process.

³ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.



2. THE PLAN

2.1 Overview

This Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031 (LAP) has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. LAPs are required for towns with a population over 5,000. Therefore, a new LAP is mandatory for Carrick-on-Suir. This LAP replaces the Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013 (as varied and extended).

This LAP outlines the local spatial planning framework for Carrick-on-Suir with planning policies and objectives unique to the town set out at the end of each chapter. Planning policies will inform private and public sector local development proposals, and planning objectives represent the key local objectives of the Council to be achieved over the lifetime of the LAP.

This LAP has been prepared having consideration to Local Area Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2013), and the accompanying best-practice manual and the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022).

2.2 Content of the Plan

This LAP sets out a strategic vision for Carrick-on-Suir and has been informed by collaboration and consultation with stakeholders and the general public. This LAP has been prepared to underpin the Core Strategy of the Tipperary CDP and its Core Ambition to deliver 'Vibrant, Living Towns driving the Regional and Local Economy'. The 10 Strategic Objectives of the Tipperary CDP each comply with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and are reflected in the local spatial planning framework outlined.

The LAP sits at the 'local' tier of planning policy and is consistent with the objectives of national and regional level planning policies, as well as the Tipperary CDP. The LAP is comprised of the following documents:

- A Written Statement with specific policies and objectives laid out across 10 sections.
- Maps including land-use zoning with flood risk areas, and built and natural heritage.
- Appendices as follows:
 1. Serviced Land Assessment
 2. Sustainable Travel Plan
 3. Regeneration Sites
 4. Social Infrastructure Audit
 5. Monitoring and Implementation Strategy
 6. Architectural Conservation Area Statement of Character
 7. Town Centre First Plan

The LAP is focused on a renewed and targeted approach to compact growth and regeneration, with the town centre as the heart and focal point of Carrick-on-Suir, and with clear consideration of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and modal shift change in terms of how we get around. At the centre of this LAP is consideration of quality of life for the community in the form of housing, jobs, education and amenities.



The LAP includes policies and objectives at the end of each Chapter. The policies of the Plan seek to manage and guide new development of the town in a sustainable way. The objectives of the Plan are included to provide clarity on the active role of the Council in managing, supporting, and implementing the vision for the Plan. The policies and objectives of this LAP have been framed in a manner to ensure consistency with the provisions of the NPF, RSES and Tipperary CDP 2022-2028. This provides for a compact approach to growth with the aim of facilitating the delivery of climate resilient and sustainable communities in the town.

The strategic goal and aim of each section of the LAP are presented as below.

LAP Section/Chapter	Strategic Goal and Aim
2. Planning and Development Strategy	In 2031, Carrick-on-Suir will be a vibrant, sustainable and age-friendly community. The community will benefit from a high quality of life, quality housing choices, improved access to employment options and an improved range of services in the town. The town will benefit from significant investment and regeneration in the central areas of the town, enhanced social, cultural and tourism activities in the town, an increasing town centre residential population, and thriving and vibrant local businesses and services.
3. Town Centre Strategy	The Town Centre Strategy for Carrick-on-Suir will seek to ensure that the vibrancy and vitality of the town is maintained and enhanced. This will be achieved by increasing the residential population of the town centre, regenerating town centre brownfield lands, implementing and delivering the local town centre heritage-led strategies for the town, and providing a high-quality, pleasant and enjoyable town centre environment focused on active modes of travel.
4. Economic Development Strategy	By 2031, Carrick-on-Suir will have consolidated its existing employment base with enhanced employment opportunities for local residents. This will be achieved by supporting existing businesses to diversify and expand, supporting the development of existing business parks in the town, promoting and enabling tourism development and by improving the town centre experience through the delivery of new infrastructure and a heritage-led Town Centre First approach.
5. Sustainable Communities	Over its lifetime, this Carrick-on-Suir LAP, as part of a larger multi-stakeholder social and economic framework, will help facilitate the development of sustainable and socially inclusive communities, where high-quality and age friendly housing is provided consistently, and integrated with the delivery of community and social infrastructure to support a high quality of life for the residents of the town.
6. Transport and Connectivity	By 2030, Carrick-on-Suir will have initiated a model shift change in transport modes, with greater numbers of residents, workers and visitors utilising active travel such as walking and cycling and public transport, thereby enabling more sustainable transport patterns. This will be achieved by investing in sustainable transport infrastructure, provision of a high-quality public realm and the facilitation and activation of new development close to the town centre.
7. Recognising Our Local Heritage	In 2031, Carrick-on-Suir will have an enhanced built heritage, amenity and green and blue infrastructure that will showcase the best of the natural and built heritage of the town; enhancing amenity and providing a high-quality environment for locals, visitors and future generations. This will be achieved by ensuring that new development contributes to urban greening and local ecology, and by sensitive investment in the built heritage in the town.



LAP Section/Chapter	Strategic Goal and Aim
8. Infrastructure, Energy and Utilities	Over the lifetime of this Plan, there will be continued investment in a sustainable network of physical strategic infrastructure and utilities to support sustainable socio-economic growth and protect the quality of the environment of Carrick-on-Suir. This will be achieved through the identification of required infrastructure in collaboration with infrastructure providers, and continued investment in the right locations, and at the right time.
9. Land use Zoning Framework	The purpose of the land use zoning framework is to guide development to the right location and ensure that development takes places in a co-ordinated and coherent way, while protecting the built and natural environment of the town. The land use framework is underpinned by the SLA with a tiered approach to zoning in accordance with the NPF requirements and is informed by the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022).
10. Monitoring and Evaluation	The Council places an emphasis on monitoring, and it is a key objective of this Plan to carry out effective, cross-sectional monitoring and evaluation of the policies and objectives contained in this LAP.

2.3 Relationship of the Plan with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

An examination of how the LAP interrelates with other national, regional and local plans and programmes has taken place and is documented in Appendix 1.



3. SEA METHODOLOGY

3.1 The SEA Process

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

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

This SEA Environmental Report documents the outcomes of Stage 3.

The SEA process generally runs in parallel with the Appropriate Assessment (AA), which is briefly discussed in Section 1.5. The key stages of the integrated SEA and AA processes are defined in Figure 3-1.

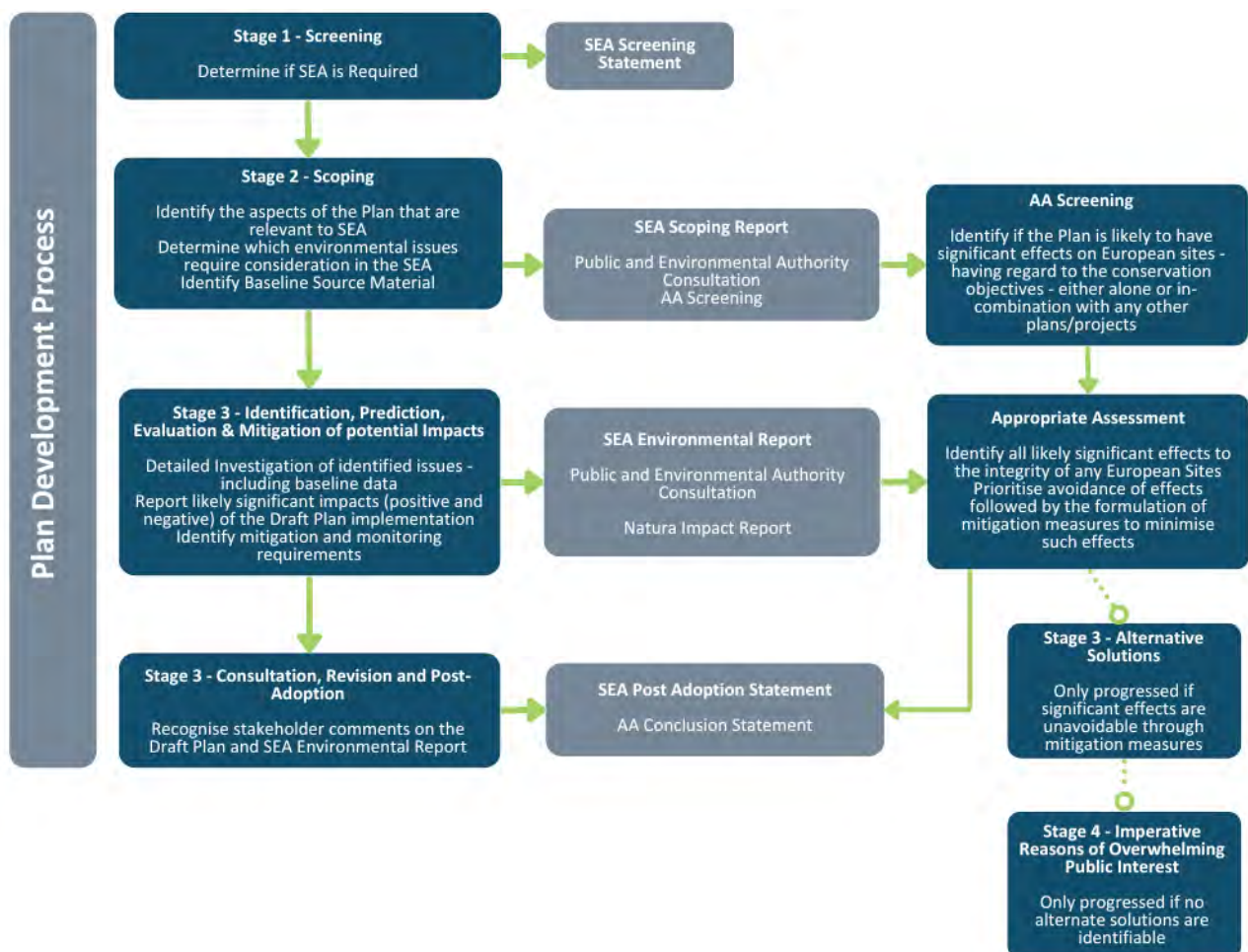


Figure 3-1: SEA and AA Stages and Key Deliverables



3.2 Overview of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA Processes

Given the scale and nature of the Plan, environmental effects were likely, and therefore SEA was 'screened in' in this instance.

An SEA Scoping Report was produced for an initial draft version of the Plan. This SEA Scoping Report, along with SEA Scoping submissions and consideration of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues that were dealt with by the SEA, as per the SEA Guidelines.

Figure 3-2 provides an overview of the integrated Plan development, SEA, AA and SFRA processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA took place concurrently and the findings of the SEA, AA and SFRA has informed the Plan.

Taking into account the scope detailed in the SEA Scoping Report, which was produced for the emerging Plan, the environmental effects associated with the implementation of the Plan are identified, evaluated and described in this SEA Environmental Report. This report also defines mitigation measures to avoid, prevent and reduce adverse environmental effects due to the implementation of the Plan.

A draft version of the Plan was prepared. An environmental assessment of the Draft Plan was completed and a Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR were prepared for the Draft Plan. These environmental reports accompanied the Draft Plan on public consultation. The SEA and AA processes followed elements of Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment⁴. Environmental mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan to prevent likely, significant/adverse effects on the environment or European sites.

This document is a consolidated version of the SEA Environmental Report which has been updated in response to consultation submissions received during SEA Consultation and considering Material Alterations to the Plan and Further Amendments to Material Alterations made during the Plan-making process.

The Plan amendments arising from SEA consultation and the post consultation Plan-making process were subject to further environmental assessment. It was concluded that the amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA, and therefore further SEA of the amendments was not required.

This consolidated SEA Environmental accompanies the final version of the Plan at Plan adoption and upon publication.

An SEA Statement, which will includes comprehensive information on how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan, is published alongside the Final Plan. The Final Plan will be implemented and environmental monitoring of the environmental effects of Plan implementation, as defined under the SEA, will be undertaken.

⁴ As detailed in the EPA's 2013 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner's Manual.

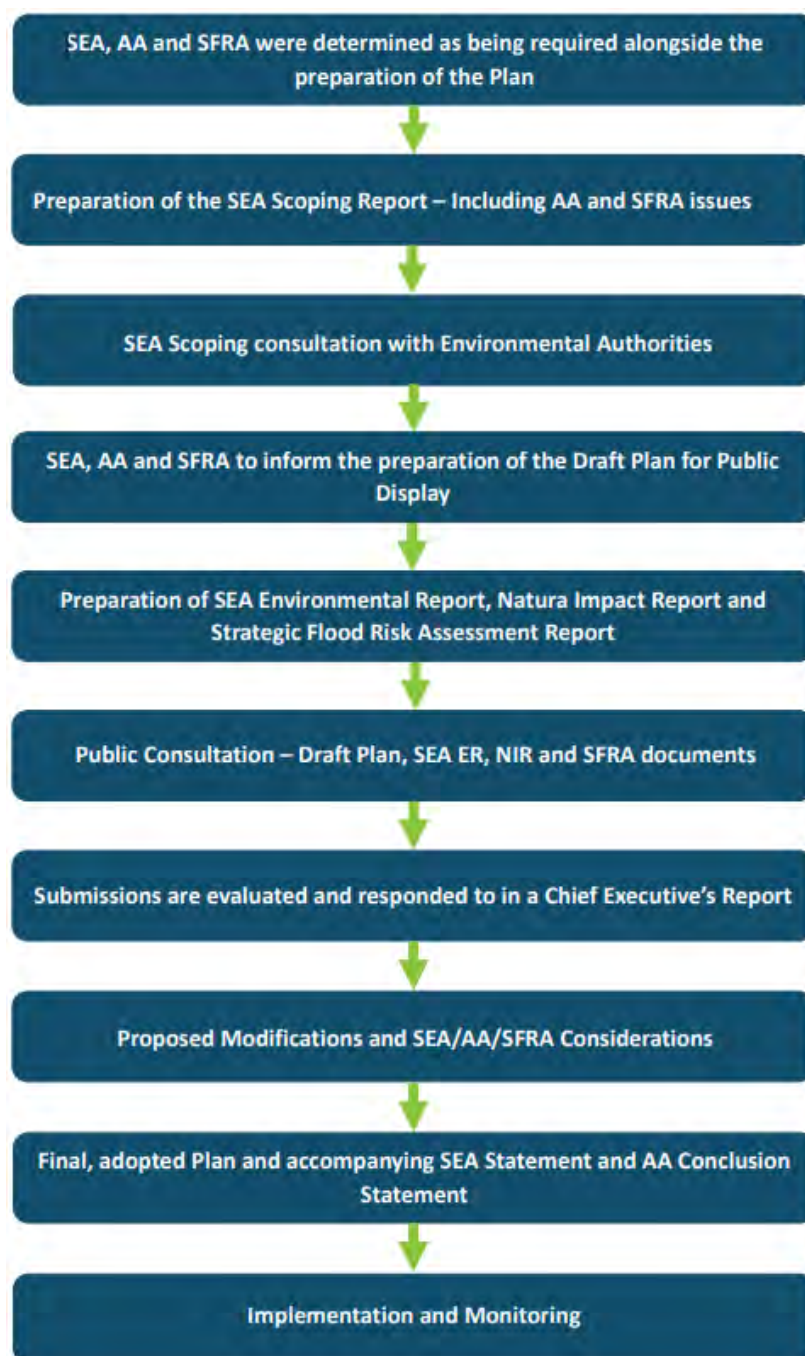


Figure 3-2: Overview of the SEA Process in the Review and Preparation of the Local Area Plan (including the AA and SFRA processes)



3.3 SEA Processes Undertaken To Date

3.3.1 SEA Screening

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

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

Local area plans must be fully compliant with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) and the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

SEA Screening of the emerging Draft LAP was carried out and it was determined that the LAP should be subject to mandatory SEA under the [S.I. No. 436 of 2004](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 201 of 2011](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011) given the LAP is being prepared for a town and environs area with a population of greater than 5,000 persons. Generally, potential for the implementation of the land use framework defined in the LAP to result in likely, significant environmental effects exists - having regard to development aspirations for the Plan area and the baseline environment.

3.3.2 SEA Scoping

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

FT carried out SEA Scoping for an initial draft of the Plan which was informed by consultation responses from the environmental authorities. The SEA Scoping Report outlined information on the Plan, including the need for the Plan, its temporal and geographical area and overall objectives. It facilitated scoping the Environmental Components and understanding the environmental issues to be considered under the SEA process. The Scoping Report was also required to facilitate statutory consultation to ensure that the approach proposed for the SEA is appropriate. A copy of this report was made available to the statutory Environmental Authorities.

The SEA Scoping Report, along with SEA scoping submissions and consideration of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues which are dealt with by the SEA, the methods which are used to address these issues, and the level of detail required to address these issues, as per the SEA Guidelines⁵.

⁵ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), Page 18: "It is recommended that at the end of the scoping procedure, the plan-making authority should prepare a brief scoping report of its conclusions as to what information is to be included in the environmental report, taking account of any recommendations from the environmental authorities."



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

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

3.3.3 SEA Consultations

3.3.3.1 *SEA Scoping Consultations*

Consultation with statutory Environmental Authorities was undertaken to inform the SEA Scoping process. The SEA Scoping Report was issued to the statutory Environmental Authorities. The consultation period lasted for 4 weeks.

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

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- All adjoining planning authorities whose area is contiguous to the area of the planning authority in this case⁶.

The scoping consultation feedback is presented in Appendix 2.

These statutory environmental authorities were also provided with an opportunity to make submissions on the Draft SEA Environmental Report, a Draft NIR and a Draft SFRA report which had accompanied the Draft Plan on public display (See Section 3.3.3.2).

⁶ Galway County Council, Offaly County Council, Laois County Council, Kilkenny County Council, Waterford City and County Council, Cork County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council.



3.3.3.2 SEA Public Consultations

In addition the above statutory environmental authorities, the following stakeholders were consulted on the Draft SEA Environmental Report as part of the public consultations that were held on the Draft LAP.

- An Taisce
- Birdwatch Ireland
- Climate Change Advisory Council
- Coillte
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
- Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan (NDP) Delivery and Reform
- Department of Rural and Community Development
- Department of Transport (DoT)
- EirGrid
- Electricity Supply Board (ESB)
- Fáilte Ireland
- Gas Networks Ireland
- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)
- Industrial Development Authority (IDA)
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWA)
- Landscape Alliance Ireland
- National Transport Authority (NTA)
- Office of Public Works (OPW)
- Office of the Planning Regulator
- Southern Regional Assembly
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Teagasc
- The Heritage Council
- Tourism Ireland
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- Uisce Éireann (formerly Irish Water)
- Wind Energy Ireland
- Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEV)

Members of the public were also provided with an opportunity to make submissions on the draft version of the Plan. Consultation submissions received from the above interested stakeholders and members of the public were considered as appropriate during the Plan Development, SEA, AA and SFRA processes. These consultation submissions informed and influenced the Material Alterations Stage of the Plan-making process, whereby proposed material alterations (PMAs) were introduced into the Draft Plan.



These PMAs were subject to further consultations. Considerations from any consultation submissions were integrated into the Plan as 'Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan'. Both stages of proposed amendments were subject to SEA Screening (See Section 1.2 Plan Amendments and Appendices 4 and 5).

3.4 SEA Environmental Report

3.4.1 Environmental Assessment Approach and Methodology

The third stage involves the strategic level identification, prediction, evaluation and mitigation of potential environmental impacts associated with the Plan. An SEA Environmental Report was produced to document this process. The SEA Environmental Report is integral to the SEA process and is compiled during the plan-making process to allow for adequate consideration of the likely, significant environmental effects of the plan and the incorporation of appropriate environmental mitigation measures into the plan. It serves to guide the plan-making process and ensure optimal environmental outcomes.

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

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

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



- A description of the monitoring measures to be implemented to monitor the likely, significant effects of implementing a P/P.

This SEA Environmental Report has been produced for TCC's Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan and was issued to the statutory environmental authorities and identified interested stakeholders to allow them to make submissions on the environmental assessment undertaken, and the environmental mitigation and monitoring measures proposed. It has also been published for public display with the Plan, to allow for members of the public to make submissions on the environmental assessment.

3.4.2 SEA Environmental Report Authors

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

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

Table 3-1: SEA Environmental Report Authors

Name and Qualifications	Project Role	Relevant Experience
Bernie Guinan MSc, BSc. (Envi. Sci & Tech), Dip. Pollution Assessment Control Dip. Business Development	Project Director	Bernie is Director with Fehily Timoney and Company (FT). She is responsible for managing the Circular Economy and Environment group in FT. She has 25 years' experience in delivering and managing projects in the environmental sector. Bernie has extensive experience coordinating EIA, SEA and AA projects, including large-scale and complex projects. She has in-depth knowledge all environmental and planning policy, legislation and guidance.
Richard Deeney Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, Kings Inns, Ireland 2017 B.Sc. First Class Honours Degree, Environmental Management, Dublin Institute of Technology, 2012 Chartered Environmentalist, The Society for the Environment	Project Manager & SEA Team Lead	Richard is Principal Environmental Scientist at FT. Richard holds a B.Sc. First-Class Honours degree in Environmental Management from Dublin Institute of Technology. He has 12 years' experience providing environmental assessment consultancy services. Richard works in the Circular Economy and Environment group at FT and is highly experienced in project managing, coordinating and delivering EIA, AA and SEA. He has excellent experience in planning and environmental assessment for various types of plans and projects. He has been responsible for project managing and coordinating the completion of the suite of SEA and AA deliverables for 25 Local Authority Climate Action Plans, and multiple land use and non-land use plans.



Name and Qualifications	Project Role	Relevant Experience
Jason Cahill	AA & Biodiversity Team Lead	Jason is an Ecologist with FT. He has four years postgraduate experience in various field surveys including bird, bat, mammal, habitat, invasive species, and freshwater surveys, AA and Environmental Impact Assessments for developments including wind farms, solar farms, and various urban developments.
Sanghamitra Dutta MSc. Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy, University College Dublin, 2020 BSc. Environmental Science, St. Edmund's College, Shillong, India, 2017	Project Support	Sanghamitra is an Environmental Scientist on the Circular Economy and Environment Team at FT. She has over three years postgraduate experience, holding a MSc. in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy from University College Dublin and a BSc. Environmental Science from St. Edmund's College, Shillong, India. Sanghamitra is adept at delivering exceptional results, with expertise in SEA and EIA, Project Management, Stakeholder Engagement, and Environmental Research. She has been responsible for supporting the delivery of SEA documentation since joining FT, such as Scoping reports and Environmental Reports for various land use plans.
Eunice Wong B.Sc. First Class Honours, Environmental Science and Sustainable Technology, Munster Technological University, 2022	Project Support	Eunice is an Environmental Scientist with the Circular Economy and Environment group at FT. Eunice holds a First-Class Honours BSc in Environmental Science and Sustainable Technology from Munster Technological University. She has been involved in a variety of diverse and challenging projects since joining FT covering key aspects of remediation, baseline emission inventories, amenity development, environmental assessment, desk-based studies, and monitoring. She has been responsible for supporting the delivery of SEA and AA documentation such as Scoping Reports, Environmental Reports, Screening Reports and Statements, for 25 Local Authority Climate Action Plans as well as multiple Local Area Plans, Biodiversity Action Plans and Local Economic and Community Plans.

3.4.3 Difficulties Encountered

No significant difficulties were encountered during the undertaking of the assessment.



3.4.4 SEA Environmental Report Checklist

A checklist of information that must be included in this SEA Environmental Report under the SEA Directive and transposing national legislation⁷ is provided in Table 3-2. This checklist cross-references the sections in the report where information can be found.

Table 3-2: SEA Environmental Report Checklist

Information Required	Relevant Section of the SEA Environmental Report
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan and relationship with other relevant plans.	Section 2 and Appendix 1.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Plan.	Section 4.
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 4.
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive.	Section 4.
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the Plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 5.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 6.
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.
Interrelationships between each Environmental Component.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Plan.	Section 8.
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.	Section 10.
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Front section

⁷ The Environmental Report is required to contain the information specified in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 and 2B of S.I. 435 and 436 of 2004.



3.5 SEA Statement

Once the Plan is adopted, TCC will publish a post-adoption SEA Statement alongside the final Plan. The post-adoption SEA Statement is another integral component of the SEA process.

The SEA Statement provides detail on how the environmental assessment and considerations detailed in the SEA Environmental Report and SEA-related consultation responses throughout the process have influenced the Plan development process. It will summarise the reasoning for choosing the adopted, final Plan in light of other reasonable alternatives. The SEA Statement will contain detail of environmental mitigation and monitoring measures to be implemented over the lifetime of the Plan.

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

3.6 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

The environmental assessment undertaken was carried out in accordance with an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment based methodology in accordance with EPA's guidance document entitled '*Final Report: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance.*' (2012).

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

3.7 Outcomes of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA Processes

The SEA, AA and SFRA processes facilitated the integration of environmental considerations into the Plan, including environmental mitigation measures contributing towards environmental protection and management and sustainable development.



4. THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

4.1 Introduction

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

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

Baseline environmental information for the local authority functional area (herein referred to as the 'study area') was gathered using available environmental datasets. The evaluation of the baseline environment was informed by the SEA Scoping Report produced and the consultation responses received during the SEA Scoping process. It was also guided and informed by the in-depth experience and expert judgement of the SEA Environmental Report Authors.

This section of the SEA Environmental Report includes information on the state of the environment within the defined Plan or local authority boundary area (Figure 4-1), including maps of individual environmental components, environmental sensitivity mapping and a description of the baseline environment under the Environmental Components identified by the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations (i.e. population and human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these factors). Existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan were identified and examined under each Environmental Component heading.

This SEA Environmental Report also considered the zone of influence for the Plan and includes baseline information beyond the Plan boundary for certain environmental components (e.g., the status of shared water bodies).



Information provided in this section is based on readily available baseline data from web-based searches and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information. A key resource that has been used throughout the SEA process is the EPA's SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory⁸. The data presented in this section of the SEA Environmental Report is as up-to-date and as accurate as possible and is presented in a readily accessible format, where possible.

The interrelationships between Environmental Components are addressed throughout this section, as appropriate, under each Environmental Component heading.

This section of the SEA Environmental Report examines the likely evolution of the baseline environment in the absence of the Plan being implemented (i.e., in the 'do nothing' or 'do minimum' scenario).

⁸ Environmental Protection Agency. 2024. SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory. Available at: [Strategic Environmental Assessment | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](https://www.epa.ie/publications/SEA_Spatial_Information_Sources_Inventory)



4.2 Population and Human Health

In the 2022 Census, the total population in Carrick-on-Suir was estimated to be 5,752 persons⁹, an increase of 2.3% from the 2016 Census. The total population in County Tipperary was 167,895¹⁰.

The Tipperary CDP 2022-2028 designates Carrick-on-Suir as a District Town, having an important role in supporting the hinterland and the Key Town of Clonmel and in particular in supporting local economic activity, and in providing housing and services.

Certain features within the LAP were found to have the potential to influence the human environment in the area and interact with various environmental components.

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

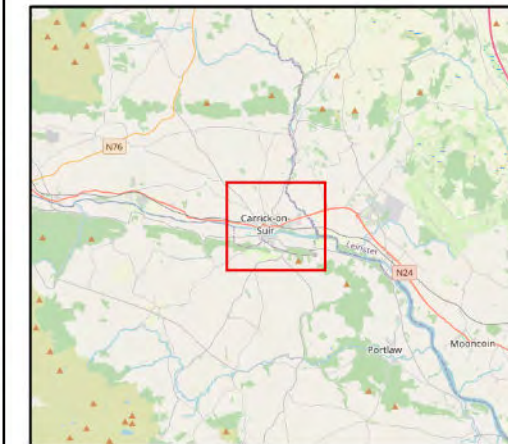
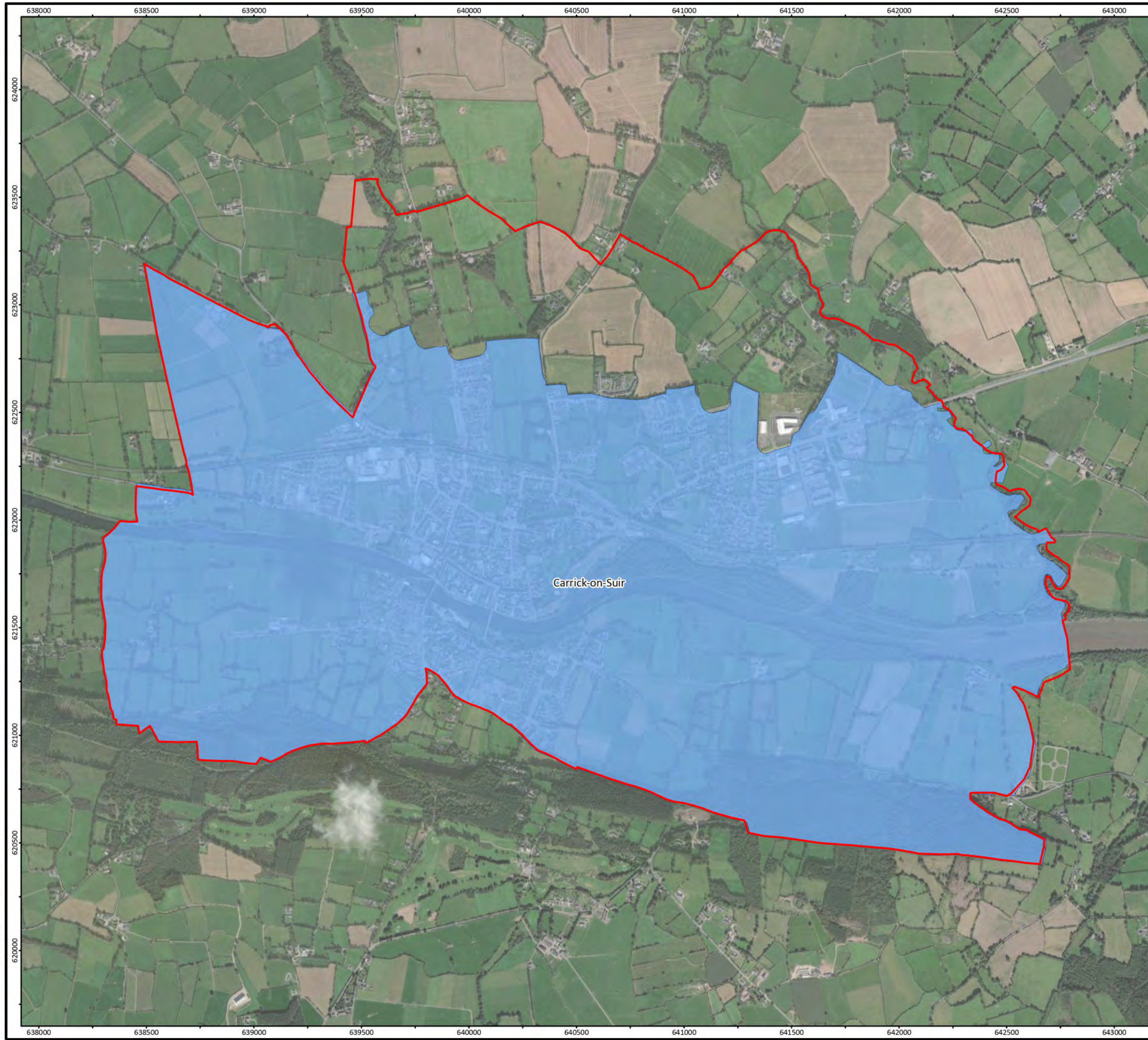
4.2.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

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

⁹ Central Statistics Office. 2022. F9011– Population (cso.ie) <https://data.cso.ie/table/F9011>

¹⁰ Central Statistics Office. 2022. F1004a– Population (cso.ie) <https://data.cso.ie/table/F1004A>



Legend

-  Local Area Plan Boundary
-  Settlements

Major Settlement Patterns

Carrick on Suir
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

FIGURE NO: 4.2

CLIENT: Tipperary County Council

DATE: 02/07/2024 SCALE: 1:17,500 @ A3





Environmental Features	Description
RAMSAR sites ¹⁷	The Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984. The main aim of the Convention is to secure the designation by each contracting state of wetlands in its territory for inclusion in a list of wetlands of international importance for waterfowl. This entails the commitment of each contracting state to a policy of protection and management of the designated wetlands, and of formulating and implementing planning so as to promote the conservation of designated wetlands and, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in its territory. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with surface areas of 66,994 hectares. There are no RAMSAR Sites within or within 15km of the Plan Area.
Natural Heritage Areas ¹⁸ (NHAs)	NHAs are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. There are no designated NHAs within the Plan area, however the 15km ZOI has 1 NHA; Slievenamon Bog NHA (002388).
Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) ¹⁹	pNHAs were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995 but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats. The River Suir Below Carrick-On-Suir pNHA is within the Plan area. The 15km ZOI includes an additional 14 pNHAs.
Tree Preservation Order (TPO)	Tree Preservation Orders may be made under Section 45 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963 and subsequent acts. Part XIII of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 sets out the provisions for TPOs. TPOs can be made in the interest of amenity or the environment and allow for the protection of individual or groups of trees. There are no TPOs within the Plan area, however there are 11 Listed Trees which were contained in the previous Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013 (as varied and extended).
Flora Protection Order Sites ²⁰	The Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 (S.I. No. 235 of 2022) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). The current list of plant species protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 is set out in the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022, which supercedes orders made in 1980, 1987, 1999 and 2015. There are no Flora Protection Order Sites within the Plan area. However, there are 7 designated Flora Protection Order Sites within 15km of the Plan area located at the Comeragh Mountains.

¹⁷ [Ramsar Sites - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie)

¹⁸ [Natural Heritage Areas \(NHA\) | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](https://npws.ie)

¹⁹ [EPA Maps](https://epa.maps.ie)

²⁰ [Flora Protection Order Map Viewer \(npws.ie\)](https://npws.ie)



Environmental Features	Description
Wildfowl Sanctuaries ²¹ (see S.I. 192 of 1979)	Wildfowl Sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68 sanctuaries in the State. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. There are no Wildfowl Sanctuaries within the Plan area. However, there is 1 Wildfowl Sanctuary within 15km of the Plan area, including Coolfin Marshes in Co. Waterford (WFS-50).
Salmonid Waters ²²	Salmonid waters are designated and protected as under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988 (SI No. 293 of 1988). Designated Salmonid Waters are capable of supporting salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>), char (<i>Salvelinus</i>) and whitefish (<i>Coregonus</i>). There are no salmonid waters within or within 15km of the Plan area. There are also no hydrological connections to Salmonid Waters
OSPAR Marine Protected Areas ²³ (MPA)	Under the OSPAR Convention to Protect the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, Ireland committed to establishing marine protected areas to protect biodiversity (i.e., OSPAR MPAs). There are currently 19 OSPAR sites proposed in the State. There are no MPAs within or within 15km of the Plan area.
CORINE Landcover ²⁴	Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface. CORINE 2018 landcover for the Plan area includes Urban Fabric, Agricultural Pastures, and Coniferous forests.

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

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

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

²¹ [Wildfowl Sanctuaries | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](https://npws.ie/)

²² [Register of Protected Areas - Salmonid Water Regs Table - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/register-of-protected-areas-salmonid-water-regs-table)

²³ [OSPAR Convention to Protect the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, Ireland committed to establishing marine protected areas to protect biodiversity](https://www.ospar.org/en/areas-of-protection/marine-protected-areas)

²⁴ [EPA Maps](https://maps.epa.ie/)



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

As well as considerations related to European sites - a focus was placed on protected species outside of these designations such as bats²⁵, breeding birds²⁶, badgers²⁷ etc. as well as all related species listed within the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 ([S.I. No. 235 of 2022](#))²⁸.

4.3.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

- Route selection and classification criteria in the development of transport and active travel projects due to the largely linear nature of these developments.
- The potential for effects on non-designated biodiversity features e.g. important habitats and species outside designated sites – particularly with regard to barriers to movement and displacement.
- The potential for effects on protected areas (e.g., Lower River Suir SAC, River Suir Below Carrick-On-Suir pNHA).
- Increased vulnerability and sensitivity of light-sensitive species such as the Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle bats during construction activities.
- The potential to spread invasive species.
- The potential impact on habitats and species where greenfield lands have been zoned for development.
- Potential impact of development on flora species listed under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 (S.I. No. 235 of 2022).
- Opportunities to promote green infrastructure, ecological connectivity nature-based solutions, and biodiversity net gain through the LAP.

²⁵ The Habitats Directive ([1992/43/EEC](#)) and Birds Directive ([2009/147/EEC](#)) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitat and Birds Directives are to maintain or restore the “favourable conservation status” of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directives set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Further to the requirements of considerations related to European sites protected Annex IV of the Habitats Directive identifies priority species which are afforded protection in their own right - these include all Irish species of bats. Bats are also protected under the Irish Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000.

²⁶ Irish Wildlife Acts, 1976 (as amended)

²⁷ Irish Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) and Bern Convention Appendix III

²⁸ Which gives legal protection to 68 species of vascular plants 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). The current list of plant species protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Acts is set out in the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 (as amended).



Legend

- Local Area Plan Boundary
- LAP 15km Buffer
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas

Carrick on Suir

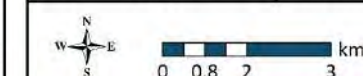
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

FIGURE NO: 4.3

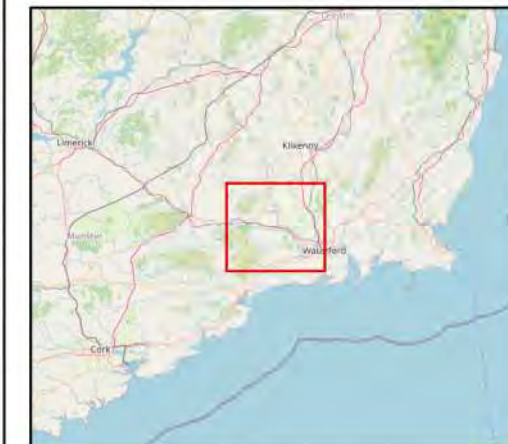
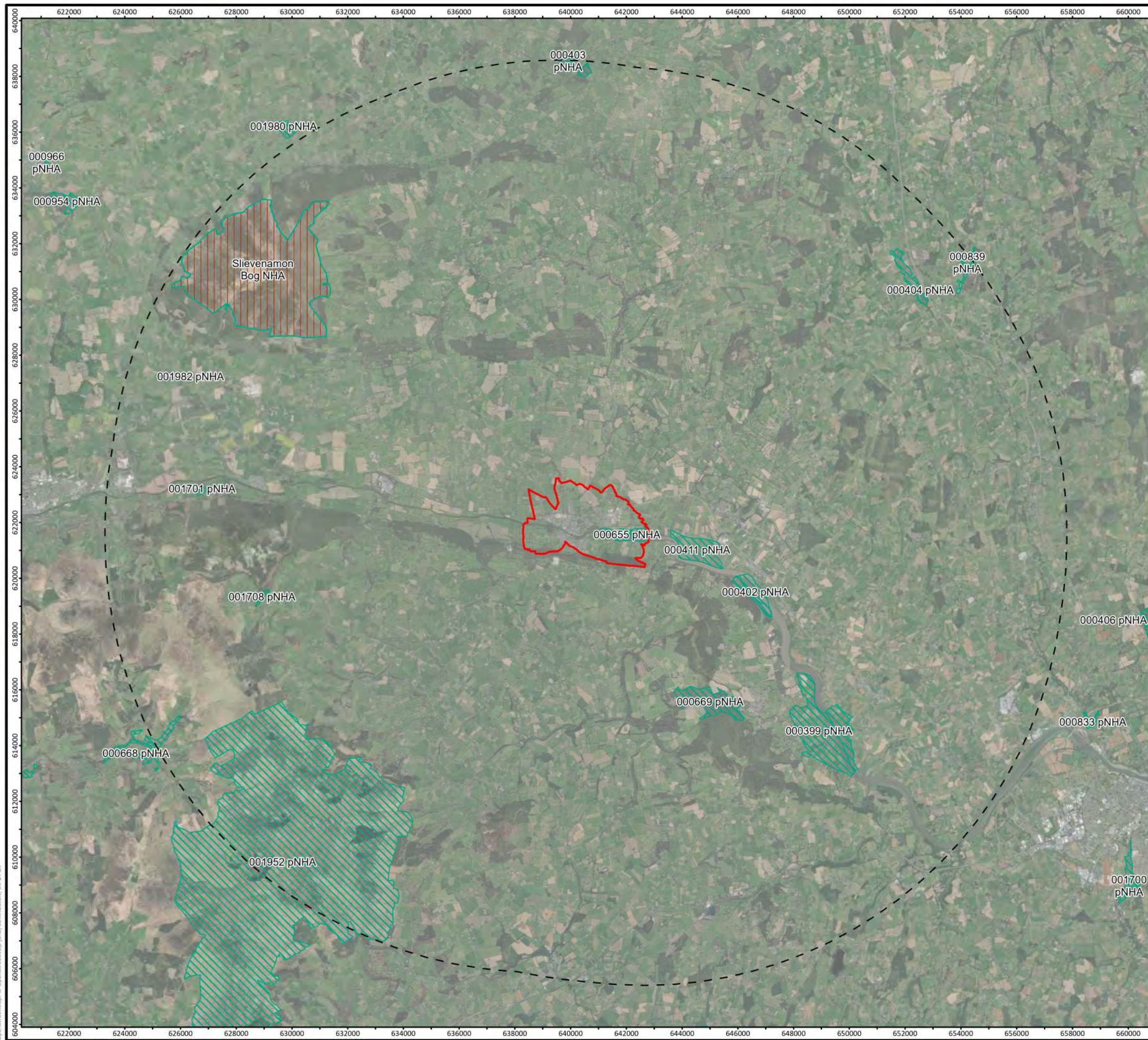
CLIENT: Tipperary County Council

DATE: 9/30/2024

SCALE: 1:135,000 @ A3



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Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas in Ireland	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.4
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	8/1/2024
SCALE:	1:135,000 @ A3

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World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
OpenStreetMap: © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA
Biodiversity: National Parks and Wildlife Service of Ireland (NPWS), An tSeirbhís Náisiúnaí Naisiúla agus Faithliúla
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, An Roinn Tithíochta, Baile Átha nGall agus Oidhreacht



Legend

Local Area Plan Boundary

Article17HabitatsDetailedDistributionPolygonGDPR

Grasslands

Potential Habitat Sensitivities - Areas likely to contain Annex I habitats	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.5
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE: 9/30/2024	SCALE: 1:17,500 @ A3

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4.4 Landscape and Visual Amenity

Carrick-on-Suir's riverside setting makes it an attractive landscape for accommodating a range of competing land uses. The Ormond Castle area offers a strong heritage resource and a key site on the Butler Trail.

The above and any other or emerging landscape designations were considered by the assessment.

The SEA assessment of landscape utilised information from the following sources:

- Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM)²⁹
- The National Landscape Strategy (NLS) for Ireland
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Forest cover/Indicative Forest Strategies³⁰
- Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 - Appendix 3: Landscape Character Assessment and Schedule of Views and Routes

4.4.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

- Effects of infrastructure projects (e.g., linear transport projects) on areas of designated landscape quality and views and prospects.
- Impact of significantly scaled residential and commercial development on general visual amenity in the vicinity of these developments, streetscape character and wider landscape character.
- The visual impact of telecommunications equipment on the natural or built environment, particularly in areas of sensitive landscape or historic importance.

²⁹ ESM Webtool <https://enviromap.ie/>

³⁰ Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



4.5 Cultural Heritage - Archaeological and Architectural

Archaeological sites are legally protected³¹. This section includes information on the archaeological heritage of Carrick-on-Suir. One of the primary sources of information for known archaeological features is the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)³². The RMP is an inventory of sites and areas of archaeological significance. There are 40 entries as recorded in the Record of Protected Structures of the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan 2013. It is council policy to protect and conserve buildings, structures and sites contained in the Records of Protected Structures and to carefully consider any proposals for development that could affect the special character or appearance of a Protected Structure including its historic curtilage.

An Architectural Conservation Area has been defined by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) as *'a place, area, group of structures or townscapes, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, technical, social interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of Protected Structures'*. An ACA has been designated in the centre of Carrick-on-Suir and includes Main Street, West Gate, Sean Kelly Square and parts of Bridge Street, New Street and Castle Street.

There are currently 46 registered Monuments within the Plan area, as recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places of the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan 2013.

It is acknowledged that the register of protected structures documented in CDPs may not represent all Ministerial recommended sites/structures which are included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)³³. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 heritage of Ireland and there are over 50,000 listings on the NIAH in Ireland (DAHRRG, 2022). These provisions include historic gardens, designed landscapes and underwater archaeological heritage³⁴.

The SEA assessment of Cultural Heritage - Archaeological and Architectural utilised information from the following sources:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (including underwater archaeology such as wreck data³⁵)
- National Monuments Service (including the Underwater Unit)
- Built Heritage and Architectural Policy Section (the NIAH)³⁶
- Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan 2013
- Heritage Council
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

³¹ National Monuments Acts 1930 (as amended), the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

³² Data available at [National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/national-monuments-service-archaeological-survey-of-ireland)

³³ Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 (as amended) Data available at [National Inventory of Architectural Heritage \(NIAH\) National Dataset - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/national-inventory-of-architectural-heritage-niah-national-dataset)

³⁴ Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 2015. Advice to the Public on Ireland's Underwater Archaeological Heritage

³⁵ Available at [Wreck Viewer | National Monuments Service \(archaeology.ie\)](https://wreckviewer.nmsh.ie/)

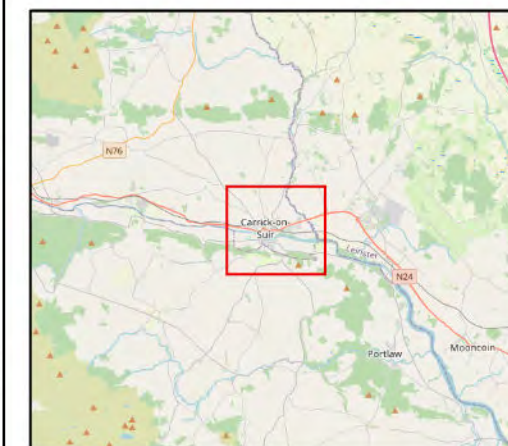
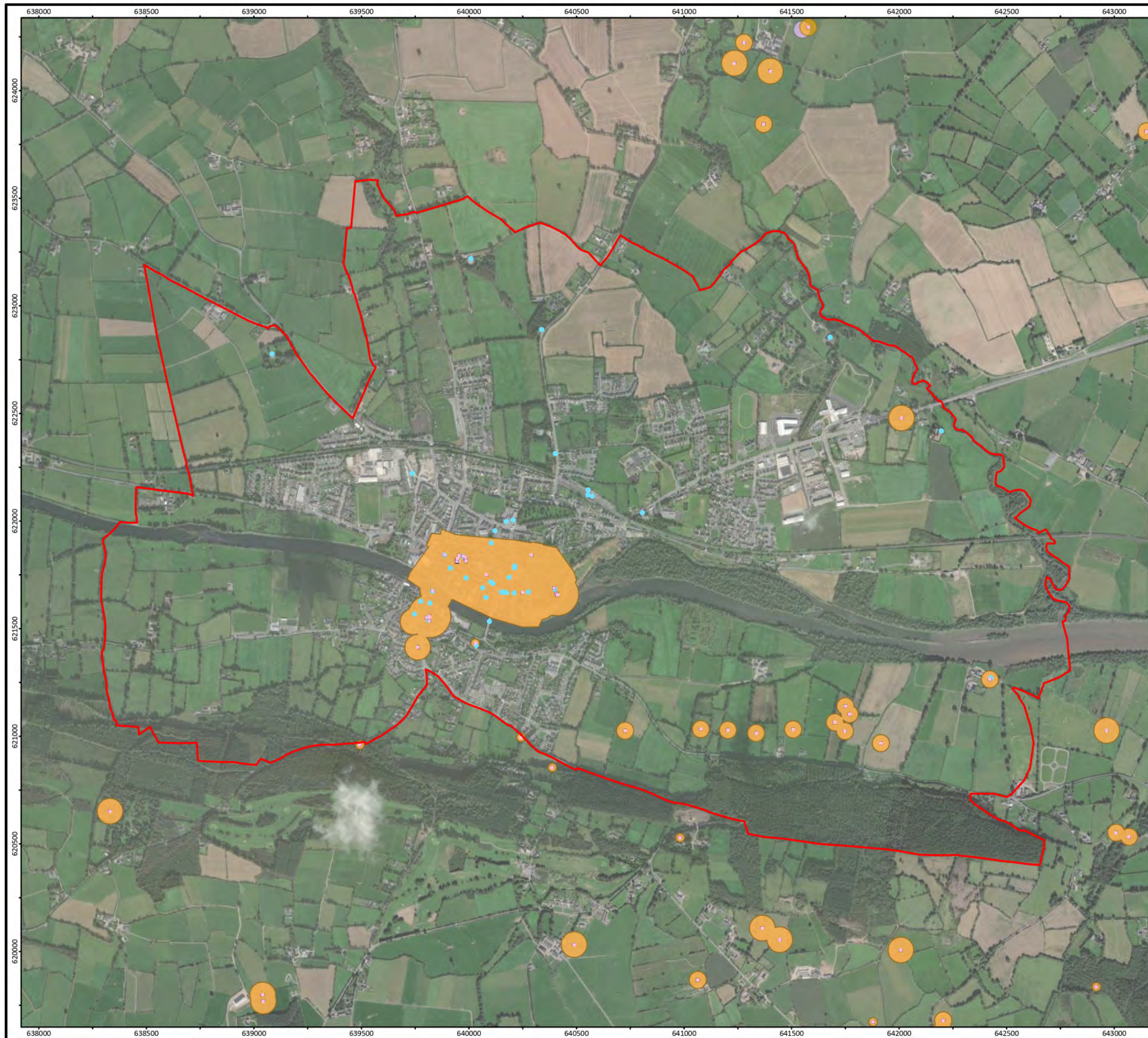
³⁶ Data available at [National Inventory of Architectural Heritage \(NIAH\) National Dataset - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/national-inventory-of-architectural-heritage-niah-national-dataset)



4.5.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

- The potential impact of development on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures.
- The potential impact of greenfield development on unknown archaeological remains.
- The potential impact of town centre development on built heritage and historic fabric, including protected structures.



- Legend
- Local Area Plan Boundary
 - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
 - National Monuments Service
 - SMRZones
 - National Monuments Service - Zones of Notification

Credits:
© OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA, Maxar, Microsoft

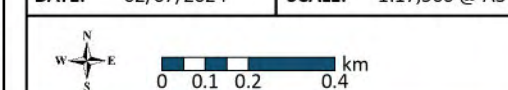
Archaeological Heritage and National Monuments Map

Carrick on Suir
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

FIGURE NO: 4.6

CLIENT: Tipperary County Council

DATE: 02/07/2024 SCALE: 1:17,500 @ A3



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4.6 Soils

The soil profile of the Plan area has been sourced from the Teagasc Soils Map³⁷ and Irish Soil Information System developed by Teagasc. The types of soils found covering the Plan area include the following:

Table 4-3: Soil Types Covering the Plan area

Soil Type	Description
Urban Soils	Urban soils are formed from human construction and industrial activities and contain manufactured materials and wastes.
Acid Brown Earths/Brown Earths	Brown earths are free or imperfectly drained soils with a mineral A horizon overlying weakly developed brown, reddish brown or yellowish brown subsoils. The soils are often moderately acidic unless developed on base-rich parent materials. Where the soils are affected by periodic waterlogging, the lower horizons may exhibit gleying (presence of ochreous mottles and grey patches) and the matrix may be slightly duller in colour.
Gleys	Gleys are soils showing the effects of poor drainage and have developed as a result of permanent or intermittent water logging. This may be due to a high-water table, to a 'perched' water table caused by the impervious nature of the soil itself, or to seepage of runoff from slopes. Most gleys have poor physical conditions, resulting in restricted growth in spring and autumn.
Grey Brown Podzolics	Grey-Brown podzolic soils are characterised by a comparatively thin organic covering and an organic-mineral layer above a greyish brown leached layer.
Alluvial Soils	Alluvial soils are developed in recently deposited freshwater, estuarine or marine alluvium and often have little profile development though some alluvial soils can develop mineral A horizons, organic O horizons or a humose organic-rich Ah horizon with some weakly developed subsoil features.

The audit of County Geological Sites in County Tipperary was completed in 2019. There are no County Geological Sites within or near the Plan area³⁸. Previous Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility Mapping sources have been considered by the SEA.

The SEA of Soils utilised information from the following sources:

- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
- Teagasc
- Infomar³⁹
- EPA

³⁷ [Teagasc.ie. General Soil Map.](https://www.teagasc.ie/publications/Pages/General-Soil-Map.aspx)

³⁸ <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/publications/Pages/The-geological-heritage-of-Tipperary.aspx>

³⁹ [Seabed and Sediment Data | Infomar](https://www.infomar.ie/)



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

4.6.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

The key considerations in relation to Soils were as follows:

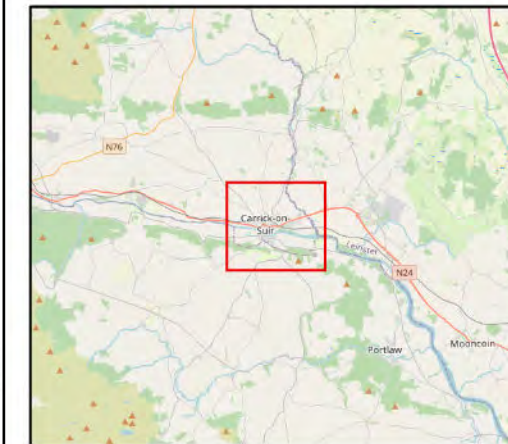
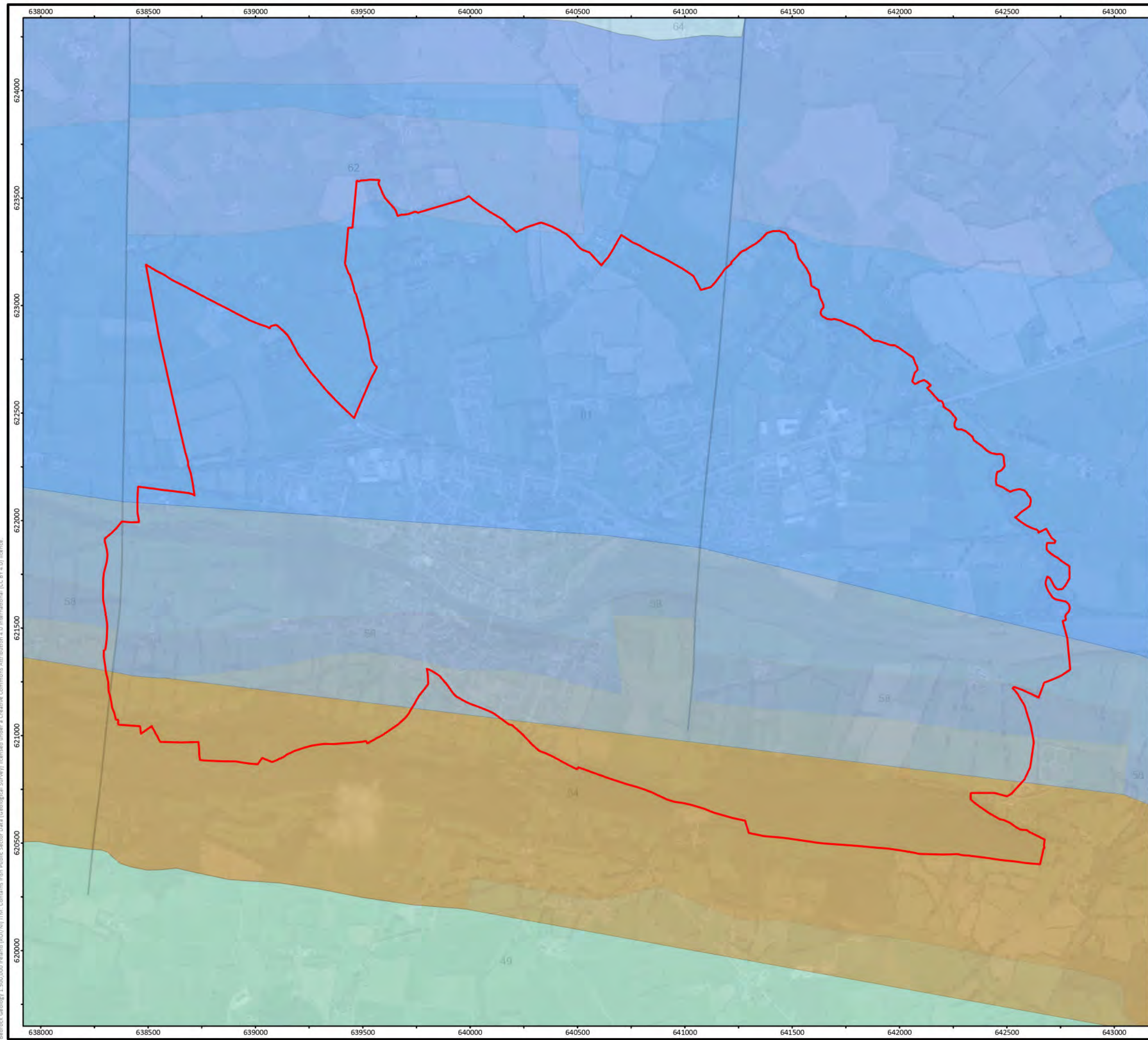
- Potential for construction activities (i.e. deep excavation) impacting soil resources.
- Impacts to soils (land) vulnerable to erosion.
- Potential for unearthing contaminated material which will need to be managed.

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World Imagery: Mapbox, Microsoft

OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA

Bedrock Geology 1:500,000 Ireland (2014) (TM) Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Geological Survey) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International [CC BY 4.0] Licence



Legend

Local Area Plan Boundary

Faults

Bedrock Geology 500k (ROI/NI)

- 49, Deep marine turbidite sequence; Mudstone, greywacke & conglomerate
- 54, Continental redbed facies; Sandstone, conglomerate & siltstone (in places extends into the Carboniferous)
- 58, Shallow marine ("Lower Limestone Shale"); Shale, sandstone & thin limestone
- 61, Marine shelf & ramp facies; Argillaceous dark-grey bioclastic limestone, subsidiary shale
- 62, Waulsortian mudbank; Pale-grey massive limestone

Bedrock Geology

Carrick on Suir

Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

FIGURE NO: 4.7

CLIENT: Tipperary County Council

DATE: 02/07/2024

SCALE: 1:17,500 @ A3



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4.7 Land Use

Information on land use in Carrick-on-Suir can be obtained from the CORINE Land Cover (CLC) inventory, which documents land-use change over time. The land cover types in the Plan area from most to least dominant are recorded as Discontinuous Urban Fabric, Continuous Urban Fabric, Stream courses, and Non-irrigated arable land.

The CORINE database is the dominant land use database; however, some sectors have additional spatial data resources such as forestry. The Forestry Service have produced a GIS based Forest Inventory Planning System (FIPS) to act as an aid in the long-term spatial planning of national forest, and to provide guidance to forestry grants. Additional sources of further land use data include the NPWS⁴⁰.

Land use mapping data is presented in Figure 4-8.

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

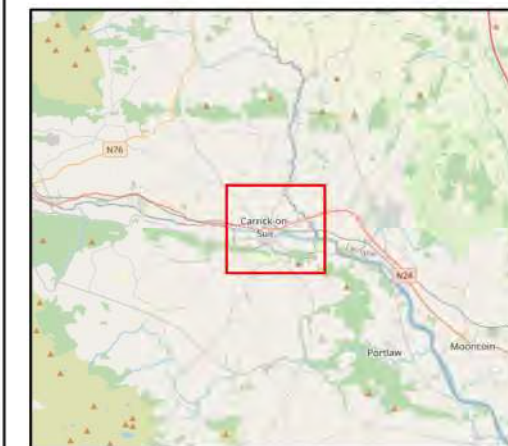
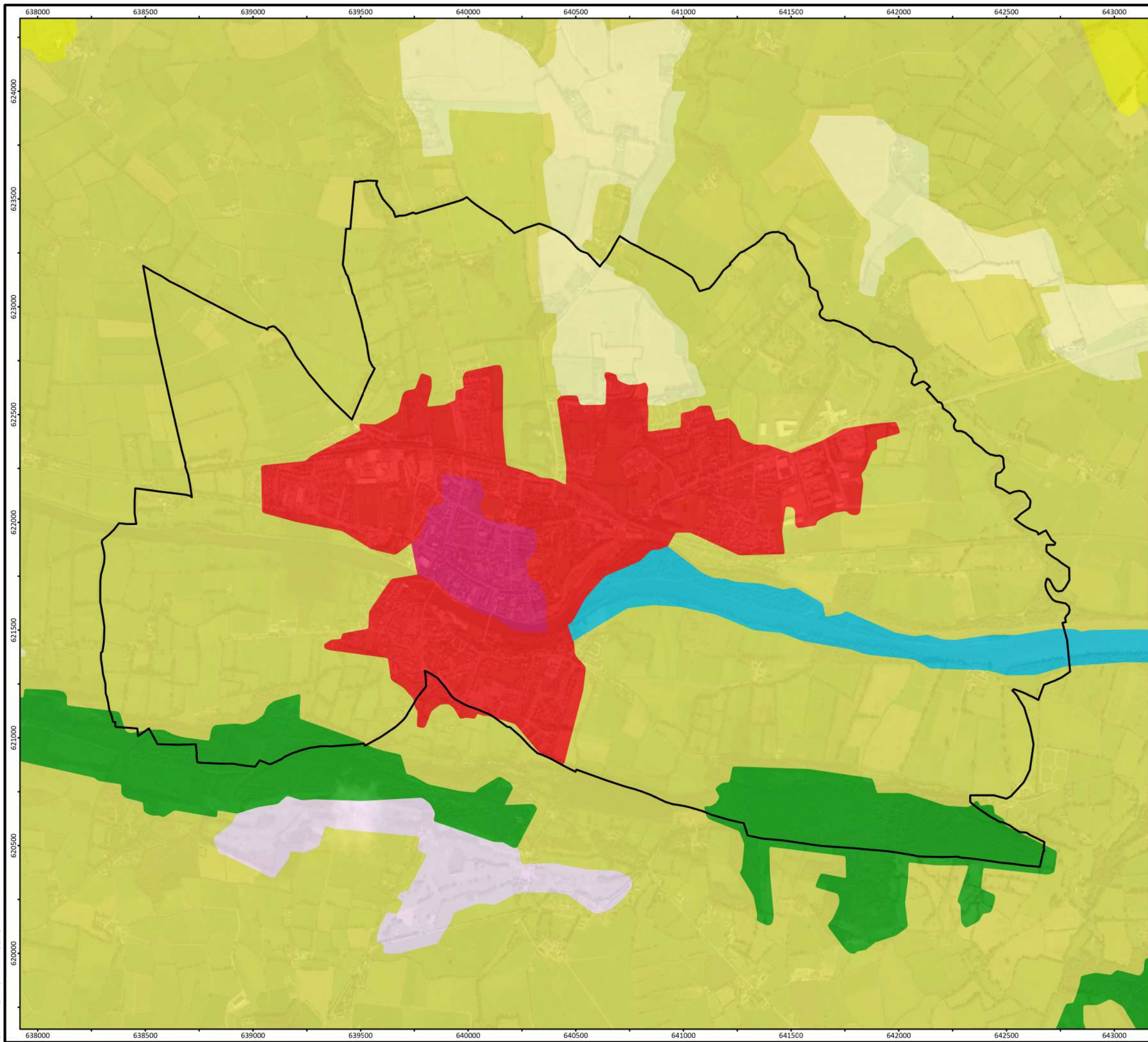
- CORINE Land Cover Database
- Teagasc
- EPA
- NPWS
- Forest Service
- GSI data

4.7.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

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

⁴⁰ Sources such as the Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026, Draft National Peatland Strategy, Draft Raised Bog SAC Management Plan, and Draft Raised Bog NHAs Review.

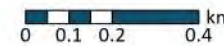


Legend

Local Area Plan Boundary

CORINE Land Cover 2018

- 111 Continuous urban fabric
- 112 Discontinuous urban fabric
- 211 Non-irrigated land
- 231 Pastures
- 312 Coniferous forest
- 511 Stream courses

Land Use (CORINE)	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.8
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3
 	



4.8 Air Quality and Noise

The Air Quality in Ireland 2022 report prepared by the EPA identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good, however, there are concerning localised issues that are negatively impacting the air we breathe.
- Air quality monitoring results in 2022 show that the main pollutants are fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from solid fuel combustion and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from vehicle emissions.
- People's health and the health of our environment is impacted by these pollutants.
- Ireland's ambition in the Clean Air Strategy is to move towards the World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality guidelines⁴¹, this will be challenging but will have a significantly positive impact on health.

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

Under the Clean Air for Europe Directive [Directive 2008/50/EC], EU member states must designate "Zones" for the purpose of managing air quality. For Ireland, four zones were defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations (2011). The Plan Area lies within 'Zone D - Rural Ireland'. There are no air quality monitoring stations within the Plan Area. However, the nearest air quality monitoring stations to the Plan Area are located in Clonmel, Paddy Browne's Road in Waterford and Merchants Quay in Waterford City. The current air quality at the time of reporting at all locations is of Good⁴² status.

The EEA⁴³ states that "*environmental noise can be defined as unwanted or harmful outdoor sound*". The EU Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) relates to the assessment and management of environmental noise⁴⁴. This Directive called for the development of strategic noise maps and action plans for major roads, railways, airports and cities.

Noise sources within the Plan area relate to emissions from vehicles on roads, particularly on the N24. Noise-related impacts can be seen in Figure 4-9; these were considered throughout the SEA and AA processes in the development of the LAP.

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

- EPA
- WHO

⁴¹ World Health Organization. 2021. WHO global air quality guidelines: particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide. World Health Organization. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345329>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

⁴² Air Quality Index for Health <https://airquality.ie/information/air-quality-index-for-health> - 14/06.2024.

⁴³ EEA. 2022. Noise Data Briefing. Available at: [Noise — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://noise.eea.europa.eu/).

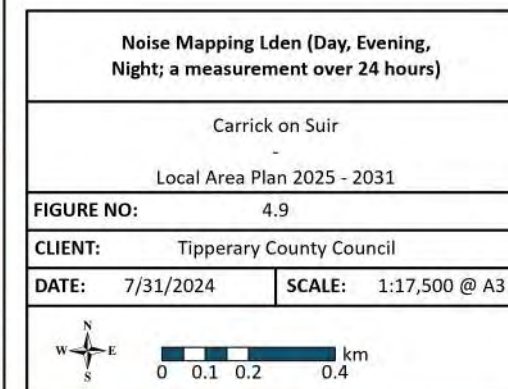
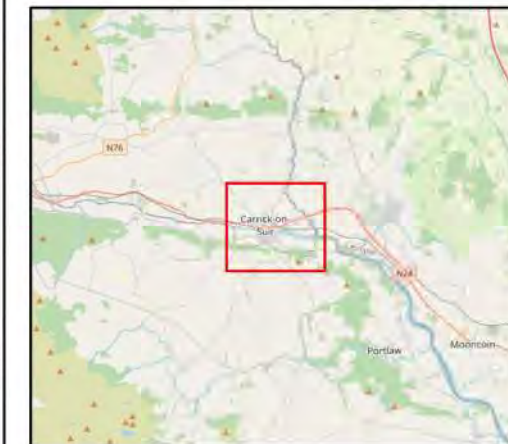
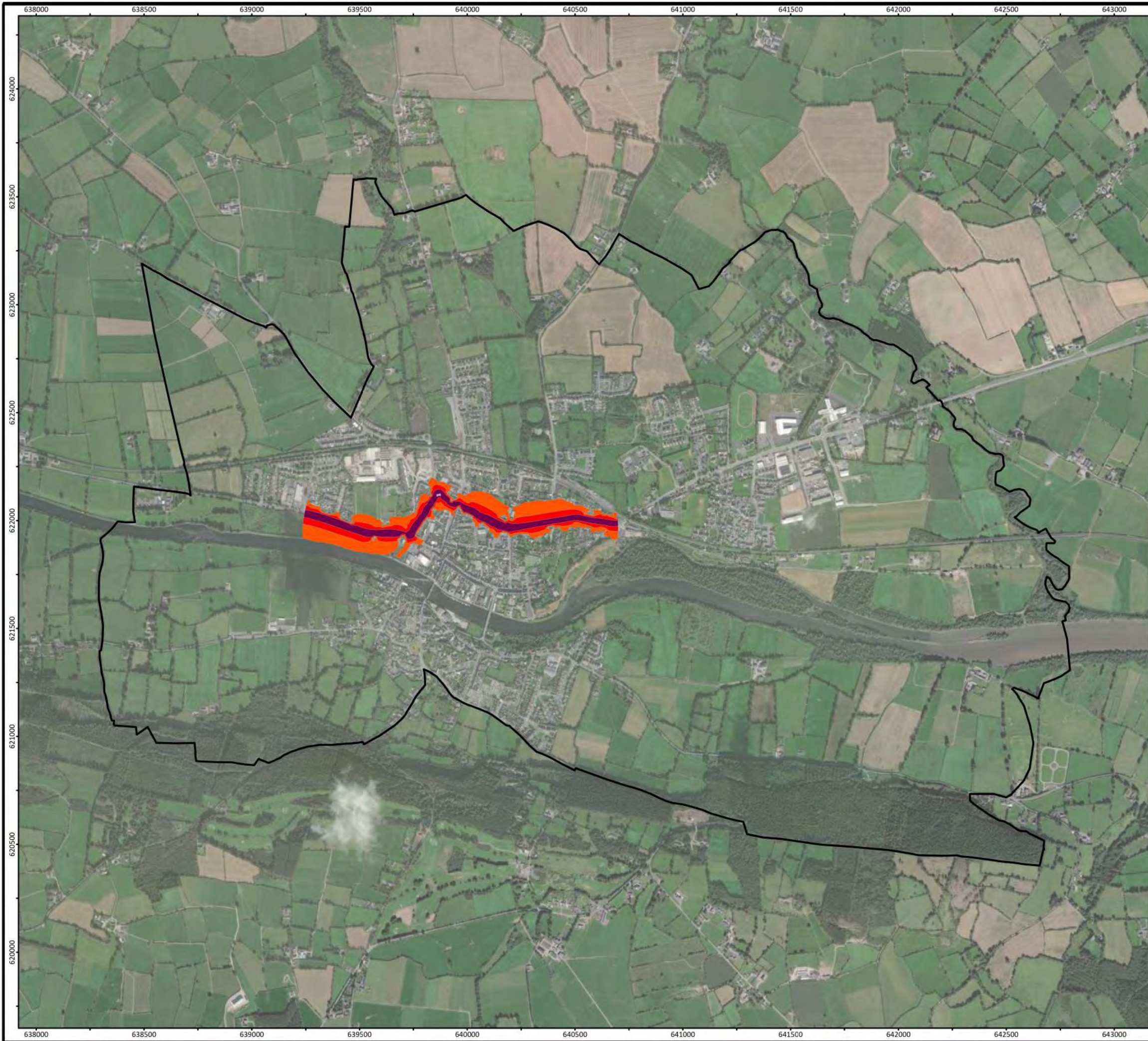
⁴⁴ This was transposed into Irish national legislation via the Environmental Noise Regulations (S. I. No. 140 of 2006).



4.8.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

- The construction of residential, commercial or transport related development may have a negative impact on local air quality and create noise pollution.
- Transport related development may have impacts on noise pollution, particularly towards sensitive receptors which are in close proximity.
- Active travel development may promote sustainable transport and support improvements in local air quality in the town.





4.9 Water

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) establishes a framework for the protection of both surface and groundwater. Transposing legislation outlines the water protection and water management measures required in Ireland to maintain high status of waters where it exists and to prevent any deterioration in existing water status. The 'Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland' is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027. It outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to protect and restore water quality in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that our natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected so as to maintain and improve Ireland's water environment.

Water quality data is collected by the EPA⁴⁵. The Plan area is located within the Suir WFD Catchment and SubCatchments Lingaun_SC_010, Suir_SC_160 and Suir_SC_140. EPA watercourses within the Plan area include the Glenbrook_010 to the northwest, the Lingaun_050 to the northeast, Tinhalla_010 to the southeast, Suir_220 to the southwest, and the River Suir mainly traversing across the entire Plan area in an easterly direction. The WFD Status 2016-2021 for the Suir, Tinhalla and Glenbrook Streams are recorded as 'Moderate' and for the Lingaun Stream it is recorded as 'Good'. There is no status recorded for the River Suir, however, it should be noted that all four streams identified above feed into the main River Suir riverbody.

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

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

The WFD groundwater status (2016-2021) underlying the Plan area has been projected to be 'At Risk' of not meeting its WFD objectives. However, the overall groundwater status of the area is designated to be 'good'.

The WFD risk status of the Lingaun Stream has been defined as 'Not at risk', Tinhalla Stream as under 'Review', and Suir and Glenbrook as 'At risk'.

The GSI rates groundwaters according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The vulnerability of aquifers underlying the Plan area are mapped on Figure 4-14. The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4-15.

Mapping for WFD Coastal and Transitional Water Body Status, Drinking-water Source Protection Areas, and WFD Register of Protected Areas - Bathing Water Areas, Salmonid and Shellfish Areas have not been included as these features are not present within the Plan area.

⁴⁵ [EPA Maps](#). Water.



4.9.1 Flood Risk

Flood Risk Management is a key climate change adaptation measure which was proposed to be addressed as part of the plan-making process. The LAP was also informed by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

The Water assessment utilised information from the following sources:

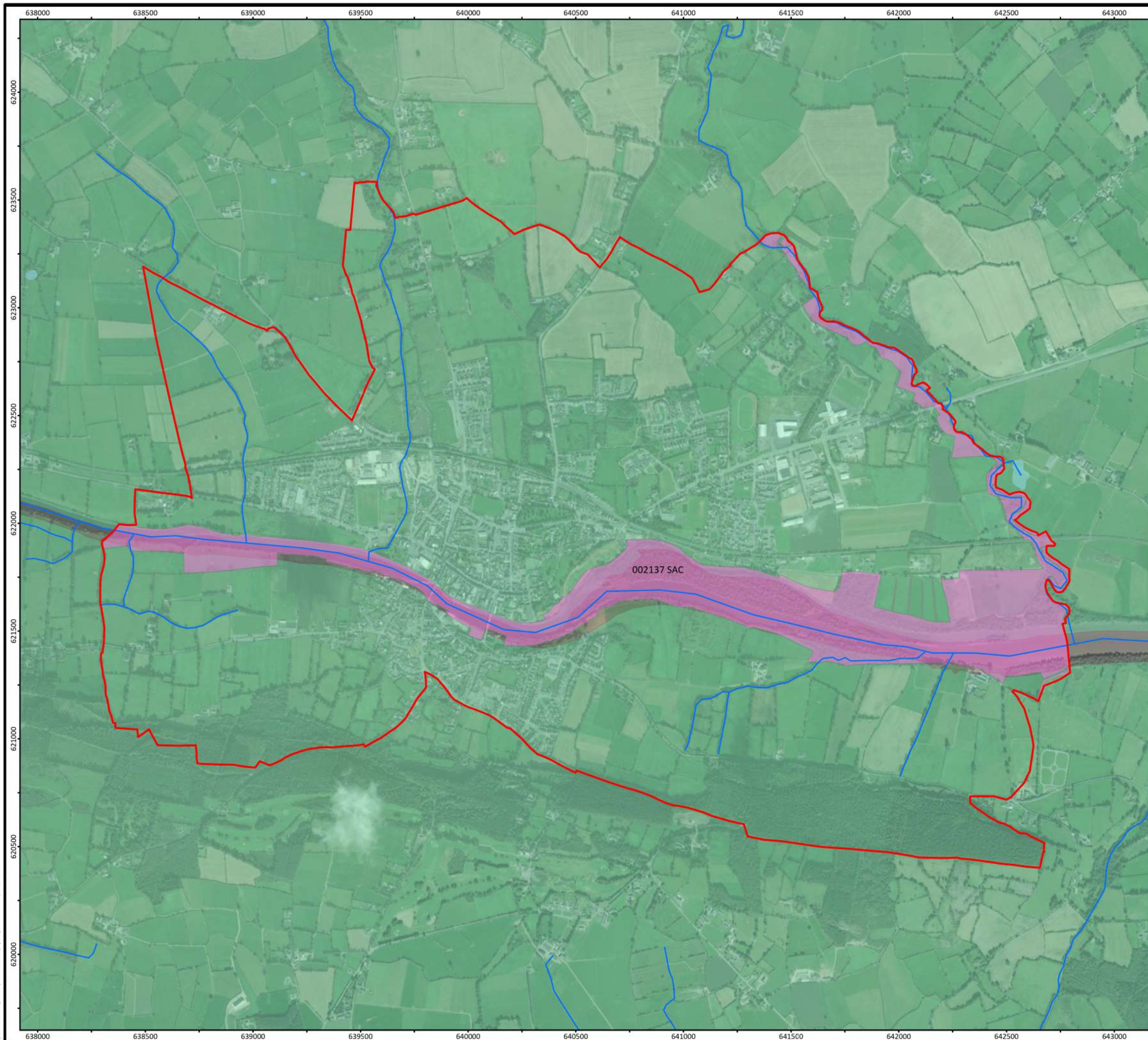
- EPA - WFD Data.
- GSI data on groundwaters, aquifers and bedrock information.
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study and associated FRMPs (OPW, as reviewed 2022).
- Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) Mapping⁴⁶ (OPW).

4.9.2 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

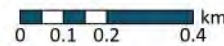
The key considerations in relation to Water were as follows:

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

⁴⁶ OPW (2022) Flood risk maps and data platform - Available at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/>

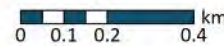


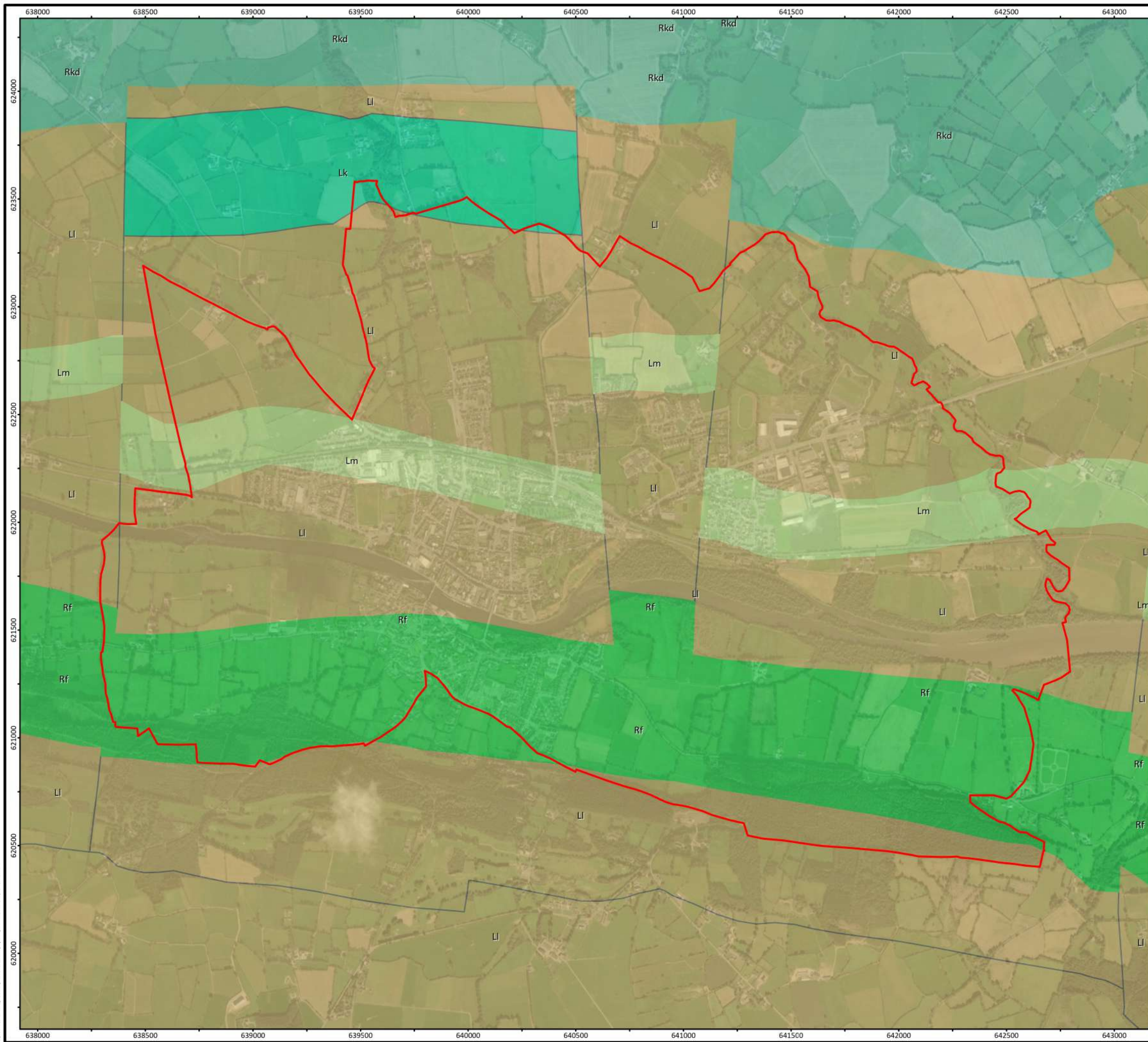
- Legend
- Local Area Plan Boundary
 - Rivers
 - WFD Lake Segments
- WFD Catchments
- Catchment Name
- Suir
 - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Hydrological Connection to European Sites	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.10
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3
 	



- Legend**
- Local Area Plan Boundary
 - Rivers
 - EPA Rivers - WFD Status 2016 - 2021
 - Moderate
 - Good
 - WFD Lake Segments

WFD Surface Water Status	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.11
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3
 	



Legend

Local Area Plan Boundary

Bedrock Aquifers

- Lk: Locally Important Aquifer - Karstified
- Ll: Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock Mod Productive Locally
- Lm: Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock Generally Mod Productive
- Rf: Regionally Important Aquifer - Fissured Bedrock
- Rkd: Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (diffuse)

Aquifer Classification

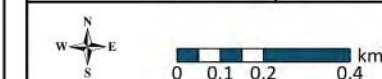
Carrick on Suir
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

FIGURE NO: 4.12

CLIENT: Tipperary County Council

DATE: 7/31/2024

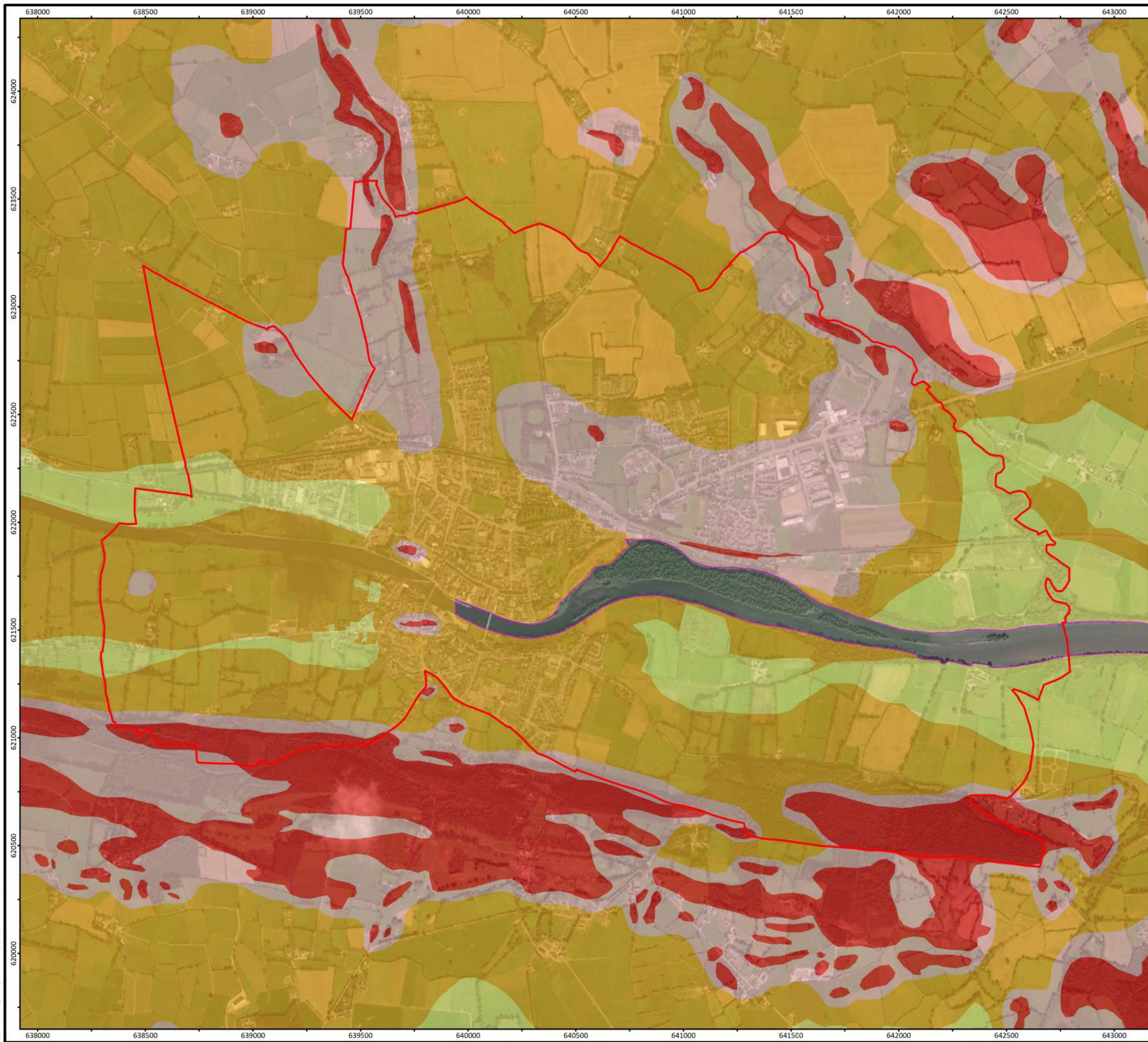
SCALE: 1:17,500 @ A3





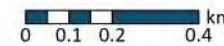
- Legend
- Local Area Plan Boundary
 - Wells and Springs (10-50m Accuracy)
 - Wells and Springs (100-200m Accuracy)
 - Wells and Springs (500m-1km Accuracy)

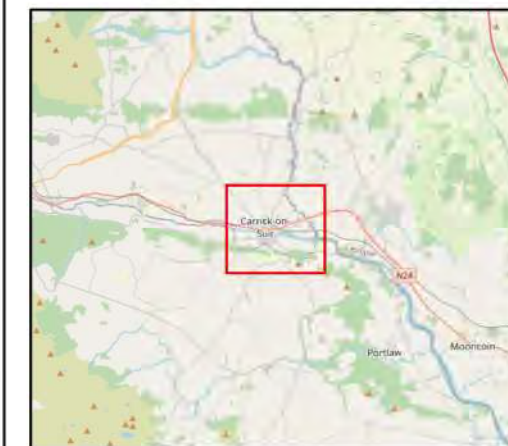
Wells and Springs	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.13
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3
 	



Legend

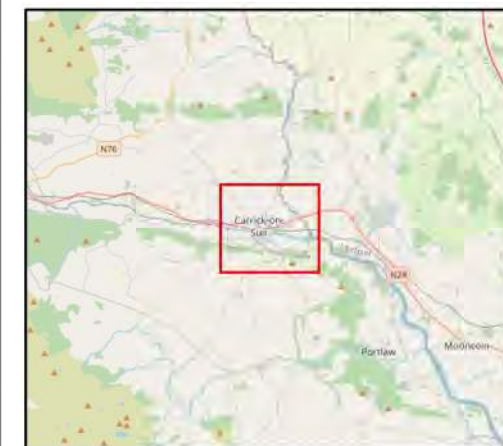
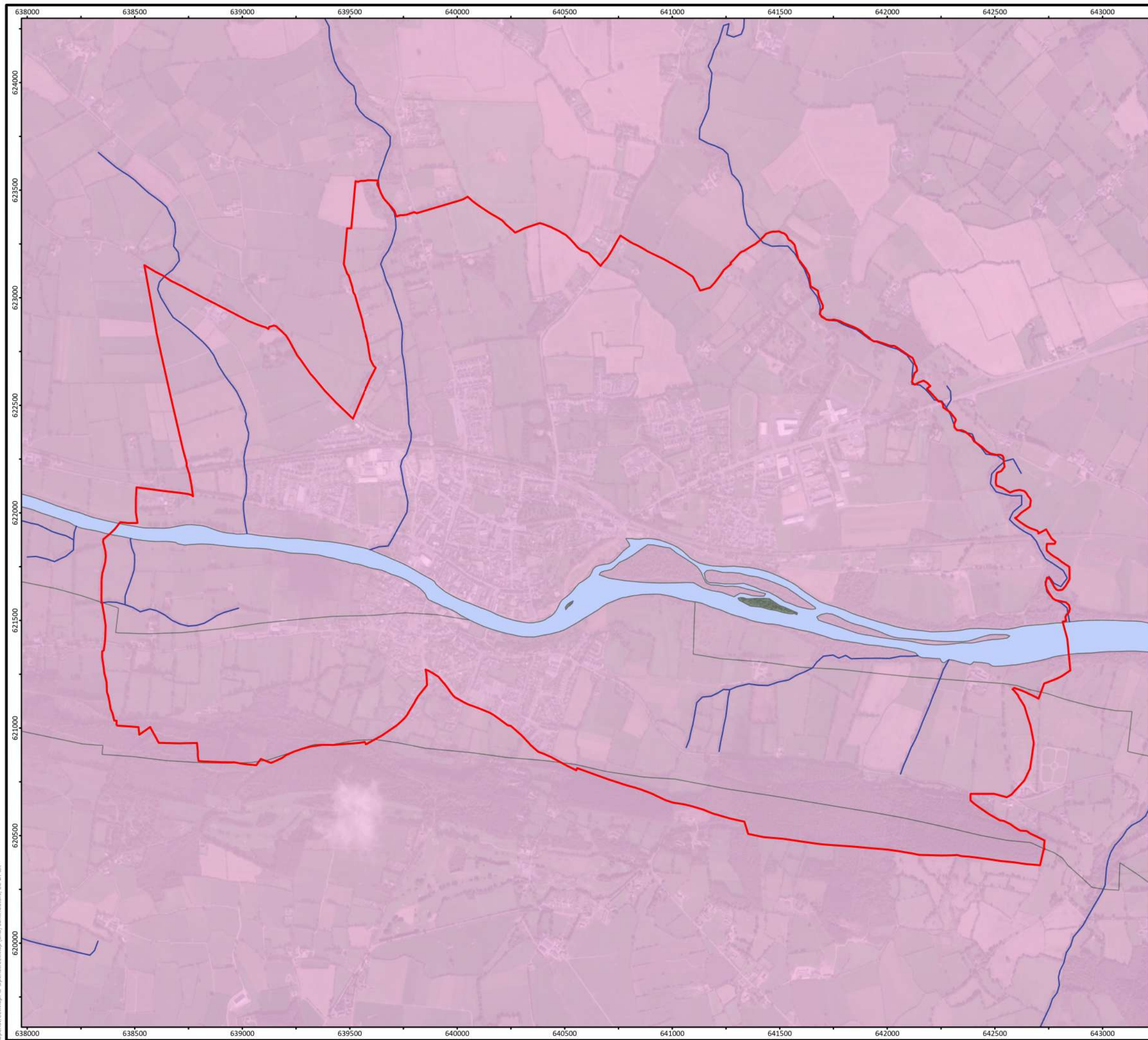
- Local Area Plan Boundary
- Groundwater Vulnerability
 - E - Extreme
 - H - High
 - M - Moderate
 - Water
 - X - Rock Near Surface or Karst

Groundwater Vulnerability	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.14
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3
 	

 Local Area Plan Boundary

 Li: Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock Mod Productive Locally
 Lm: Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock Generally Mod Productive

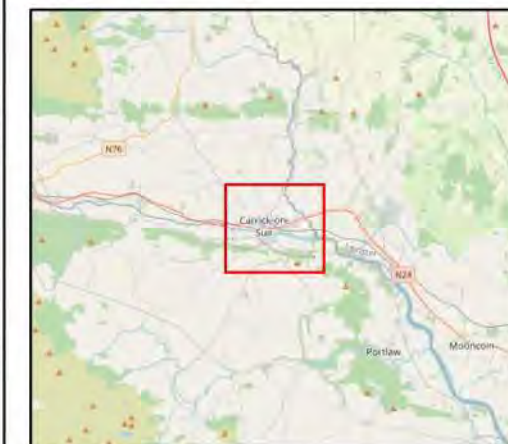
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Legend

- Local Area Plan Boundary
- WFD Riverwater Bodies that intersect with Designated Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Pts, Polyline or Polygons)
- WFD Surface Water Polygons that intersect with Designated Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Pts, Polyline or Polygons) (Lake, Coastal and Transitional Water Bodies)
- WFD Groundwater Bodies that intersect with Designated Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Pts, Polyline or Polygons)
- Designated Surface Water Nutrient Sensitive Areas

WFD Register of Protected Areas	
Nutrient Sensitive Areas	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.16a
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3



Legend

- Local Area Plan Boundary
- WFD Riverwater Bodies that are protected for drinking water
- WFD Groundwaters that are protected for drinking water

WFD Register of Protected Areas	
Drinking Water	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.16b
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3



4.10 Material Assets

Key material assets covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 4.5) and natural resources of economic value, such as soil⁴⁷, air and water (see Sections 4.6, 4.8 and 4.9).

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

4.10.1 Water Services

4.10.1.1 *Wastewater*

Wastewater demand and capacity information at settlements that were considered by the SEA, where available, includes⁴⁸:

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

The EPA produces annual reports on the treatment of urban wastewater from cities, towns and urban communities. The latest EPA 2023 report⁴⁹ 'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2022' identifies the priority areas where resources must be targeted, in order to protect the environment from the harmful effects of waste water and deliver environmental improvements where they are most needed. Based on the EPA's assessment of monitoring information provided by Uisce Éireann and the enforcement activities carried out by the EPA, this report identifies urban areas with the most important environmental issues that must be addressed.

4.10.1.2 *Surface Water Drainage*

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

⁴⁷ Soil and geological resources will be considered under this topic including with respect to mineral locations and aggregate potential.

⁴⁸ Detailed water services information has informed the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report.

⁴⁹ Available at [Monitoring & Assessment: Wastewater | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](https://www.epa.ie/monitoring/assessment/wastewater/)



4.10.2 Waste Management

The Waste Management Act 1996 requires Local Authorities to make a waste management plan either individually or collectively for their functional areas. Tipperary County Council has been guided by the *Southern Waste Management Plan 2015-2021* which provided the framework for solid waste management in the region. Post 2021, waste management in Ireland is guided by the first *National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy*, which replaces the existing regional plans. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 to 2029.

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

4.10.3 Transport

Carrick-on-Suir is traversed by the N24 and a number of regional roads, namely R696, R697, R885, R676, and R680. The town is served by the intercity Waterford - Clonmel - Limerick Junction rail line and local connections to metropolitan commuter towns. Further to this, Bus Éireann - Expressway provides several routes through Carrick-on-Suir. There are also private bus operators that service the town.

It is noted that N24 will be upgraded under the N24 Waterford to Cahir Project. It is considered that the existing road is economically inefficient and detracts from the development and growth of the region whilst also detracting from the opportunities for place making in the towns and villages on the route. One of the key objectives of this project is to provide a reliable and sustainable transport solution for the N24 corridor between Cahir and Waterford and contribute to efficient connectivity between Limerick and Waterford in line with the National Strategic Outcome (NSO) for Enhanced Regional Accessibility within the National Planning Framework (NPF). Such connectivity will encourage local, regional, national and international development to balance regional development. This project is current at the Options Selection stage of design.

4.10.4 Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure (GI) is a crucial component in building resilient communities capable of adapting to the consequences of climate change with trees, woodlands and wetlands providing carbon capture and slowing water flows while improving air quality. Chapter 14 of the Tipperary CDP includes a detailed Green and Blue Infrastructure planning framework for the entire county, with the identification of Green Infrastructure Corridors which represent the principal county-wide components of the spatial framework.

All of the natural and built heritage assets are also important green infrastructure resources that form part of the overall green infrastructure strategy for the town. It is the intention of TCC to increase Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) within Carrick-on-Suir and to promote and apply adaptation and mitigation actions that favour NBS to benefit the environment and communities. Facilitating the protection and enhancement of these assets is vital in the overall development of the town.



4.10.5 Public Assets and Infrastructure

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

4.10.6 Renewable Energy Potential

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

Other available information on renewable energy potential within and adjacent to the Plan area – and associated Plan provisions – was considered by the SEA.

4.10.6.1 Energy Related Material Assets and Infrastructure

SEAI (2020⁵⁰) published the kilotonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe) data which showed that 86% of Ireland's energy came from fossil fuels at that time. Transportation and residential represented the highest resource demand. The generation of renewable energy has been increasing over the past ten years, with a growth in the number of wind farms (from 5.8% of gross final energy consumption (GFC) in 2010 to 13.5% of GFC in 2020⁵¹). All traditional power plants are in a process of transition to renewable/sustainable sources to align with the targets in the Climate Action Plan 2023.

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

- Department of Defence
- Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage (DHLGH)⁵²
- Electricity Supply Board (ESB)
- Iarnród Éireann
- Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA)
- Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA)
- Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA)
- SEAI
- Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- Uisce Éireann
- Waterways Ireland

⁵⁰ SEAI. 2020. SEI01 - Energy Balance data resource; Available at [SEI01 - Energy Balance \(ktoe\) - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/sei01-energy-balance-kt0e)

⁵¹ SEAI. 2020. Overall renewable energy share - available at [Renewables | Energy Statistics In Ireland | SEAI](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/renewables-energy-statistics-in-ireland)

⁵² [Energy Offshore Renewable - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/energy-offshore-renewable)



4.10.7 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

- Increased residential and commercial development in the Plan area may impact upon material assets such as energy and water supply or wastewater treatment capacity.
- Demands for linear infrastructure development (i.e. active travel routes) and improved transport connectivity to neighbouring settlements.
- Effects on sensitive receptors with increased demands for active travel/green infrastructure, in particular during the construction phase.
- Improvements to existing broadband infrastructure.
- The potential for effects on existing green and blue infrastructure and key ecological corridors from inappropriate development.
- The need to appropriately manage potentially large volumes of materials/waste that could be generated during large-scale development projects, in accordance with the Waste Management Act and 'Waste Hierarchy' principles.
- The need to manage development interaction with existing and planned energy, water supply and wastewater networks.

4.11 Tourism and Recreation

Tourism and recreation are influenced by a range of factors in Ireland. International tourism has increased in recent years. Fáilte Ireland has recently published their four brand strategies⁵³ which will define the spatial scope and spread of future tourism developments within Ireland. Tipperary hosts the Ireland's Ancient East and the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands tourism brands.

The LAP has had regard to the policy objectives contained within the Tipperary CDP, the Tipperary Tourism Development Strategy, the Tipperary County Heritage Plan and the new Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan. Landscape is also an important aspect in terms of Tourism, see Section 4.4. Cultural Heritage sites also support heritage-related tourism and recreation, see Section 4.5.

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

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

⁵³ Wild Atlantic Way, Dublin's a Breath of Fresh Air, Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands



4.11.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

- Development occurring in the Plan area may affect local heritage, archaeology or visual amenity and, in turn, local tourism or recreational features and activity in the area.

4.12 Climate Change

The recent Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was established to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change. This aims at pursuing the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of the year 2050. Ireland's Climate Action Plans 2023 and 2024 set out Ireland's national and sectoral targets in this regard.

Climate action within the LAP will permeate across all policy objectives to ensure the transition and delivery of a client-resilient, low-carbon community at Carrick-on-Suir.

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

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

- Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2023
- CFRAM Studies⁵⁴
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, including the following:
 - EPA's report on Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2022
- EPA
- Tipperary County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

⁵⁴ Office of Public Works (2021) Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [CFRAM Programme \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



4.12.1 Key Considerations relating to the Plan

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

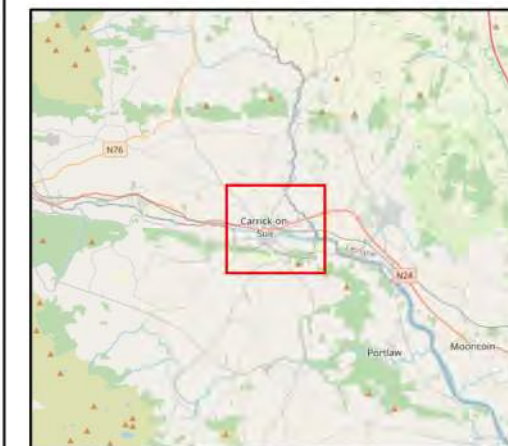
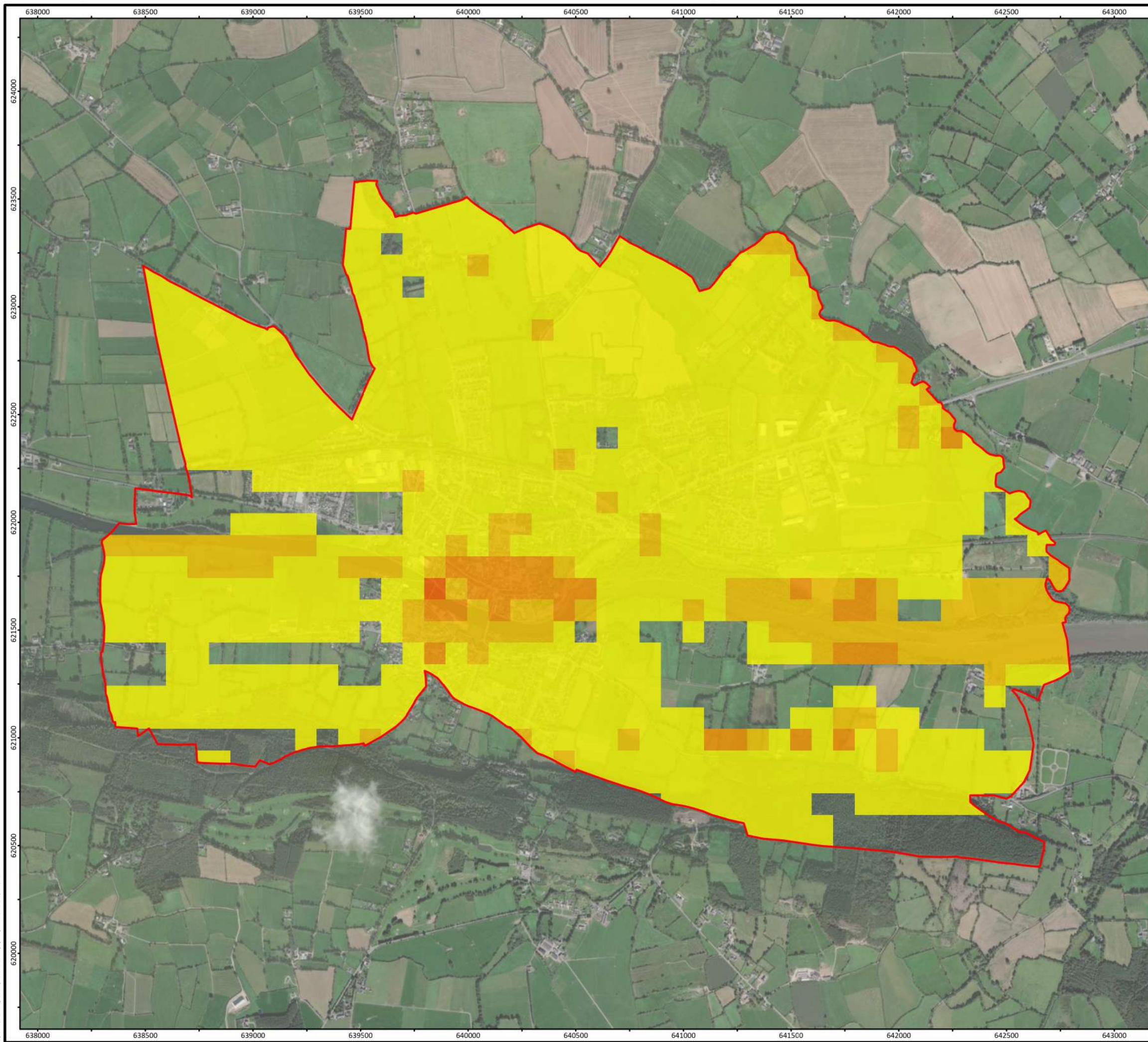
- SEA processes can be utilised to maximise positive climate effects and co-benefits associated with the LAP.
- The potential impact of changes in climate, including climate related flood risk.
- The climate change impact of development (construction phase embodied carbon, operational phase greenhouse gas emissions) should be considered.
- Opportunities to promote green/net zero buildings/development through the LAP.

4.13 Constraints and Opportunities

The environmental baseline data was overlaid in raster form and ranked accordingly to produce an overall constraints and opportunities map for the Council's administrative boundary (Figure 4-17). The map was prepared using Geographical Information System (GIS) software that allowed for a weighting system to be applied with differentiation in certain layers as follows:

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

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

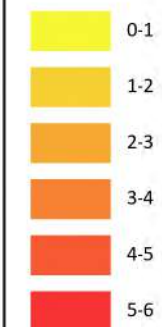


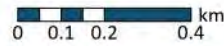
Legend

Local Area Plan Boundary

Constraints & Opportunities

Value



Constraints and Opportunities	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	4.17
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3
 	



4.14 Evolution of the Baseline Environment without the implementation of the Plan

The SEA Directive requires that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the baseline environment in the event the Plan is not adopted and implemented.

It is predicted that the following would occur in the event the Carrick-On-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031 is not adopted and implemented:

- Planning and development in the Carrick-on-Suir Plan area would be governed by higher-order planning policy defined in the Tipperary CDP.
- There would be absence of an appropriately focused strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Carrick-on-Suir.
- There would be an absence of appropriately focused planning and development related environmental protection policies/objectives for Carrick-on-Suir.
- Environmental protection requirements defined in legislation and higher order plans would still apply to Carrick-on Suir.
- The baseline environment at Carrick-on Suir would still be influenced by the Tipperary CDP, the Tipperary Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024-2029 and the Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013 (as varied and extended).
- Development in Carrick-on-Suir would not be subject to an appropriately focussed local area framework of planning control – which is necessary for a town of its size and the levels of development and change predicted for the area. There would be a greater risk of improper planning and unsustainable development occurring in and around the town. This scenario increases the risk of significant adverse environmental effects occurring due to the carrying out of inappropriate development, including effects on:
 - Population and Human Health – e.g., through reductions in residential amenity, noise, dust.
 - Biodiversity – e.g., loss of valuable habitat, habitat fragmentation, impacts on protected species, impacts on the Lower River Suir SAC.
 - Landscape Character and Visual Amenity – e.g., loss of scenic value (e.g., at The Butler Trail, visual amenity etc.
 - Cultural Heritage – e.g., diminishment of built heritage including protected structures and historic fabric.
 - Soils – e.g., ground contamination, impacts on soil structure and function.
 - Land use – e.g., promotion of unsustainable and incoherent land use.
 - Air Quality and Noise – e.g., generation of air and noise emissions resulting in significant negative effects on people.
 - Water – e.g., the carrying out development that contributes to polluting emissions to waters or increased flood risk.
 - Material Assets – e.g., the failure to provide appropriate services to the development carried out in the town (e.g., water supply, wastewater services).
 - Tourism and recreation – e.g., the failure to create sustainable tourism in the town, the diminishment of tourism and recreation assets in the town.
 - Climate Change – e.g., failure to provide a suitable framework for compact growth and sustainable transport – resulting in a failure to reduce Energy and Residential sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.



- The multitude of positive environmental effects across all environmental components associated with Plan policies and objectives pertaining to sustainable development and environmental protection and enhancement would not be realised, such as positive effects on:
 - Population and Human Health – e.g., achieved through proper planning and protection and enhancement of residential amenity and community infrastructure.
 - Biodiversity – e.g., through the implementation of policies/objectives that afford an appropriate level of protection to biodiversity, including designated sites, non-designated sites of local importance, ecological connections and protected species, and through the implementation of policies/objectives that promote Nature Based Solutions.
 - Landscape Character and Visual Amenity – e.g., through the implementation of policies/objectives that control the scale of built development and serve to protect and enhance scenic value and visual amenity.
 - Cultural Heritage – e.g., through policies/objectives that ensure appropriate consideration is given to built and archaeological heritage impacts during the carrying out of development, and through policies/objectives promoting sensitive town regeneration.
 - Soils – e.g., through policies/objectives that promote good soil management during development projects.
 - Land use – e.g., achieved through the promotion of sustainable, well-balanced land use planning.
 - Air Quality and Noise – e.g., through promotion of active travel measures supporting modal shift resulting in local air quality improvements, policies/objectives supporting noise minimisation and control.
 - Water – e.g., through pollution prevention and the application of good and proper flood risk management during the planning process.
 - Material Assets – e.g., through the appropriate delivery of services in the town (e.g., water supply, wastewater services) in collaboration with relevant statutory bodies (e.g., Uisce Eireann).
 - Tourism and recreation – e.g., through the application of environmental protection measures that result in the protection and enhancement of tourism and recreation assets.
 - Climate Change – e.g., via the provision of a robust framework for compact, regenerative and interconnected development.



5. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

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

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which facilitate the development of targets against which the environmental effects of the Plan can be tested. SEOs are based on wider environmental protection objectives on local, regional, national, European and international level that are relevant to the Plan. They are high-level in nature and set strategic goals for improvement.

In this section, SEOs were defined for range of Environmental Components and can be used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which potential significant adverse impacts may occur. The use of these objectives ensured that the SEA focused only on those environmental issues that are most relevant and significant to the Plan and the Study Area.

The development of SEOs was appropriately informed by the SEA Scoping stage of the SEA process, including consultation with the statutory environmental authorities.

All SEOs applicable to the Plan are presented in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Overall	O1	Ensure, where appropriate, alignment with higher-level plans and that projects contribute to overall environmental monitoring processes within the Plan area.
Population and Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or minimise impacts to population and human health.
	PHH2	Promote economic activity and growth
	PHH3	Ensure supporting infrastructure and services in the area are developed in a manner commensurate with population growth.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure supported development is in alignment with biodiversity protection, restoration, and rehabilitation goals.
	B2	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species.
	B3	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species.
	B4	Avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
	B5	Aim for no net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L1	Avoid or minimise impacts on statutory landscape designations defined in the CDP.
	L2	Avoid or minimise adverse visual effects on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.
	L3	Protect and enhance landscape character.
	L4	Protect, as appropriate, create and improve streetscape character.
Cultural Heritage - Archaeological & Architectural	CH1	Avoid impacts upon archaeological heritage (including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)), architectural heritage (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)), industrial heritage and ACAs.
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on mineral resources or soils.
	S2	Ensure appropriate management of all soil and excavation material. Promote sustainable material reuse wherever appropriate.
	S3	Re-use of brownfield lands, where appropriate, together with the appropriate and sustainable development of greenfield lands.
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.
	LU2	Compliance with existing land use policy in the CDP
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Increase the number of people travelling to work or school via sustainable modes of travel, including public transport, walking and cycling.
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts on existing or proposed sensitive receptors.
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface water bodies.
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009).
	W5	Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow.
	W6	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality.
Material Assets	MA1	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure.
	MA2	Avoid or minimise effects upon existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.
	MA3	Promote sustainable transportation and deliver enhanced traffic and transport conditions, where possible.
	MA4	Promote sustainable waste/material management and the circular economy.
	MA5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.
Tourism and Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities, and enhance tourism and recreation, where possible.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Climate Change	CC1	Support in the achievement of the 2030 target of a 51% reduction in carbon emissions.
	CC2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.
	CC3	Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local level.
	CC4	Promote the carrying out of climate resilient development.
	CC5	Promote low carbon and net zero development.
	CC6	Promote the carrying out of development that incorporates nature-based solutions.
	CC7	Promote active travel and reduce reliance on the use of private vehicles for transport.
	CC8	Support the transition to zero or low carbon Electric Vehicles.
Inter-relationships	IR1	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes. Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement during adaptation to climate change.



6. DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF PLAN ALTERNATIVES

6.1 Introduction

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

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

This section of the SEA Environmental Report examined reasonable alternatives to the LAP and systematically evaluated the likely significant effects of these alternatives.

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

The reason for considering identified reasonable alternatives within the scope of the environmental assessment was clearly described and documented. A description of how the assessment of alternatives was carried out is provided.

Reasonable alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the Plan. The purpose of this was to determine if the reasonable alternative resulted in positive, negative, neutral or uncertain environmental outcomes.

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

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



6.2 Goal of the Reasonable Alternative Evaluation Process in SEA

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

- Which alternative best promotes and facilitates proper planning and sustainable development in the Plan area.
- Which alternative best supports the Strategic Aim and Objectives of the Plan.
- Which alternative best supports the Strategic Environmental Objectives defined for the Plan.
- Which alternative best supports with the objectives of inter-related plans and policy, including their environmental protection objectives.
- The potential positive environmental effects associated with the alternative.
- The potential negative environmental effects associated with the alternative.

6.3 Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the Plan were considered during the Plan-development process. The approach for identifying reasonable alternatives to the Plan is defined below:

1. Iterative communication was held between the Plan-development and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the Strategic Aim and Objectives of the Plan.
2. Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative was practical/functional, reasonable and implementable took place. This evaluation considered the following factors:
 - The strategic aim and objectives of the Plan.
 - The geographic scope of the Plan.
 - The actual powers and functions of the Local Authority.
 - The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the Plan aims and objectives.
 - The technical feasibility of the alternative.
 - The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the Plan within the required timeframe.
 - The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the Plan by higher-level policy.
 - The legislative context and the parameters placed around the Plan by climate action and environmental related legislation.

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

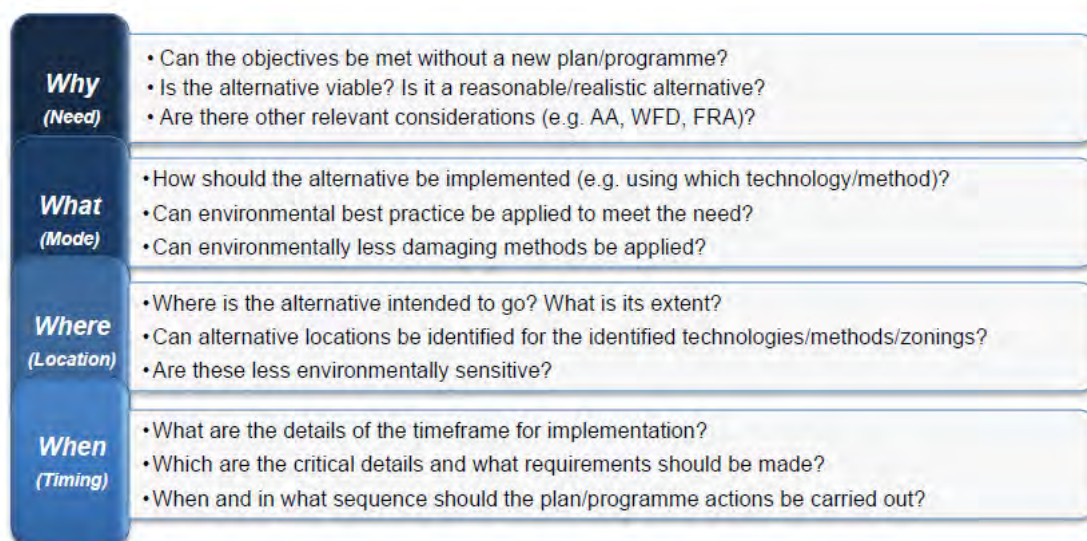


Figure 6-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).

6.4 Limitations in Assessing Reasonable Alternatives

A 'Do Nothing' or 'Do Minimum' alternative is not a reasonable alternative in this instance as the preparation of a comprehensive and effective LAP is a statutory requirement under Planning and Development Act (as amended).

The range of Reasonable Alternatives open to the Plan-making team is limited by the need to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and alignment with higher order policy, particularly policy defined in the Tipperary CDP, NPF, Southern Region RSES.

6.5 Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives to the Plan were identified as the Plan-making process evolved. Details on all Reasonable Alternatives considered during Plan-making are presented in Table 6-1.



Table 6-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LAP

Theme	Description of Reasonable Alternatives
Planning for development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.
	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.
Approach to the protection of the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation.	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP.
	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP.
Consolidation of Open Space Amenity in Established Residential Areas.	Alternative 1: Retain the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area.
	Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning.



6.6 Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives

An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. A standardised evaluation matrix was developed to facilitate the evaluation of the environmental effects of reasonable alternatives on SEOs relating to each Environmental Component.

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

- Potential Positive Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '+').⁵⁵
- Potential Negative Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '-').⁵⁶
- Potential Positive and Negative Environmental Impacts (indicated in the matrix by a '+/-').
- Uncertain Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '?').
- Neutral, No or Insignificant Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '0').
- Where positive effects are more likely or of a greater magnitude for a particular alternative, these effects are indicated in the matrix by a '++'.
- Where negative effects are more likely or of a greater magnitude for a particular alternative, these effects are indicated in the matrix by a '--'.

The evaluation of all Reasonable Alternatives considered during the Plan-making process and the reasons for selecting Preferred Alternatives are presented in the Tables 6-2, 6-3 and 6-4.

⁵⁵ Potential Positive Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to support the achievement of an SEO.

⁵⁶ Potential Negative Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to hinder the achievement of an SEO.



Table 6-2: Planning for development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road
Population & Human Health	PHH1	+	++
	PHH2	+	++
	PHH3	0	0
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	+	++
	B2	+	++
	B3	+	++
	B4	+	++
	B5	0	0
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L1	+	++
	L2	+	++
	L3	+	++
	L4	+	++
Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural	CH1	+	++
Soils	S1	+	+
	S2	+	+
	S3	+	+



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road
Land Use	LU1	+	++
	LU1	+	++
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	0	0
	AQN2	+	++
	AQN3	+	++
Water	W1	+	++
	W2	+	++
	W3	+	++
	W4	+	++
	W5	+	++
	W6	+	++
Material Assets	MA1	+	+
	MA2	+	+
	MA3	+	++
	MA4	+	+
	MA6	+	+
Tourism & Recreation	TR1	+	++



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road
Climate Change	CC1	+	+
	CC2	+	+
	CC3	+	+
	CC4	+	+
	CC5	+	+
	CC6	+	+
	CC7	+	+
	CC8	+	+
Inter-relationships	IR1	+	++
<u>Preferred Alternative</u> Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road. <u>Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Alternative</u> The landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of Coolnamuck Road is of strategic importance in the context of the LAP. It is predicted significant levels of development will be carried out in this area over the lifetime of the plan.			



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road
Using the LAP land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road (Alternative 1) has the potential to generate a range of positive environmental effects across various environmental components. Appropriate environmental mitigation has been incorporated into the LAP to support environmental enhancement, and avoid, prevent offset as far as possible adverse environmental associated with the implementation of the Plan. An appropriately focused and more detailed Masterplan and Development Framework for this area (Alternative 2) will however ensure more focused and careful consideration of environmental sensitivities associated with the area and its environs. The location is characterized by a range of environmental sensitivities. It is located in close proximity to existing residential areas, areas designated for open space and recreation, and the Lower River Suir SAC. It has been agreed that a Masterplan would be more suitable to sensitively address all features contained within this area. A Masterplan will set clear and area specific policy and objectives to address any development in a sustainable, appropriately managed and balanced manner. Such a Masterplan shall be subject to SEA and AA, which would serve to define a framework of environmental protection measures specific to the area. As such, preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road, has greater potential to ensure positive environmental outcomes – across a number of environmental components, including: • Population and Human Health – by defining area specific environmental mitigation measures to prevent development related impacts on population and human health (i.e. existing residential amenity, sports clubs, future recreational land uses etc.). • Biodiversity – by focusing development at appropriate locations away from sensitive ecological receptors, by promoting specific, localised green infrastructure and ecological connectivity measures, by defining area specific mitigation measures to prevent impacts on important terrestrial and aquatic ecology, and through providing an area specific framework for biodiversity protection and enhancement, including the protection of the Lower River Suir SAC - having regard to its conservation objectives and qualifying interests. • Landscape & Visual Amenity –by putting parameters around the sizing, mass, scale, location, aesthetic quality and architectural design of built development in the area.			



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road
- Land Use – by providing a more focused and carefully considered land use planning framework for the area, resulting in sustainable, well-balanced and appropriately located and scaled development in the area. - Air Quality and Noise – by defining area specific air quality and noise mitigation measures to prevent development impacts on residential amenity and biodiversity. - Water – by providing area specific mitigation measures aimed at protecting groundwater and surface water quality in the area, including water quality, flow and morphology at the River Suir, in accordance with Water Framework Directive and Water Action Plan 2024 aims and objectives. - Material Assets – A cohesive and phased masterplan for this area will better provide for managing development related traffic levels and constraints. A Policy to provide a Masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on northern side of Coolnamuck Road has therefore been included within the LAP.			



Table 6-3: Approach to the protection of the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP
Population & Human Health	PHH1	0	0
	PHH2	0	0
	PHH3	0	0
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	+	++
	B2	+	++
	B3	+	++
	B4	+	++
	B5	+	++
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L1	0	0
	L2	0	0
	L3	0	0
	L4	0	0



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP
Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural	CH1	0	0
Soils	S1	0	0
	S2	0	0
	S3	0	0
Land Use	LU1	0	0
	LU2	+	++
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	0	0
	AQN2	0	0
	AQN3	0	0
Water	W1	+	++
	W2	+	++
	W3	+	++
	W4	0	0



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP
	W5	0	0
	W6	0	0
Material Assets	MA1	0	0
	MA2	0	0
	MA3	0	0
	MA4	0	0
	MA5	+	++
Tourism & Recreation	TR1	+	++
Climate Change	CC1	0	0
	CC2	0	0
	CC3	0	0
	CC4	0	0
	CC5	0	0



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP
	CC6	+	++
	CC7	0	0
	CC8	0	0
Inter-relationships	IR1	+	++
<u>Preferred Alternative</u> Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP. <u>Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Alternative</u> A reliance on environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Tipperary CDP (Alternative 1) will afford the Lower River Suir SAC an appropriate degree of protection generally. An array of policies for the protection of Europeans sites and biodiversity generally have been defined in the CDP, including Policies 11-2, 11-4 and 11-7. It was determined however that it would be more beneficial to integrate more focused environmental mitigation for the protection of this SAC into the LAP (Alternative 2) given that the LAP supports more specific development proposals and measures that have the potential to result in direct, adverse effects on the Lower River Suir SAC specifically.			



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP
These focused mitigation measures will ensure a stronger, more robust level of protection for the SAC in the context of the LAP, and would better safeguard the conservation objectives and qualifying interests of the SAC. This would result in the following effects on environmental components: • Biodiversity - Enhanced positive effects for biodiversity – through the focused and strengthened protection of the Lower River Suir SAC and its conservation objectives and qualifying at local area level. • Land Use - The planning and carrying out of development in an appropriate, focused and well-balanced manner that is considerate of the Lower Suir River SAC conservation objectives and qualifying interests and threats and pressures facing the SAC. • Water - A framework of more focused mitigatory policy for the protection of the Lower Suir River SAC will better avoid, prevent and minimize the effects of development on water quality and hydrology (i.e. flow and morphology) in and connected to the LAP area, better supporting the aims and objective of the Water Framework Directive and the Water Action Plan 2024. • Material Assets - Focused mitigation for the protection of the Lower River Suir SAC will better promote and support good drainage management during the construction and operational phases of development in the area, creating a positive effect for drainage assets. • Tourism and Recreation – Better protection of the Lower River Suir SAC will result in enhanced tourism and recreation co-benefits, through the retention and enhancement of natural aspects of the river and its environs which make it an attractive feature that can be experienced and enjoyed by people. • Climate Change - Focused mitigation for the protection of the Lower River Suir SAC will better promote and support good drainage management and the utilisation of Nature Based Solutions in the area. This will underpin and better support climate adaptive development in the area. A range of focused mitigatory policies for the protection of the Lower Suir River were therefore defined under the SEA and AA for the LAP and integrated into the plan. These mitigation measures are discussed and defined in Section 8 of this report.			



Table 6-4: Consolidation of Open Space Amenity in Established Residential Areas

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Retain the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area	Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning
Population & Human Health	PHH1	-	+
	PHH2	0	0
	PHH3	0	0
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	-	+
	B2	0	0
	B3	-	+
	B4	-	+
	B5	-	+
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L1	0	0
	L2	-	+
	L3	0	0
	L4	0	0
Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural	CH1	0	0
Soils	S1	0	0
	S2	0	0
	S3	0	0
Land Use	LU1	-	+
	LU2	-	+



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Retain the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area	Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	0	0
	AQN2	0	0
	AQN3	0	0
Water	W1	0	0
	W2	0	0
	W3	0	0
	W4	0	0
	W5	0	0
	W6	0	0
Material Assets	MA1	-	+
	MA2	0	0
	MA3	0	0
	MA4	0	0
	MA5	0	0
Tourism & Recreation	TR1	-	+
Climate Change	CC1	0	0
	CC2	0	0
	CC3	0	0
	CC4	0	0
	CC5	0	0



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Retain the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area	Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning
	CC6	0	0
	CC7	0	0
	CC8	0	0
Inter-relationships	IR1	-	+

Preferred Alternative

Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning.

Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Alternative

Alternative 1 involves retaining the 'Existing Residential' zoning at open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area. These open spaces currently provide recreation and amenity value in these residential areas. Retaining the 'Existing Residential' zoning in these reduces the level of clear support provided under the Plan for the preservation of these spaces. Such open spaces contribute for the liveability of urban settlements and housing and contribute positively to community building and public health. They may also contain important natural features, including habitat, flora, fauna and mature trees, and can support green infrastructure ecological connectivity. The loss of such spaces can result in a range of negative environmental effects, including effects on residential amenity, visual amenity, and biodiversity.

Alternative 2 involves changing the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning. This alternative will provide clear, express, and unambiguous support for the preservation of these open space amenity areas in existing neighbourhoods. This will better support the realisation of the following environmental effects at existing neighbourhoods in the Plan area:

- Population and Human Health - Positive effects on residential amenity and recreational value.
- Biodiversity - The preservation of important biodiversity features that may be present at open space amenity areas, including habitats, flora, fauna and mature trees, and the preservation of green infrastructure assets and ecological connectivity.
- Landscape & Visual Amenity - the preservation of aesthetic quality and visual amenity.
- Land Use – The prevention of overdevelopment and unsustainable land use.
- Material Assets – The prevention of overdevelopment resulting negative impacts on material assets (including traffic infrastructure, utility infrastructure and amenity assets).
- Tourism and Recreation – Loss of recreational value at these open spaces.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Alternative 1: Retain the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area	Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning
A range of open space amenity areas present in existing neighborhood areas were therefore zoned for 'Amenity' instead of 'Existing Residential.' These zoning changes are presented in the zoning maps the accompany the LAP.			



6.7 Data Gaps relating to the Identification and Evaluation of the Reasonable Alternatives

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



7. EVALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Introduction

An evaluation of the potential effects of the Plan on the baseline environment as characterised and described in Section 4 of this report was carried out and is documented in this section of the report. This evaluation was carried out against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the Plan. These SEOs are documented in Section 5 of this report.

7.2 Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation

A detailed evaluation of the potential effects of the Plan on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. A standardised evaluation matrix was developed to facilitate the evaluation of the Preferred Plan on SEOs relevant to each Environmental Component. An explanation of the approach and methodology for this detailed evaluation and completed evaluation matrices presenting the detailed evaluation are contained in Appendix 3 of this report.

An overview of the key environmental effects the Plan may have on Environmental Components, in the absence of environmental mitigation, is presented below:

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

- The Plan supports the carrying out of infrastructural development (e.g., housing, social, economic, transport etc.). The construction phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, that may affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, landscape character and visual amenity.
- The Plan supports the development of a third river crossing in the town. This development has the potential to result in a range of adverse environmental impacts, including effects on landscape character and visual amenity, water quality and hydrology, biodiversity, and the conservation objectives and qualifying interest of the Lower River Suir SAC.
- Development construction activities, generally, may generate dust emissions, vibration or noise that may impact residential amenity, human health and well-being, and biodiversity.
- The Plan provides a land use framework for development that has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g. land-take, dust, noise, light, polluting aqueous discharges) that directly or indirectly cause effects on European sites present or connected to the plan area, such as loss/reduction of habitat, habitat or species fragmentation, disturbance to key species (i.e. through human activity/movement, noise, light), reduction in species density, impact on non-designated sites or habitat that support European sites, or changes on indicators of conservation value (i.e. water quality, air quality, habitat quality).
- Development may lead to adverse impacts on biodiversity, including loss, disturbance or damage to biodiversity, flora and fauna; impacts on the Lower River Suir SAC, impacts on ecological connectivity and impacts on important non-designated habitats.



- Development may generate an increase in the quantum of light transmitted to sensitive ecological receptors, resulting in increased vulnerability and sensitivity of light-sensitive species.
- The Plan supports development construction at greenfield locations where invasive species may exist. Construction and waste management activities may increase the risk of the spread of invasive species.
- Greenfield development may impact and damage unknown archaeological remains.
- The Plan is supportive of the carrying out of development at sensitive locations (such as areas in proximity to the River Suir) which could potentially impact sensitive aspects of the environment, including biodiversity, water quality, landscape character and visual amenity, built and archaeological heritage and important habitats and species.
- Development, including town centre regeneration related development may generate negative impacts on built heritage (e.g., protected structures) and historic fabric, including historic structures present in town centres. Development supported by the Plan may impact on the setting of heritage assets and sense of place, generally.
- Significantly scaled residential and commercial development may impact visual amenity in the vicinity of these developments, streetscape character and wider landscape character.
- Transport related development supported by the Plan may generate significant levels traffic noise resulting in negative noise impacts on noise sensitive locations that are in close proximity to transport routes.
- Inappropriate or improperly designed greenfield development may contribute to significant hydrological changes and increases in flood risk.
- Development may generate adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Development will increase the quantum of water supply, wastewater and energy provisions and infrastructure required in the plan area, in contravention of aims and objectives defined in the Water Framework Directive and the Water Action Plan 2022 – 2027.
- Major development in the Plan area may generate an increase in traffic levels and effects on existing traffic and transportation conditions and dynamics.
- Development related excavation at greenfield and brownfield has the potential to result in the generation of substantial levels of material and waste, including potentially contaminated material that will need to be appropriately and sustainably managed in accordance with Waste Hierarchy principles.
- Development occurring in the Plan area may affect local heritage, archaeology or visual amenity and, in turn, local tourism or recreational features and activity in the area.
- Infrastructure development may have the potential to restrict or reduce the quality of resources important for recreation and/or tourism.
- The promotion or development of blueways and greenways (e.g., Suir Blueway) could add additional loading pressures in terms of visitor interactions at sensitive areas such as trampling, disturbance, erosion, littering etc.
- Linear transport development (including active travel development) has the potential to negatively affect biodiversity and ecological connectivity (through habitat loss/fragmentation).



Potential Positive Environmental Effects

- The strategic objectives, as defined, have the potential to contribute to sustainable development and proper planning in accordance with the land use planning framework and higher order planning policy and other inter-related policy, resulting in positive effects across all environmental components. The implementation of the Plan's strategic objectives has the potential to support balanced, integrated and socially beneficial development and environmental protection and enhancement in the Plan area.
- Settlement consolidation promoted by Plan policies/objectives will support to compact growth, sustainable land use, sustainable transportation, and the sustainable provision and optimised utilisation of Material Assets.
- The promotion of sustainable urban development (including residential development) in accordance with compact growth principles has the potential to generate positive effects on population and human health (through the provision of much-needed housing), material assets, lands, soils and geology (through the avoidance of building on greenfield sites, promotion of compact development and prevention of sprawl) and air and climate (by promoting compact development, reducing the need to travel by private car).
- The Plan supports the development of a third river crossing in the town. This development has the potential to result in a range of positive environmental impacts, including positive effects on traffic and transport conditions in and around the town. This development has the potential to support interconnectivity within the town and alleviate traffic conditions in other parts of the town..
- The delivery of housing and community infrastructure has the potential to generate positive effects on population and human health (people and communities).
- Town regeneration related development has the potential to facilitate the sustainable development of town centres. The regeneration and enhancement of town centres may contribute to positive effects on communities, businesses, tourism and recreation amenities and cultural heritage.
- The promotion of sustainable land use, sustainable transportation and public transport may support modal shift and the use of public transportation, resulting in potential positive effects on population and human health, local air quality and climate.
- The Plan supports the development, expansion and management of safe active travel networks. The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift, reduce traffic related risks and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions - thereby positively impacting population and human health, local air quality and the climate environment.
- The plan supports the enhancement and interconnectivity of tourism and recreation assets in and around the town (e.g., through the development of the Ormond Castle Quarter). This has the potential to generate positive effects for tourism and recreation features in the town and enhance amenity value in the town generally.
- The promotion of economic development will support people, businesses and the local economy, through the generation of business activities and employment.
- The plan is supportive of community and local area based renewable energy/energy efficient development, which will have a positive effect on the climate environment.
- The plan is supportive of flood alleviation and the minimisation of flood risk in the Plan area (via the Carrick-on-Suir Flood Relief Scheme). This will generate positive environmental effects on water quality, hydrology and biodiversity. The delivery of flood alleviation has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including human receptors, ecological receptors and cultural heritage assets.



- The Plan supports measures promoting and enhancing circularity and resource efficiency in line with the principles of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 (e.g., through education and awareness programmes). These measures have the potential to generate positive effects for material assets (through the promotion of waste prevention, minimisation and recycling at local level).
- The plan supports the development nature based solutions - in response to flood and climate related risk - which are supportive of biodiversity protection and enhancement. The promotion of NBS has the potential to create positive effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna, water quality and hydrology.
- The Plan promotes protection of utility assets (including the Carrick-on-Suir Wastewater Treatment Plant) and collaboration with utility providers on utility infrastructure delivery and maintenance. This will support the sustainable provision of appropriately integrated material asset infrastructure (e.g., water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.), and promotes a high standard of environmental protection in the area of wastewater management and treatment in and around the town.
- The framework of locally focussed, environmental protection and enhancement related policies and objectives support the carrying out of considered, appropriate development sensitive to the receiving environment. Generally, this has the potential to generate positive impacts on all environmental components.

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

The cumulative effects of a plan are an important consideration in SEA given that a plan may envisage the occurrence of many different actions and developments taking place in parallel with each other in a particular location/geographic area over a particular time period. One benefit of SEA is being able to evaluate the in-combination environmental effects of multiple envisaged projects.

The following types of cumulative effects can occur due to the implementation of a plan:

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

7.3.1 Intra-plan Cumulative Effects

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

- The policies/objectives of the Plan may combine and collectively support extensive construction activity that contributes toward GHG emissions (i.e. embodied carbon)
- Policies/objectives of the Plan will support extensive development in the Plan area, including housing, commercial and transport development. The cumulative effect of this development may result in increased pressure of material assets (i.e. water supply, wastewater and energy infrastructure).
- The combination of development proposals supported by the Plan may generate a cumulative adverse effect on various environmental components, including water quality, soils, landscape character and visual amenity, biodiversity and European and other designated sites.



- The carrying out of extensive development in the Plan area may contribute to cumulative effects on flood risk via development at greenfield sites or through the obstruction of flood paths.
- The Plan provides for measures which support the delivery of development and infrastructure projects which could contribute - if incorrectly managed - to cumulative impacts through construction related environmental effects (site run-off, dust, noise pollution etc.).
- Increased access to natural amenity sites (e.g., the Lower Suir River SAC) could be facilitated by the combination of tourism and recreation related policies/objectives in the Plan. Therefore, there could be cumulative effects related to this.
- The Plan supports measures relating to flood resilience and alleviation projects - which could introduce catchment level cumulative positive impacts on water quality, flow and hydrological regime/characteristics.
- The effects of multiple Plan policies/objectives have the potential to combine and robustly support a shift to sustainable and active travel modes of transport. This has the potential to generate a variety of cumulative positive environmental effects, including positive effects on local air quality, human health and climate.
- The variety of positive effects associated with the implementation of Plan policies/objectives have the potential to combine and interact, and have long-term and wide encompassing positive environmental effects on a variety of environmental components, including population and human health, climate biodiversity, water quality and hydrology, traffic and transport, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape and visual amenity.

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

Plan objectives and policies that generate positive or negative environmental effects for one environmental component have the potential to indirectly generate positive or negative environmental effects for inter-related environmental components. For example, objectives supporting the delivery of SuDS will improve water quality, which in turn can have a positive effect on aquatic ecology. An assessment of impact inter-relationships and interactions is embedded in the evaluation of environmental effects that was carried out in this report (which is detailed in full in Appendix 3). This ensured that there was adequate coverage of all potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of the Plan. A matrix showing the existence of potential inter-relationships between environmental components was developed and is presented in Table 7-1 to aid in the understanding of these relationships.



Table 7-1: Inter-relationship between Environmental Components

Inter- relationship Matrix	Population and human health	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Water	Air Quality and Noise	Cultural heritage	Geology and Soils	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Material Assets	Tourism and Recreation	Climate
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Air Quality and Noise	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Cultural heritage	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geology and Soils	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Landscape and Visual Amenity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Material Assets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Tourism and Recreation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Climate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			



7.3.2 Inter-plan Cumulative Effects

Other plans and programmes that the Plan has a relationship with are presented and discussed in Appendix 1. It should be noted that all other plans and programmes have been or will be subject to environmental assessment, including SEA, AA and SFRA where required, for the purpose of preventing and mitigating potential negative environmental effects wherever necessary. Potential inter-plan cumulative effects are presented below:

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

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



8. MITIGATION MEASURES

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

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

- The consideration of Plan Alternatives throughout the Plan-making process, having regard to environmental considerations.
- The integration of environmental considerations into the Plan.

8.1 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

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

8.2 Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the Plan

The Plan development process was carried out in parallel with the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan development team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA, AA and SFRA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan development process.

A strong level of embedded environmental mitigation was found to be present in early drafts of the Plan. Environmental mitigation measures were also already defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan (CDP) which mitigate significant negative environmental effects, and maximise potential environmental benefits and co-benefits of the Plan.

As necessary, additional environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the Plan were developed and then integrated into the earlier iterations of the Plan. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximising identified positive environmental effects of the Plan.

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

Environmental mitigation measures defined in the CDP that mitigate significant negative environmental effects associated with the Plan are presented in Table 8-2.



Additional Environmental Mitigation Measures (additional policies/objectives) recommended to augment environmental protection and enhancement in the Plan are presented in Table 8-3.

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to various previously defined policies/objectives in the Plan is presented in Table 8-4. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during Plan implementation.

All recommendations have been fully integrated into the Plan.

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

Table 8-1: Embedded Environmental Mitigation

Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
2.1	Require the retrofitting of existing structures on brownfield sites, unless it is demonstrated that retrofitting is unfeasible, or redevelopment of the site would provide positive carbon impact through the re-design, construction and use stages of a new building, compared with retrofitting - having due regard to the need to conserve protected structures, historic fabric generally, and protected species of biodiversity value.	PHH, BFF, CH, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
2.2	Support new development that will enable sustainable housing growth, employment, community development and prosperity for Carrick-on-Suir as a District Town in line with the Strategic Objectives of the TCDP.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
2.3	Require new development to incorporate best practice in low-carbon and energy efficient planning and techniques as reflected by the policies and objectives of the TCDP and this LAP and in accordance with the Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (and any review thereof).	PHH, MA, CC
2.4	Support compact residential growth in Carrick-on-Suir through the sustainable intensification and consolidation of the town centre and established residential areas to meet identified housing targets and requirements in line with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2024) and any review thereof.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
3.1	Enhance the quality of the Town Centre by supporting the collaborative redevelopment and reuse of vacant and underused sites and areas in the 'Urban Core' and 'Compact Growth' area, in particular, to support the redevelopment of Town Centre 'Regeneration Sites' and areas zoned for 'Regeneration'.	PHH, BFF, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
3.2	Support new development proposals for regeneration sites which accord with the Key Planning Criteria for these sites set out in Appendix 3: Regeneration Sites.	PHH, BFF, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
3.5	Support new development proposals which accord with the Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan and the policies and objectives set out in the Town Centre First Plan (when complete).	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
3.6	Support new development which enhances the setting of Carrick-on-Suir town centre, including its architectural and historical heritage and character, and facilitates compact growth, high quality urban design, connectivity and active travel as opportunities arise.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
3B	Support landowners with potential sites for regeneration and development through the Council's planning, housing and local enterprise services and offer regeneration schemes such as the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme, the Croí Cónaithe Scheme, the Repair and Lease Scheme, Buy and Renew Scheme etc. as part of a Town Centre First programme.	PHH, BFF, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
3D	Develop and improve areas in need of regeneration, renewal and redevelopment and to apply, where appropriate, the provisions of the Finance Act, Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, Derelict Sites Act, and use Compulsory Purchase Orders to enable regeneration, reduce vacancy, increase housing supply, employment opportunities and provide community facilities.	PHH, BFF, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
7.1	Protect and conserve the integrity, ecological and biodiversity value of the River Suir, the Glen River and the Lingaun River and the associated riparian zones as they run through the town. Ensure that any development proposals within or adjacent to the rivers are appropriately assessed to ensure the protection of water quality and river access.	PHH, BFF, L, S, W, TR
7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.	PHH, BFF, S, AQN, W, MA, TR
7.3	a) Support the retention of trees of significant amenity value and require public realm proposals to include for urban greening that is appropriate to the character of the area, provides for urban shading, supports biodiversity and provides an appropriate visual setting. b) Allow the removal of mature trees, or trees of significant amenity value, only where it can be demonstrated that the loss of the tree(s) is outweighed by the wider public benefits of the proposal. c) Require development proposals which affect trees of significant amenity value to identify trees to be retained, and methods for the protection of those trees to be retained during and post-construction to be set out within development proposals. d) Require new development proposals to incorporate the provision of trees, in accordance with the requirements of Section 3.7 of the Development Management standards of the TCDP.	PHH, BFF, L, S, AQN, W, CC
7.5	Protect the designated natural heritage sites and sites of high ecological value within the plan area including the Alluvial Wet Woodland habitat on the Islands of the River Suir.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, TR, CC
7.6	Require the introduction of appropriate species of new street trees in urban development proposals and other urban greening measures, where these can be practically implemented.	PHH, BFF, L, S, AQN, W, CC
7.7	Safeguard the setting and character of Ormond Castle, including the Castle Park, amenity lands and riverscape.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, W, MA, TR
7.8	Preserve and enhance the character of the designated Carrick-on-Suir ACA, in accordance with the Carrick-on-Suir ACA Statement of Character (Appendix 6) and the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2011).	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
7.9	Require that the views and streetscapes as listed in Section 7.2.4 shall be given due consideration as part of the design process for new development to the satisfaction of the Council. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) or Landscape Value and Impact Assessment (LVIA) may be required to demonstrate development proposals accord with this policy.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
7A	Support and work with the local community, and other stakeholders in the development of blue and green infrastructure in the town, including the enhancement of the biodiversity and conservation value of the River Suir, Glen River and Lingaun River.	PHH, BFF, L, S, AQN, W, MA, TR
7B	Work in partnership with stakeholders and the local community in the delivery of projects for Carrick-on-Suir in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways (TCC, 2018) and the proposed Tipperary Greenway and Trail Strategy and seek funding opportunities as they arise.	PHH, BFF, L, S, AQN, W, MA, TR



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
7D	Ensure that new development, extensions, renovation works and infill development within or adjacent to the ACA is sympathetic to the distinctive character of the area and enhances the special character and visual setting of the Carrick-on-Suir ACA.	L, CH
7E	Ensure that Carrick-on-Suir remains a member of the Irish Walled Towns Network. Protect the town walls, have regard to the Town Wall Conservation Management and Implementation Plan and secure funding for conservation work to the Walls.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
8.2	Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water service; permit new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and waste water supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Eireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Eireann's Connections and Developer Service process.	PHH, BFF, CH, S, AQN, W, MA
8.7	Require, as part of development proposals on or within the vicinity of the former municipal landfill site, the developer to implement mitigation measures as deemed necessary, to offset any potential risk which may result from the closed landfill.	PHH, L, S, AQN, W

Table 8-2: Environmental Mitigation defined in the CDP

Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
4-1	Support and facilitate the sustainable growth of the county's towns and villages as outlined in the Settlement Strategy Chapter 4, thereby promoting balanced development and competitiveness, and a network of viable and vibrant settlements to support the needs of local communities. New development will be considered in line with the following: (a) The provisions of the relevant Town Development Plan and LAPs as set out in Table 4.2: Framework of current Town Plans and Local Area Plans shall apply to new development in each of the towns and support the provisions of this Plan as set out in Section 4.3 Key Towns and 4.4 District Towns, until replaced by LAPs. (b) The relevant 'Settlement Statement' as outlined in Volume 2 will apply to Local Towns, Service Centres, Local Service Centres and Settlement Nodes. (c) New development in towns and villages shall be proportionate to the scale and capacity of the receiving settlement in terms of size, use-type and design. (d) An appropriate density will apply for new residential development in line with the following guidance and any review thereof - Section 28 Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Urban Design Manual, (DEHLG,2009), NRUP 02/2021 - Circular Letter: Residential Densities in Towns and Villages, Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas. (e) There shall be support for new development that will assist in the reversal of the decline of towns and villages, through the regeneration, reuse and redevelopment of existing buildings, spaces, brownfield and opportunity sites.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
5-1	Have regard to the County Housing Strategy (or any amendment thereof), when implementing housing programmes, and when assessing proposals for both private and public residential development, to ensure that new housing is provided, and located in a manner that caters for the diverse housing needs of the community, suitable for households of a range of incomes and in tandem with the delivery of social and community infrastructure and amenity.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
5-2	Facilitate residential development, in accordance with the policy and objectives for residential development for towns and villages, as set out in Volume 2, in the relevant	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	LAPs (and any review thereof) and as set out in the relevant Development Plan for each town (and any review thereof ⁴²) and the Development Management Standards set out in Volume 3.	
5-3	Require that residential schemes proposed on lands zoned for residential use, or a mixture of residential and other uses, comply with Part V of the Planning Act (or any amendment thereof).	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
5-5	Support and facilitate the delivery of new residential development in towns and villages and where the applicant has demonstrated compliance with the following: a) New residential development shall meet the relevant Development Management Standards as set out in Volume 3. b) New residential developments of 10 or more units shall be accompanied by a 'Sustainability Statement', and a 'Statement of Housing Mix'. c) New development shall be of an appropriate density and quality in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (DHLGH, 2009), and any amendment thereof, and shall demonstrate that all opportunities for connectivity and linkages have been explored and incorporated in accordance with the 10-Minute Town concept and supporting active travel options. d) Residential development in rural settlements shall be appropriate to the scale, character and infrastructural capacity of the settlement in which it is to be located.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
5-7	Ensure that new residential development accommodates housing for a range of specialised needs, including those of the elderly, and contain appropriate mix of housing types and sizes. New housing shall incorporate the principles of Lifetime Adaptable Homes and Universal Design to cater for groups with specific needs in the county, as informed by a 'Statement of Housing Mix' as part of a 'Sustainability Statement' where applicable.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
5-8	Support the provision of specialised residential accommodation facilities for the elderly, such as age appropriate homes, independent and assisted living units, day-care facilities, nursing homes and specialised care units (e.g. dementia specific units) in towns and villages, where they can readily connect with the services and amenities of the local community.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
5-9	Require that climate change actions and measures be incorporated in new residential development of all scales to demonstrate how the development will minimise energy use, enhance accessibility, manage waste and support biodiversity.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
6-4	Apply the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2009), which requires planning applications for major housing proposals to be accompanied by assessments of the capacity of local schools to accommodate the proposed development.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
6-5	Facilitate new childcare facilities in settlements, to the requirements of the County Childcare Committee, and the Childcare Facilities, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2001) or any amendments thereof. New residential development will be required to consider demand for childcare likely to be generated by the development and the existing childcare facilities in the area, and to submit proposals to accommodate any identified increase in demand which may arise.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
8-3	Facilitate proposals for employment generating developments of a 'strategic/regional scale' at locations outside of designated lands in settlements, subject to the	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	demonstration of a need to locate in a particular area. These will be considered on a case by case basis, and must demonstrate that; (a) They are compatible with relevant environmental protection standards, the protection of residential amenity and the capacity of water and energy supplies in the area, and, (b) They would not compromise the capacity of strategic road corridors in line with the Spatial Planning and National Roads, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2012).	
9-1	Encourage and support tourism development, including accommodation and related facilities, to locate within existing settlements, subject to normal planning and environmental considerations, where they can support compact growth and regeneration, provision of services and the general economic vitality of settlements. New development will be required to relate sympathetically to the scale, capacity and level of development and facilities in the settlement.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
9-2	In assessing proposals for tourism development, including accommodation, at locations outside of settlement centres, to consider proposals on a case-by-case basis, having regard to; (a) The nature and scale of the proposal in the context of its setting, (b) The specific need for the development to locate in the rural area and not within a settlement, (c) Demonstration that the development is compatible with the protection of the environment, including lakeshore and riparian habitats. (d) The environmental conditions and sensitivities, scenic amenity, availability of services and the cumulative impact of such developments on the environment.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
9-3	Encourage all new tourism related development proposals to: (a) Maximise energy efficiency through siting, layout, design and incorporate best practice in energy technologies, conservation and smart technology. (b) Support best-practice environmental management including energy efficiency, waste management, biodiversity and sustainable transport.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W
11-3	Ensure the conservation and protection of existing, and proposed NHAs, and to ensure that proposed developments within or in close proximity to an existing or proposed NHA would not have a significant adverse impact on the status of the site as described.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W
11-4	(a) Conserve, protect and enhance areas of local biodiversity value, habitats, ecosystems and ecological corridors, in both urban and rural areas, including rivers, lakes, streams and ponds, peatland and other wetland habitats, woodlands, hedgerows, tree lines, veteran	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	trees, natural and semi-natural grasslands in accordance with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan (DCHG 2017) and any review thereof. (b) Safeguard, enhance and protect water bodies (rivers/canals/lakes) and river walks and to provide links, where possible, to wider green infrastructure networks as an essential part of the design process. (c) Require an 'Ecosystems Services' approach for new development to incorporate nature-based solutions to SUDS, in so far as practical, as part of water management systems, public realm design and landscaping, in line with best practice. (d) Where trees or hedgerows are of particular local value, the Council may seek their retention, or where retention is not feasible, their replacement and will seek a proactive focus on new tree-planting as part of new development.	
11-5	Ensure that new developments proposed in or near 'Ground Water Protection Schemes' and 'Zones of Contribution' which contribute to public water supplies, do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these important assets.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
11-6	Ensure the integration of river corridors with green infrastructure in settlements in line with the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020).	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
11-7	a) Ensure the protection of water quality in accordance with the EU WFD, and support the objectives and facilitate the implementation of the associated Programme of Measures of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any successor. This includes contributing towards the protection of Blue-Dot catchments and drinking water resources. Also, have cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD. b) Support an integrated and collaborative approach to catchment management in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any successor. c) 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.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
11-9	Assess all new developments (both within and without designated Flood Risk Zones) in line with the 'Staged Approach' and pre-cautionary principle set out in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (DEHLG, 2009) and any amendment thereof, and the following: (a) Require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A & B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the OPW. These Flood Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events. (b) SFRAs and site-specific flood risk assessments shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) shall be consulted with to this effect. (c) Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time. (d) Applications for development on land identified as 'benefitting land' may be prone to flooding, and as such site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas. (e) Require applications for new development, or for an extension to an existing development on land zoned for 'Social and Public' or 'Amenity' use and where a potential	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W, MA



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	flood risk is identified, and where the proposed use might be vulnerable, to be subject to site-specific flood risk assessment to the satisfaction of the Council.	
11-10	(a) Flood risk assessments shall incorporate consideration of climate change impacts and adaptation measures with regard to flood risk, and, (b) Flood risk management planning shall determine actions to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW 'Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management' applicable at the time.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
11-11	(a) Ensure that new developments proposed in 'Arterial Drainage Schemes' and 'Drainage Districts' do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas. (b) Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of Flood Relief Schemes and drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels, where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto. (c) Protect the integrity of any formal flood risk management infrastructure (see key flood risk infrastructure identified in Section 2.2 "Drainage, Key Flood Risk Infrastructure and Early Warning Systems" of the SFRA), thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new defence infrastructure.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
11-13	Seek to control the spread of invasive plant and animal species, including consideration of potential pathways for invasive species spread, i.e. watercourses.	BFF, AQN, W
11-16	Facilitate new development which integrates and respects the character, sensitivity and value of the landscape in accordance with the designations of the Landscape Character Assessment, and the schedule of Views and Scenic Routes (or any review thereof). Developments which would have a significant adverse material impact on visual amenities will not be supported.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
11-17	Ensure the protection of the visual amenity, landscape quality and character of designated 'Primary' and 'Secondary' amenity areas. Developments which would have a significant adverse material impact on the visual amenities of the area will not be supported. New development shall have regard to the following: a) Developments should avoid visually prominent locations and be designed to use existing topography to minimise adverse visual impact on the character of primary and secondary amenity areas. b) Buildings and structures shall integrate with the landscape through careful use of scale, form and finishes. c) Existing landscape features, including trees, hedgerows and distinctive boundary treatment shall be protected and integrated into the design proposal.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
11-18	Ensure that new development does not result in significant noise disturbance and to ensure that all new developments are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance in accordance with the provisions of the Noise Action Plan 2018 and relevant standards and guidance that refer to noise management.	PHH, BFF, AQN, MA
11-19	Ensure that new development does not result in significant disturbance as a result of light pollution and to ensure that all new developments are designed and constructed to minimise the impact of light pollution on the visual, environmental and residential amenities of surrounding areas.	PHH, BFF, AQN, MA
11-D	(a) Support the objectives of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021- 2025 by incorporating pollinator friendly native trees and plants within grass verges along public roads and existing and future greenways, new hedgerows, public parks and public open spaces in towns and villages, including part of mixed use and residential developments.	PHH, BFF, S, AQN, W, MA, CC



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	(b) Prepare a 'Pollinator Action Plan' for Tipperary over the lifetime of the Plan, having consideration to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, 2021 - 2025.	
11-F	(a) To support and facilitate the CFRAM Programme, and to support the OPW in the development and implementation of sustainable flood risk management plans and actions. (b) To consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM Programme Flood Risk Management Plans.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
11-H	Apply the provisions of the Tipperary County Council Noise Action Plan 2018 – 2023 as it relates to Noise Action Areas in order to reduce disturbance from noise.	PHH, BFF, AQN, MA
12-1	(a) Support the achievement of the modal shift targets set out in Table 12.1 Modal Share Targets to apply to Tipperary, and require new development to demonstrate and ensure that land-use, connectivity and transportation are integrated in a manner which reduces reliance on car-based travel, promotes more sustainable transport choice, and co-ordinates particular land uses with their accessibility requirements. (b) Apply the principles of the National Sustainable Mobility Policy (DoT, 2022), the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DTTS and DHPLG, 2019) and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets Interim Advice Note – Covid-19 Pandemic Response (2020). (c) Development proposals shall be required to provide for well-integrated pedestrian and cycling networks and infrastructure, such as cycle parking, as part of their planning application and 'Sustainability Statement', where applicable, the development management standards Volume 3 will apply. (d) To apply a 'whole journey approach' to make public transport fully accessible to people with disabilities', this refers to all elements that constitute a journey from the starting point to destination including footpaths, tactile paving, cycle paths,	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
12-4	Maintain and protect the safety, capacity and efficiency of Tipperary's roads network and associated junctions in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (DECLG, 2012) and the Trans-European Networks Regulations and to avoid the creation of additional access points to national roads to which speed limits greater than 60kmh apply.	PHH, BFF, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
12-7	Support and encourage new developments, and in particular, new domestic homes, to install or enable the installation of an EV charging point in line with the Development Management Standards set out in Volume 3, Appendix 6.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
12-8	Ensure that in assessing new development, the capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage regimes in county Tipperary will be safeguarded for national road drainage purposes.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
12-B	Work in partnership with TII, and regional stakeholders to achieve enhanced regional accessibility, sustainable mobility and quality international connectivity. In particular, to actively seek; (a) The strengthening of multi-modal connectivity between Limerick to Waterford along the 'Limerick – Waterford Transport and Economic Network'. (b) The upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford (Major Roads Project).	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
13-1	Encourage and support the sympathetic restoration, re-use and maintenance of protected structures thereby ensuring their conservation and protection. In considering proposals for development, the Council will have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (DAHG 2011) or any amendment thereof, and	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	proposals that will have an unacceptable impact on the character and integrity of a protected structure or adjoining protected structure will not be permitted.	
13-2	Encourage and support new development that contributes to the enhancement of ACAs with regard to; a) Impact on the character, appearance and integrity of the ACA in terms of compatibility in design, colour, finishes and massing of form; b) Impact on the existing amenities, character and heritage of the ACA; c) The importance of retaining important architectural and townscape elements such as shopfronts, sash windows, gutters and down pipes, plasterwork etc as appropriate.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
13-3	Seek the sympathetic restoration, appropriate re-use and maintenance of buildings/features which are considered to be of local and vernacular architectural importance.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
13-4	Safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest, including Recorded Monuments, National Monuments and Monuments on the Register of Historic Monuments, and archaeological remains found within Zones of Archaeological Potential located in historic towns and other urban and rural areas. In safeguarding such features of archaeological interest, the Council will seek to secure their preservation (i.e. in situ or in exceptional circumstances preservation by record) and will have regard to the advice and recommendation of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Where developments, due to their location, size or nature, may have implications for archaeological heritage, the Council may require an archaeological assessment to be carried out. This may include for a requirement for a detailed Visual Impact Assessment of the proposal and how it will impact on the character or setting of adjoining archaeological features. Such developments include those that are located at, or close to an archaeological monument or site, those that are extensive in terms of area (1/2 ha or more) or length (1 kilometre or more), those that may impact on the underwater environment and developments requiring EIA.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
14-1	(a) Require new development proposals to incorporate a 'Green Infrastructure' approach to the planning, design and management of built form/public realm and green and blue spaces, (where feasible), and to consider all opportunities for synergies and linkages with existing blue and green infrastructure in both urban and rural areas, in line with the Development Management Standards set out in Volume 3. (b) Ensure that proposals for greenway/blueway development contribute towards the protection or enhancement of existing green infrastructure and have regard to the "Connecting with nature for health and wellbeing" EPA Research Report 2020 and the Development Management Standards 1.1 Habitats Directive Assessment and 1.2 Environmental Assessment. (c) Where new development is required to prepare a 'Sustainability Statement', they must demonstrate compliance with this policy to the satisfaction of the Council.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
15-1	Implement the provisions of the Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2018) (and any amendment) in assessing applications for new development.	PHH, BFF, LU, W, MA
15-2	Require that all new septic tanks, proprietary effluent treatment systems and percolation areas to be located and constructed in accordance with the Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities (and any review thereof) and the Code of Practice for Domestic waste water treatment systems (EPA, 2021) (and any amendment) and the development management standards of this Plan as set out in Volume 3.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
15-3	Protect the Irish Water Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Project pipeline corridor from inappropriate development that would prejudice the delivery of the project and to refer any planning applications within the development corridor to Irish Water for comment.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
15-4	Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations Drinking Water Regulations 2014 (as amended) and compliance of water supplies with the parameters identified in these Regulations. Where new developments cannot be served by public water supply, the Council will consider a private water supply where the developer can demonstrate that any new supply is adequate to serve the proposed development and that for domestic use; it is safe to be consumed as drinking water. Groundwater abstractions must comply with EPA policies and guidelines.	PHH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
15-5	In line with the provisions of Section 5.3.1 of the Draft Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities (or any review thereof) new development will connect to existing water infrastructure, where capacity exists, in order to maximise the use of existing infrastructure and reduce additional investment costs. There is a general presumption that development will be focused into areas that are serviced by public water supply and wastewater collection network. In settlement centres where, municipal treatment plants do not have the capacity to cater for additional development, the Council will facilitate development, where the developer has agreed proposals for the up-grade of the treatment plant and/or network, as may be necessary, with Irish Water in accordance with the Draft Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities, and any amendment thereof, and the Irish Water Connection Charges Policy. The Council will require that such infrastructure is in place, prior to the commencement of the development. The Council may consider, on a site-specific basis, on-site waste water treatment proposals in cases where a connection to a municipal treatment plant has been demonstrated to be unfeasible or in settlements which are not served by treatment plants. Developments shall be subject to the criteria set out below: (a) Small Business, Community and Public Developments: the development shall be served by an on-site treatment system which demonstrates compliance with the Waste Water Treatment Manual: Treatment System for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels, (EPA, 1999) (or any amendment thereof). or (b) Private Residential Developments: the development shall be served by individual treatment plants in compliance with the Code of Practice: Waste Water Treatment Systems for Single Houses, (EPA, 2021) (or any amendment thereof). In both cases as above i. the development shall connect to the municipal treatment plant, where and when such facilities become available . ii. the development will not have an adverse human health, environmental or ecological impact on the receiving environment, including groundwater or surface water courses. iii. the development shall demonstrate compliance with the Development Management Standards set out in Volume 3.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
15-6	Require development proposals to connect to the public water supply, where such facilities are available.	PHH, LU, W, MA
15-7	Require all new development to provide a separate foul and surface water management system and to incorporate nature-based water sensitive urban design, where appropriate, in new development and the public realm. New developments, or retrofit/upgrading works, including those contributing to combined drainage systems where streetscape enhancement programmes or resurfacing programmes are planned, will incorporate measures to reduce the generation of storm water run-off, and to ensure that all storm	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	water generated is managed on-site, or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved storm water system, with consideration to the following: (a) Nature-Based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas (water sensitive urban design) Best Practice Interim Guidance Document (DHLGH, 2001) and any review thereof, (b) The infiltration into the ground through the development of porous pavement such as permeable paving, swales and detention basis, (c) The holding of water in storage areas through the construction of green roofs, rainwater harvesting, detention basis, ponds and wetlands etc. (d) The slow-down in the movement of water.	
15-A	Work in partnership with Irish Water in the performance of its functions and in the implementation of the Water Services Strategic Plan, Investment Plan and National Water Resources Plan (and any amendment thereof), to ensure that water infrastructure complies with appropriate regulations and to ensure and support the sustainable development of the county.	PHH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
15-B	Co-operate with Irish Water in the delivery of the Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Project and to ensure the maximum benefit from this project to County Tipperary, in particular with respect to economic development potential and security of supply.	PHH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA

Table 8-3: Additional Environmental Mitigation Measures

Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
7.10	Protect and where possible enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including habitat that form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. Appropriate mitigation and/or compensation to conserve biodiversity and green infrastructure networks will be required where important habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.	BFF
7.11	Require new development proposals to have regard to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government's publication on 'Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings' (2010) and the Irish Standard IS EN 16883:2017 'Conservation of cultural heritage - guidelines for improving the energy performance of historic buildings' (2017) and any future advisory documents in assessing proposed works on Protected Structures.	CH, MA
7.12	Require new amenity and active travel infrastructure proposals to be designed in consideration of the EPA Research Report, 'Connecting with Nature for Health and Wellbeing' (2020).	PHH, MA



Table 8-4: Amendments to Pre-existing Plan Policies/Objectives

Policy / Objective Reference	Policies/Objectives	Amendment	Related Environmental Components
2.1	Require the retrofitting of existing structures on brownfield sites, unless it is demonstrated that retrofitting is unfeasible, or redevelopment of the site would provide positive carbon impact through the re-design, construction and use stages of a new building, compared with retrofitting.	Require the retrofitting of existing structures on brownfield sites, unless it is demonstrated that retrofitting is unfeasible, or redevelopment of the site would provide positive carbon impact through the re-design, construction and use stages of a new building, compared with retrofitting - having due regard to the need to conserve protected structures, historic fabric generally, and protected species of biodiversity value.	PHH, BFF, CH, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
3E	Support the development of a Site Development Brief for the 'Goldcrop Site' in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders.	Support the development of a Site Development Brief for the 'Goldcrop Site' in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders; whilst ensuring the development brief has due regard to site specific biodiversity protection requirements and enhancement opportunities.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
3G	To identify suitable locations for coach parking within the town and examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays.	To identify suitable locations for coach parking within the town and examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays - having due regard to the Sustainable Transport Plan and safety.	PHH, MA, CC
4G	Engage with the local community and other relevant stakeholders to develop tourism projects, activity-based tourism and water-based activities.	Engage with the local community and other relevant stakeholders to develop tourism projects, activity-based tourism and water-based activities - whilst appropriately conserving biodiversity through good visitor and recreation management.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
5.2	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road. A masterplan must provide 1) for a coordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; and 2) an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery. Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands.	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road. A masterplan must provide 1) for a coordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; 2) an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery. Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands. The masterplan must be informed and guided by all relevant environmental considerations, including the need to manage and mitigate (where necessary) the potential effects development in this area may have on the Lower River Suir SAC.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
5H	Seek the development of additional recreational and amenity spaces in Carrickbeg.	Seek the development of additional recreational and amenity spaces in Carrickbeg having due regard to environmental constraints and sensitivities in this area.	PHH, BFF, CH, LU, AQN, W, TR



Policy / Objective Reference	Policies/Objectives	Amendment	Related Environmental Components
5I	Support access to public open space along the Glen River, at the Duck Pond and along the River Suir.	Support access to public open space along the Glen River, at the Duck Pond and along the River Suir, and promote passive recreational activities (subject to the sensitivity of riverside habitat), whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and stream corridors.	PHH, BFF, CH, LU, AQN, W, TR
6.4	Support the sequential development of lands zoned for development, and to ensure that provision is made for the orderly expansion into areas that may be zoned in the future. In assessing new planning applications, and on a case-by-case basis, the Council may require the maintenance of a corridor to provide for future connectivity with adjoining un-zoned lands.	Support the sequential development of lands zoned for development, and to ensure that provision is made for the orderly expansion into areas that may be zoned in the future. In assessing new planning applications, and on a case-by-case basis, the Council may require the maintenance of a corridor to provide for future connectivity with adjoining un-zoned lands, having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of development.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
6.5	Preserve and safeguard the Route Corridor for the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme (Major National Road Project) and support and prioritise the implementation of the scheme.	Preserve and safeguard the Route Corridor for the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme (Major National Road Project) and support and prioritise the implementation of the scheme - having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of this strategic infrastructural development.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
6.6	Support, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the development of a third river crossing to the west of town, subject to the identification of a need for such transport-related infrastructure.	Support, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the development of a third river crossing to the west of town, subject to the identification of a need for such transport-related infrastructure; whilst ensuring 1) environmental considerations are integrated into the design, planning and development of such a crossing (at the earliest stages possible); and 2) Robust environmental assessment processes guide and inform the development.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
6B	Work in partnership with TII and regional stakeholders to deliver the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme as part of the upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford.	Work in partnership with TII and regional stakeholders to deliver the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme as part of the upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford - having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of this strategic infrastructural development.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental and assessment.	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental and assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.	PHH, BFF, S, AQN, W, MA, TR
8C	Integrate a Nature Based Approach to SUDS, with a focus on biodiversity as part of new public	Integrate a Nature Based Approach to SUDS, with a focus on biodiversity and climate adaptation , as part	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, W, MA



Policy / Objective Reference	Policies/Objectives	Amendment	Related Environmental Components
	realm and public sector development in the town.	of new public realm and public sector development in the town.	

8.3 Conclusion

The reasonable alternatives evaluation presented in Section 6 has resulted in the development of a Plan that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other reasonable alternatives considered.

Environmental protection related policies/objectives defined in the CDP, which apply to the Plan area, will mitigate a wide range of potential negative effects associated with the Plan.

The adoption of the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the Plan will prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the Plan.

No further mitigation measures are required for the Plan.



9. MONITORING MEASURES

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

A series of indicators and targets were established for identified SEOs to enable ongoing monitoring and measurement of Plan implementation performance, the environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan and the efficacy of environmental mitigation measures. Such monitoring will be carried out periodically to support Plan implementation.

SEO indicators are simple and effective quantifiable indicators used to measure the environmental effects of implementing the Plan and the progress of SEOs and related targets. SEO targets set focused, measurable aims and thresholds that the Plan can support the achievement of.

TCC are responsible for implementation of the SEA monitoring programme. Given the position of the Local Area Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022- 2028, the measures identified in that County Development Plan SEA have been used as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring. A monitoring report will be prepared to document monitoring outcomes. This report shall be made available for public inspection.

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

The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the Plan is contained in Table 10-1. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled 'Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring' (2020). The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources used to monitor and measure progress.

The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.



Table 10-1: SEA Monitoring Programme

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
Population and Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or minimise impacts to population and human health.	Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	Consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE)/Health Atlas Ireland and the EPA.
	PHH2	Promote economic activity and growth	- Implementation of policies/objectives protective and supportive of economic development. - Compliance of projects with policies/objectives protective and supportive of economic development.	- Full implementation of policies/objectives protective and supportive of economic development. - No contravention of policies/objectives protective and supportive of economic development.	- Internal monitoring of Plan implementation. - Internal monitoring of project compliance with Plan policies/objectives protective and supportive of economic development. - Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	PHH3	Ensure supporting infrastructure and services in the area are developed in a manner commensurate with population growth.	- Implementation of policies/objectives supportive of infrastructural development. - Compliance of projects with policies/objectives supportive of infrastructural development.	- Full implementation of policies/objectives supportive of infrastructural development. - No contravention of policies/objectives supportive of infrastructural development.	- Internal monitoring of Plan implementation. - Internal monitoring of project compliance with Plan policies/objectives supportive of infrastructural development. - Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure supported development is in alignment with biodiversity protection, restoration, and rehabilitation goals.	Compliance of development supported by the plan with actions providing for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.	- No contravention of actions providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan. - Planning consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with relevant policy and actions supporting biodiversity protection and enhancement.	- Internal monitoring of compliance with the County's Biodiversity Action Plans aims and actions. - Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	B2	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species.	Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under National and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan⁵⁷.	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years). - Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years). - Consultation with the NPWS. - Review of NPWS publications regarding the status of designated sites.

⁵⁷ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- (a) no alternative solution available;
- (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	B3	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species.	Number of development that result in loss of functional ecological connectivity.	No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	B4	Avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species.	- Number of significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, sites proposed for designation, resulting from development provided for by the Plan. - Number of non-compliances of the Wildlife Act (as amended) with regard to listed species.	- Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including resulting from development provided for by the Plan. - No non-compliances with the Wildlife Act (as amended) with regard to listed species.	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Review of NPWS publications regarding the status of designated sites.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	B5	Aim for no net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.	- Compliance of development with actions providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna defined in the County Biodiversity Action Plan. - No. of developments consented that have significant biodiversity protection/enhancement proposals.	- No contravention of actions providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna defined in the County Biodiversity Action Plan. - Consent for development proposals supported by the Plan only to be granted where development complies with actions providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna defined in the County Biodiversity Action Plans. - Increase number of developments consented that have significant Biodiversity protection/enhancement proposals. - Increase quantum of improved biodiversity areas.	- Internal monitoring of compliance with County Biodiversity Action Plans aims and actions - Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L1	Avoid or minimise impacts on statutory landscape designations defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (and any review thereof).	- Statutory landscape designations defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (and any review thereof). - Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse impacts on statutory landscape designations.	- All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policies/objectives relating to the protection of statutory landscape designations defined in the CDP. - No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on statutory landscape designations.	- Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. - Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	L2	Avoid or minimise adverse visual effects on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.	- Number of consented developments that result in significant adverse visual effects. - Accordance with CDP Development Management Standards, including visual, scale, massing and height criteria, as appropriate.	- No consented development to result in significant adverse visual effects. - All development to accord with CDP Development Management Standards, including visual, scale, massing and height criteria, as appropriate.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	L3	Protect and enhance landscape character.	- Statutory landscape designations defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (and any review thereof). - Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse impacts on statutory landscape designations	- All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policies/objectives relating to the protection of statutory landscape designations defined in the CDP. - No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on statutory landscape designations	- Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. - Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.
	L4	Protect, as appropriate, create and improve streetscape character.	- Compliance with streetscape, visual amenity and heritage related policies/objectives defined in the CDP and the Tipperary Heritage Plan. - Compliance with law governing protected structures set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amendment and the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023.	- No non-compliance with streetscape, visual amenity and heritage related policies/objectives defined in the CDP and the Tipperary Heritage Plan. - No non-compliances with law governing protected structures set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amendment and the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023.	- Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. - Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
Cultural Heritage - Archaeological & Architectural	CH1	Avoid impacts upon archaeological heritage (including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)), architectural heritage (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)), industrial heritage and ACAs.	Percentage of features contained in the RMP, RPS, or NIAH or ACAs protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of the implementation of this plan.	No features contained in the RMP, the RMP, RPS, or NIAH, or ACAs to be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan.	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Consultation with DHLGH. - Consultation with the National Monuments Service.
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on mineral resources or soils.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring, including the pollution, loss or degradation of mineral resources or soils, as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	S2	Ensure appropriate management of all soil and excavation material. Promote sustainable material reuse wherever appropriate.	- Number of developments consented that have sustainable excavation material reuse proposals. - Number of instances contaminated soil is inappropriately managed or disposed of.	- All new developments consented to have written statement for management of all soil and excavation material, where necessary. - Increase number of developments consented that have sustainable excavation material reuse proposals. - No instances of contaminated soil being inappropriately managed or disposed of.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	S3	Re-use of brownfield lands, where appropriate, together with the appropriate and sustainable development of greenfield lands.	Quantum of brownfield lands re-used in the plan area.	All brownfield sites (suitable for re-use in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development principles) in the Plan area re-used.	Internal monitoring of brownfield site re-use.
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of the implementation of this plan.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of the implementation of this plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	LU2	Compliance with existing land use policy in the CDP	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of the implementation of this plan.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of the implementation of this plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Increase the number of people travelling to work or school via sustainable modes of travel, including public transport, walking and cycling.	Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels.	Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels	CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.	- Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse air quality impacts on sensitive receptors. - NOx, SOx, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring	- No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse air quality impact on sensitive receptors. - Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NOx and particulate matter	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Consultation with the EPA. - Review of EPA Air Quality Monitoring undertaken in the plan area. - Review of EPA annual 'Air Quality in Ireland' Report. - Consultations with Department of Transport and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts on existing or proposed sensitive receptors.	Number of sensitive receptors exposed to noise nuisance.	No sensitive receptors exposed to nuisance noise in the plan area.	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Monitoring of internal noise complaint investigations undertaken. - Consultation with the EPA.
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface water bodies.	- Classification of Overall Status of surface water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD). - Programme for the WFD.	Not to cause deterioration in the status of any water or affect the ability of any water to achieve 'good status.'	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Data issued under the WFD Monitoring Programme for Ireland.
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.	- Status of groundwater bodies as reported by the EPA National Groundwater Monitoring Programme for the WFD. - Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC.	No deterioration in the status of groundwater quality, having appropriate regard to Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values defined under Directive 2006/118/EC.	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Data issued under the WFD Monitoring Programme



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.	Number of instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.	No instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Consultation with the EPA.
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009)	Number of incompatible developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk.	Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk in compliance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	W5	Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow.	Number of developments consented that have sustainable drainage proposals, including NBS proposals.	Increase number of developments consented that have sustainable drainage proposals, including NBS proposals.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	W6	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality.	Number of non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023.	No non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023.	- EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports. - Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application. - Review of EPA Remedial Action List.
Material Assets	MA1	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	MA2	Avoid or minimise effects upon existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater management, energy and transport infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned material assets infrastructure.	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Consultation with Irish Water, Gas Networks Ireland, ESB Networks and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
	MA3	Promote sustainable transportation and deliver enhanced traffic and transport conditions, where possible.	Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels.	Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels	CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland.
	MA4	Promote sustainable waste/material management and the circular economy.	Number of developments consented that have sustainable material reuse proposals.	- All new developments requiring construction to have Resource and Waste Management Plans prepared for them in accordance with EPA's Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of resource & waste management plans for construction & demolition projects. - Increase number of developments consented that have sustainable reuse proposals for material generated during construction.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	MA5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.	- Compliance with Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) related development management standards defined in the CDP. - Number of new developments consented connected to appropriate wastewater management and treatment networks. - Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure.	- All development (supported by the plan) must comply with SuDS related development management standards defined in the CDP. - All new developments consented connected to appropriate wastewater management and treatment networks.	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission. - Consultation with Uisce Éireann
Tourism and Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities, and enhance tourism and recreation, where possible.	Number of developments consented that have likely significant adverse impacts on tourism and recreation amenity.	No developments consented that have likely significant adverse impacts on tourism and recreation amenity.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
Climate Change	CC1	Support in the achievement of the 2030 target of a 51% reduction in carbon emissions.	Delivery of climate action related policies and objectives.	Successful delivery of climate action related policies and objectives	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission - Monitoring of the effects of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, including level of GHG emissions. - Consultation with DECC and CARO.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	CC2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.	Delivery of climate action related policies and objectives.	Successful delivery of climate action related policies and objectives	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission - Monitoring of the effects of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, including level of GHG emissions. - Consultation with DECC and CARO.
	CC3	Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local level.	Delivery of climate action related policies and objectives.	Successful delivery of climate action related policies and objectives	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission - Monitoring of the effects of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, including level of GHG emissions. - Consultation with DECC and CARO.
	CC4	Promote the carrying out of climate resilient development.	- Number of developments consented that are subject to unacceptable climate risks. - Number of developments consented that have included climate change allowances in drainage proposals.	- No developments consented that are subject to unacceptable climate risks - All developments with drainage proposals to include climate change allowances in drainage proposals.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	CC5	Promote low carbon and net zero development.	Adherence to the Near Zero Building Standards.	All new buildings shall be developed in accordance with the Near Zero Building Standards.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.
	CC6	Promote the carrying out of development that incorporates nature-based solutions.	Adherence to NBS related policies/objectives defined in the LAP and higher-order CDP.	Successful adherence to NBS related policies/objectives defined in the LAP and higher-order CDP.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission.



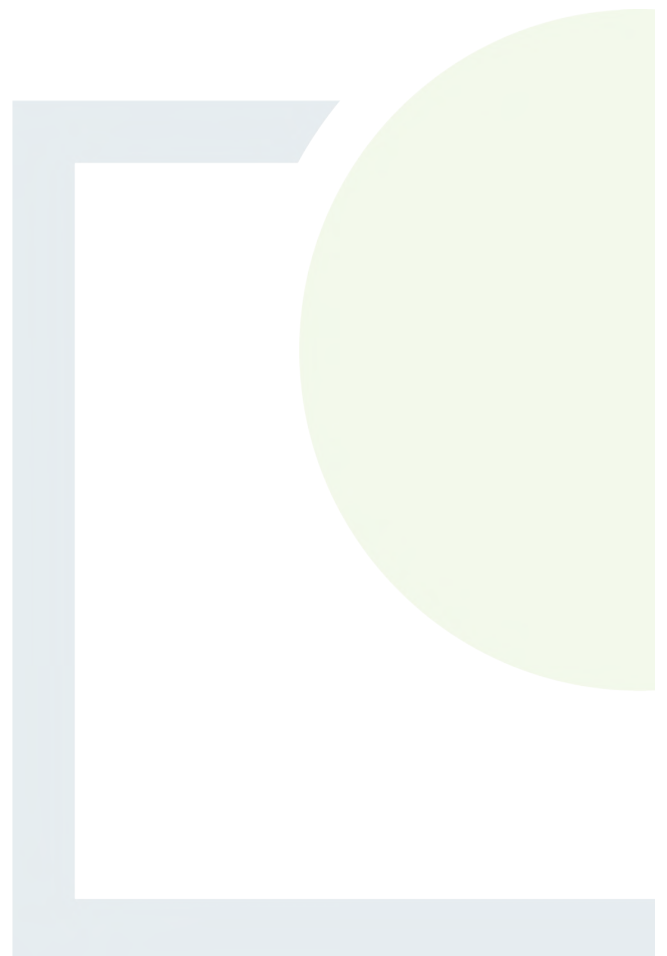
Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	CC7	Promote active travel and reduce reliance on the use of private vehicles for transport.	Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels.	Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels	CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland.
	CC8	Support the transition to zero or low carbon Electric Vehicles.	Share of renewable energy in transport	Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan	- Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission - Monitoring of the effects of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, including level of GHG emissions. - Consultation with DECC and CARO.
Inter-relationships	IR1	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes. Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement during adaptation to climate change.	Delivery of green infrastructure in accordance with GI related policies and objectives defined in the LAP and higher order LAP.	Successful delivery of green infrastructure in accordance with GI related policies and objectives defined in the LAP and higher order LAP.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 1

Relationship of the Plan with
other Relevant Plans and
Programmes



This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of inter-related Plans or Programmes, EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Plan or Programme, Directive or Regulation to become familiar with the full details of each.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.	This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: • To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and • To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: • mitigation • adaptation • technology • financing	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. • An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. • A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. • Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 2009/147/EC)	• Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. • Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. • The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	• Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. • Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). • Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. • Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	• Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. • A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.	• Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy)	This regulation introduces faster permitting processes for projects that have the highest potential for a quick roll-out of renewable energy and the least impact on the environment.	The regulation introduces urgent and targeted measures that address specific technologies and types of projects, which have the highest potential for quick deployment and the least impact on the environment.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended, latest Act No. 12 of 2024 and S.I. No. 242 of 2024)	The Act provides a definition of a "derelict site" and imposes a general duty upon the owner or occupier of any land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the land does not become or continue to be "a derelict site".	The Act provides that all local authorities shall compile and maintain a register of all derelict sites within their area. Local authorities are obliged to levy and collect a charge to be known as a "derelict sites levy" from the owner of all derelict sites within their area. The Act provides that this levy, and interest on it, shall be a charge on the land to which it relates.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	• The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. • The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: • reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations • tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics • a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach • measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups • measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption • harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water • measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	- Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. - Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.	- All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. - For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. - The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	• Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.	Four pieces of complimentary legislation: • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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EU Renewable Energy Directive 2023/2413 (recast)	This Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%.	• Building on the 2009 and 2018 directives, the revised directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. • Strong policy framework to facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging. • Permitting procedures will also be easier and faster both for renewable energy projects (including through shorter approval periods and the creation of 'Renewables acceleration areas') and for the necessary infrastructure projects.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	• The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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European Landscape Convention 2000	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.	- Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. - Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	- Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks - Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community	- Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment - Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. - Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. - Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	• Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	• Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. • Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	• Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. • Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. • Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. • Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	6. Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; 7. Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; 8. Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and 9. Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended	European legislation which aims to achieve Good Environment Status (GES) for all marine waters in Europe and protect the resource base for marine related economic and social activities.	The Directive provides various requirements, including: • Completion of an initial assessment of Irish marine waters; • Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators; • Establishment of a monitoring programme; • Establishment of a programme of measures; and • Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme. This was adopted on June 17th, 2008, establishing a framework for EU Community Action specifically regarding marine environmental policy. The MSFD is implemented in cycles of 6 years, with member state being obliged to report to the EU every 2 years. The third cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2023 – 2028) for Ireland is underway. The MSFD is implemented through a national Marine Strategy.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Nature Restoration Law	The regulation sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. It is also a key instrument to help the EU and its Member States meet international biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	The law aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas in order to • enable the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature • contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives • meet international commitments	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	- Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. - Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	- Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. - Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. - Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. - Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. - Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. - Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Soil monitoring law: EU on the pathway to healthy soils by 2050	According to the EU soil strategy, presented by the Commission in 2021, the lack of a dedicated EU legislation was singled out as a major cause for the alarming state of EU soils. To ensure the same level of protection to soil that exists for water, the marine environment and air in the EU, the Commission put forward the soil monitoring directive on 5 July 2023.	The general approach reached by the Council today aims to make soil health monitoring obligatory, provides guiding principles for sustainable soil management and addresses situations where soil contamination poses unacceptable health and environment risks.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	- Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention - Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention - Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention - Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner - To target additional POPs - Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	- The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). - Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. - Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. - Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. - The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	- Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. - Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. - Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. - Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. - Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. - Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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The Eighth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community	- Obligation for the Commission to present a monitoring framework, based on a limited number of headline indicators. - These should include, where available, systemic indicators that address interlinkages between environment-social and environmental-economic policy considerations, respectively.	The 8th EAP aims at accelerating the green transition in a just and inclusive way, with the 2050 long-term objective of 'Living well, within planetary boundaries', already established in the 7th programme (2014-2020).	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	- It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. - It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. - In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

International/European Level			
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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	- This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. - The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.	- Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. - Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. - Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	- Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. - Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. - Promote sustainable water usage. - The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: - The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive - Sampling Drinking Water Directive - Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive - Shellfish Directive - Freshwater Fish Directive - Groundwater Directive - Dangerous Substances Directive	- Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. - Achieve "good status" for all waters. - Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. - Involve the public and streamline legislation. - Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. - Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. - Recover costs for water services.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ag Climatise - A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality	This roadmap has been developed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) on foot of extensive engagement with industry, research, policy, farmer and environmental stakeholders. It is a roadmap designed to help all stakeholders to work together to tackle climate change and air pollution	The roadmap proposes 29 actions across two strands of activity: • Actions that can be implemented now: to ensure farmers act immediately on the changes necessary to address climate change. This is made up of three parts, the mitigation measures in the next section, the removals from the landscape measures, and the sustainable energy measures that follow. • The development of cross cutting enabling actions into the future: This will focus on a number of actions, including further research and innovation. Where appropriate, it will require the establishment of consultative groups to assist with the development and delivery of the actions	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agrivision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action Plan 2024	The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.	Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon CAP23 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	- Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. - This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. Aims to: - Build adaptive capacity within the sector - Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change - Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector.	The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are: - To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change - To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage - To conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations - To communicate and transfer knowledge - To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan (2022-2025)	The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan is a major public transport initiative developed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) with the aim of increasing connectivity, particularly for people living outside our major towns and cities. The plan aims to improve mobility in rural areas by providing frequent and affordable transport services that offer freedom to travel and sustainable transport connections.	The Plan focuses on: - Adding new high-frequency services; - Enhancing existing services; and - Providing improved connectivity to the wider transport network	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	- Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. - The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: - A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; - Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; - The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; - Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; - Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; - Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and - Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
DECC Statement of Strategy 2024-2025 (Le Chéile 25)	La Chéile 25 outlines a vision for a climate-neutral, sustainable, and digitally connected Ireland. The strategy emphasizes collaboration across government, industry, and the public to achieve its targets and build a better future for Ireland. Implementation will involve policy development, program implementation, and stakeholder engagement.	There are six strategic goals outlined under the strategy to achieve the vision: - Be a recognised leader in climate action - Transform our energy system for a secure and affordable net zero emissions future - Restore, protect and enhance our natural environment - Deliver world class connectivity and communications - Deliver improved cyber security defence and resilience across Government and Society - Develop our people, culture and organisation	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: - To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. - To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. - To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2018/2001: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009) (as amended)	• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Uisce Eireann in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.	• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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GRID25 Implementation Programme and associated Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 for the Electricity Transmission System in Ireland	Grid25 is a high-level strategy outlining how EirGrid intends to undertake the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short-, medium- and longer-terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply. This Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) is a practical strategic overview of how the early stages of Grid25 are intended to be implemented. The IP identifies the best current understanding of those parts of the transmission system that are envisaged as likely to be developed over the next five years. The IP identifies the issues, objectives and associated processes that will need to be adopted when making decisions about how and where developments will occur. This Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 supersedes the Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. It is focused on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023-2032.	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. • The EirGrid Shaping Our Electricity Future Version 1.1 (SOEF - published in June 2023) is a core context for grid development as part of this Plan. The SOEF addresses matters such as why EirGrid develops the electricity transmission network, Government policy context that underpins this, and the importance of an efficient and economical grid network. • The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023 also forms a core context for this Plan. The TDP lists the committed projects and projects under development for the enhancement of the Irish transmission network over the coming ten years.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Heritage related legislation and guidelines: • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and • The Heritage Act 2018. • Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Housing for All (2021)	Housing for All (2021) is the Government's housing plan to 2030. The overall aim of the housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life. The plan's vision is to have a steady supply of housing in the correct locations with economic, social, and environmental sustainability built into the system.	Housing for All provides four pathways to achieving its overarching objectives: • Supporting Homeownership and Increasing Affordability. • Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion. • Increasing New Housing Supply. • Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Planning Framework (First Revision) 2025	- The revised National Planning Framework (NPF) published in April 2025 replaced the National Planning Framework (2018) and now informs the wider Government Policy agenda, the actions of a broad range of public and private bodies, including homebuilders, the renewable energy sector, infrastructure agencies and domestic and international investors. - The focus of the revised NPF have been the following key drivers of change in Ireland: - Population growth and associated housing requirement - Infrastructure delivery - Climate and Environment - The revised NPF now provides the basis of review and updating of regional strategies and local authority development plans to reflect matters such as updated housing figures, projected jobs growth, renewable energy capacity allocations, including through the zoning of land for residential, employment and a range of other purposes. - The implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 will also be closely aligned with the implementation of the revised NPF, with updated regional strategies and new 10-year development plans required to reflect the revised NPF as they are prepared.	The revised NPF's ambition is expressed in a set of goals, termed National Strategic Outcomes: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. High-Quality International Connectivity 5. Sustainable Mobility 6. A Strong Economy 7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage 8. Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues: • Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity. • Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs. • Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People. • Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity. • Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050	This EPA report provides an assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions out to 2050 which includes an assessment of progress towards achieving its National ambitions under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and EU emission reduction targets for 2030 as set under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/842).	The focus of the assessment is out to 2030 given current national and EU 2030 climate targets. Extended projections out to 2050 are provided in the Appendix and as a separate download accompanying this report.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction 2024	This long-term strategy aims to build on the targets, policies, measures and actions that Ireland has committed to in the period to 2030 (as set out in success annual national Climate Action Plans and the EU National Energy and Climate Plans.	The Strategy sets out Ireland's 2050 climate action targets and describes sector-specific pathways to reaching those targets. These sectors include: • Electricity • Industry • Built Environment • Transport Agriculture, Forestry and Land-Use	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	• National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the • 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: • To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; • To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; • Greater partnerships for the Goals; • To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and • Strong reporting mechanisms	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended)	This act is designed to regulate the maritime area within Ireland. This regulation will be achieved by means of the National Marine Planning Framework. The Act provides the legislative framework for a new streamlined development consent process for activities in the maritime area including offshore renewable energy projects. The Bill will also establish a new body, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to undertake certain consenting and enforcement functions in the new regime. Enactment and implementation of the Bill will help Ireland to reach its climate action and renewable energy targets.	The key features of the plan are as follows: • Provision of Maritime Area Consents (MACs) for permission to occupy a maritime area over undefined or relatively long periods of time. • It is required that projects obtain a MAC as a pre-requisite before seeking planning permission for developments which fall under the Planning and Development Act 2000. • Provision of licenses for certain maritime usages which do not require planning permission or an EIA. • Establishment of a Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) which will grant MACs, licence specified maritime usages, ensure compliance with MACs, licences and offshore planning permissions.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, childcare facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport)	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	- Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. - Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. - Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. - Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2024	This framework specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of Ireland to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur. It sets out an extended suite of guiding principles that underscore the need for smarter, faster and transformative adaptation actions, which demand a pathway planning approach to account for a range of future warming and impact scenarios. It acts as a roadmap for governments, organisations, and communities to plan and implement adaptation strategies. The Framework helps coordinate efforts, allocate resources, and prioritise actions that reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. A robust framework not only enables more effective responses to immediate climate related challenges but also fosters long-term sustainability by ensuring that adaptation measures are integrated into policymaking, infrastructure development, and local planning.	Key actions under the framework: - Putting in place revised governance and reporting arrangements - Formalising the status of existing guidelines - Formalising long term operational support for key sectors - Facilitating the establishment of regional local authority climate action offices - Increasing awareness around climate adaptation and resilience - Integrating climate adaptation into key national plans and policies	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP)	The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) is a technical document which outlines the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with its commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive). The National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive) establishes emission ceilings for 2020 and 2030 for five specified pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO2), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). It also mandates the development of a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) for each Member State.	The programme includes: • An overview of sectors and national policy frameworks in Ireland that impact on emissions of the five NEC pollutants • An overview of the current outlook for compliance with NEC targets for each pollutant • Projections of relevant pollutant emissions to 2030 • Policy options, measures and actions across sectors but in particular in the residential, transport agricultural and energy sectors aimed at reducing emissions of the five specified air pollutants	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Aviation Policy 2015	Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are: • To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to • Ireland's economic growth and development.	The National Aviation Policy commits to: • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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National legislation transposing the Industrial Emissions Directive: • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing)Regulations 2013. Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013	The purpose of this Directive is to lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provisions of the Directive.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; • Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Mitigation Plan 2017	The National Mitigation Plan represents an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government Plan draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments, and reflects the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.	The Plan includes over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and began the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades. The Plan is structured across several key themes: • Climate Action Policy Framework • Decarbonising Electricity Generation • Decarbonising the Built Environment • Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	- This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. - By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. - This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non- infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: - Reduce overall travel demand - Maximise the efficiency of the transport network - Reduce reliance on fossil fuels - Reduce transport emissions - Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework. Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets - Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Ports Policy 2013	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Renewable Energy Action Plan	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The Action Plan will address and achieve the following sectoral targets: - Electricity: The government has set a target of 40% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020 - Transport: The government has set a target of 10% electric vehicles by 2020. - Heat: The government has set a target of 12% renewable heat by 2020. The government is additionally looking beyond 2020 in terms of significant opportunities to develop Ireland's abundant offshore renewable energy resources, including offshore wind, wave and tidal energy.	The CDP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Retrofit Plan	The National Retrofit Plan sets out how the Government will deliver on the Climate Action Plan targets of retrofitting the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a BER of B2/cost-optimal and installing 400,000 heat pumps in existing homes to replace older, less efficient heating systems by the end of 2030.	The Plan is designed to address barriers to retrofit across four key pillars: driving demand and activity; financing and funding; supply chain, skills and standards; and governance. For each pillar, barriers were identified and time-bound policies, measures and actions were put in place to address them. The initiatives in the Plan were guided by a number of key principles.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Roads 2040	NR2040 sets out TII's long-term strategy for the maintenance, development, and management of Ireland's National Roads network. NR2040 is fully aligned with NIFTI and Project Ireland 2040 and focuses on strategic issues for National Roads identified by TII.	The following objectives have been defined. • Safe and efficient transport network for people and goods • Environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable • Tailored for different customers in different places • Managed and improved as a key public asset	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Spatial Planning and National Roads: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)	These guidelines have been prepared in the context of the delivery of the National Spatial Strategy and the actions identified in Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020. The guidelines set out planning policy considerations relating to development affecting national roads (including motorways, national primary and national secondary roads) outside the 50/60 kmh speed limit zones for cities, towns and villages These guidelines have been developed by following a number of key principles and aim to facilitate a well-informed, integrated and consistent approach that affords maximum support for the goal of achieving and maintaining a safe and efficient network of national roads in the broader context of sustainable development strategies, thereby facilitating continued economic growth and development throughout the country.	The following key principles have guided the development of these guidelines: • Land-use and transportation policies are highly interdependent • Proper planning is central to ensuring road safety • Development should be plan-led • Development Management is key to Plan Implementation • Planning Authorities and the National roads Authority and other public transport bodies must work closely together	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030	Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy ('the CFP'), on the promotion of sustainable aquaculture, calls for the establishment of multiannual national strategic aquaculture plans. The NSPSA 2030 is the second such plan under the current CFP.	This Plan proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030. The purpose is as follows: • To align and mainstream the recently updated but non-binding guidance for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (2021 – 2030) with national aquaculture sector planning. • To help inform the investment priorities for aquaculture in Ireland's new Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027 (EMFAF). • To provide a framework so that strategic planning for the aquaculture sector in Ireland responds to the latest thinking in terms of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Irish aquaculture in order to promote the development of a sustainable and forward-looking sector.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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National Water Resources Plan (2021)	- The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. - The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: - Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions - Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry - Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources - Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events - Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water - Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies - Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025	The policy provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years.	The policy focuses on the following thematic objectives: - Optimising the opportunities for rural communities from high speed broadband. - Supporting improved quality employment and career opportunities in rural areas. - Assisting the regeneration, repopulation and development of rural towns and villages. - Enhancing the participation, leadership and resilience of rural communities. - Enhancing public services in rural areas - Supporting a Just Transition to a climate neutral economy. - Supporting the sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry. - Supporting the sustainability of our island and coastal communities. - Nurturing our culture and heritage	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 (PLUTO)	PLUTO's objective is to develop a transport investment framework which delivers a land transport network that meets the travel needs of the population in the coming decades and which supports the National Strategic Outcomes of Project Ireland 2040.	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: • Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; • Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, • Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	• Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. • Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF)	Under Action EL/23/2 of CAP23, the Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF) is currently being prepared. In effect, this will be the national policy for onshore renewable electricity and will inform and reshape the development and distribution of onshore renewables in order to enable the delivery of Ireland's renewable electricity targets, as set out in CAP23. The RESPF will promote a plan-led and evidence-based approach to the allocation of renewable electricity spatial and generation targets across the three Regional Assemblies, to facilitate the achievement of the national target of 80% RES-E by 2030.	The objective of this spatial policy framework is to effectively translate renewable electricity objectives, as those outlined in Climate Action Plan 2023, to the regional level and allocate regional spatial and renewable generation capacity targets.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023)	The vision of the Strategy is to ensure by 2050 that Ireland will be energy independent through using indigenous, clean, carbon-free renewable energy supported by, and supporting, communities across the country.	Priority actions for the Strategy include: • Use the Planning and Development Acts to instruct An Bord Pleanála to prioritise planning applications for renewable energy and associated grid infrastructure. • Delivery of grid is a necessary foundation for decarbonisation of the economy. Market designs must include system services, flexibility, and capacity markets and fully exploit demand side resources. • Simplify administrative & regulatory requirements for renewable heat, energy efficiency, flexible demand, and storage technologies • Encourage EVs, enhanced public mobility and cycling infrastructure while harnessing Ireland's strengths for the appropriate use of sustainable biofuels and green hydrogen. Bring together industry, Government and other key stakeholders to identify ways to cut the price of renewable energy in Ireland so that we can deliver clean energy at the lowest possible price for Irish consumers.	The CDP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The objectives of the Water Framework Directive are (i) to prevent the deterioration of water bodies and to protect, enhance and restore them with the aim of achieving at least good status and (ii) (ii) to achieve compliance with the water standards and objectives for designated protected areas.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.	• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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S.I. 79 of 2008 - Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, as amended (latest S.I. No. 163/2016)	- These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: - To improve health protection for bathers - To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and - To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.	- The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. - Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. - A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. - Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. - There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. - The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. - Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2024	The EPA produces state of the environment reports on a four-yearly cycle. These reports provide timely information and knowledge to the public, policymakers and key economic sectors in support of action to protect and manage the environment. The EPA will be publishing the next iteration of our State of the Environment Report later in 2024.	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	- The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. - It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	- A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; - Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism - to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, - domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; - Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; - Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and - Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) as transposed into Irish legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011 as amended)	The Directive sets air quality standards for European Union member states.	Limit values for air quality parameters are set in this Directive.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Water Services Act 2007, and amendments in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2022	- Provides the water services infrastructure. - Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. - Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. - Uisce Eireann was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: - Ensuring Uisce Eireann delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. - Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. - Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards - Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. - Promoting water conservation through Uisce Eireann's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. - Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. - Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. - Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	- Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems - Give statutory protection to NHAs - Enhances wildlife species and their habitats - Includes more species for protection	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
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Carrick on Suir Town Centre First Plan	- Provides a new vision for the town centre. - Scopes out a number of key projects for investment and delivery, in order to capitalise on the significant investment that has been secured for the town under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF).	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Carrick-on-Suir Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-28	This is a shared plan of action for Carrick-on-Suir community to build on recent progress and help increase biodiversity in the area. It aims to guide the local community and stakeholders in their efforts to protect and restore some of this natural heritage and maximise the benefits that nature can provide for the people of Carrick-on-Suir.	The plan has five Objectives each with specific targets and a list of actions. These targets and actions are considered guides for the community to achieve these Objectives. Their implementation is dependent on the resources available to the community of Carrick-on-Suir including volunteer time, funding, and external support.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Carrick-on-Suir Vision 2030	“Carrick-on-Suir Vision 2030” is a strategic plan for the town centre which comprises of some 15 projects is designed to ensure that Carrick-on-Suir is the best place for living, shopping, business and visiting.	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029	The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a tool for delivering actions from national and regional strategies at a local level. It is designed to integrate actions and initiatives related to economic and community development in Tipperary into a single unified strategy.	This LECP framework is built upon an evidence base that is translated into high-level goals and objectives that will guide the LECP for the duration of the plan (2024-2029). Ultimately, an initial two-year Implementation Plan will detail the actions to be implemented to achieve the objectives and High-Level Goals outlined in this Framework LECP.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other land use plans in adjacent areas and counties in Ireland	- Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). - Strategic frameworks for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. - Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the bordering and connected Local Authority areas.	- Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. - Protect and enhance amenities and environment. - Guides neighbouring planning authority in assessing proposals. - Aim to guide development in neighbouring areas - Aim to promote sustainable development in neighbouring and connected areas. - Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	- Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. - Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	- Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. - Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023–2027	• A roadmap for the tourism industry and all stakeholders involved in the region to navigate the current challenges and steer a course towards recovery and future success. • The ambition for this strategy is to drive recovery and growth of the visitor economy in Ireland's Ancient East to create sustainable, high-quality jobs in the sector to support and strengthen local communities while protecting our natural environment.	The Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy will achieve a new vision for tourism in the region through the following strategic objectives: Strategic Objective 1: Motivate the domestic and international consumer to visit Ireland's Ancient East. Strategic Objective 2: Provide the visitor with more reasons to stay, increasing the economic impact of tourism. Strategic Objective 3: Ensure the region is easy to access, navigate and consume for the visitor. Strategic Objective 4: Enable and assist the industry to grow its capacity and capability to ensure it can thrive over the period of this strategy and create sustainable jobs in local communities. Strategic Objective 5: Build committed stakeholder and industry partnerships to guide sustainable destination development across the region	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023–2027	This is a five- year strategic framework for the sustainable development of tourism in the Hidden Heartlands region. Its aim is to build greater capacity and capability into the industry and provide a clear strategy for attracting visitors that will stay longer and spend more in the region.	The Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy will achieve a new vision for tourism in the region by focusing on the following strategic objectives: Strategic Objective 1: Raise awareness and recognition of the region and brand among domestic and international visitors and increase the duration of visitor stays, particularly within the domestic market. Strategic Objective 2: Enhance the range and quality of our visitor experiences to underpin the Hidden Heartlands brand proposition, leveraging the natural and cultural assets of the region in a sustainable way with a focus on eco–tourism. Strategic Objective 3: Grow the economic impact of tourism and create jobs in local tourism by supporting the tourism industry (private, public and community sectors) to develop its capacity and capability while reducing its carbon footprint. Strategic Objective 4: Establish the region as one of the leading regenerative tourism destinations in Europe in which tourism results in net positive outcomes for communities and nature. Strategic Objective 5: Build a committed industry and stakeholder coalition to guide and co–ordinate the sustainable development of destinations across the region.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	- Produced by Local Authorities. - Outlines areas local flood risk. - Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Transport Plans and Strategies	Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	• To promote sustainable transport. • To promote integrated and proper transport planning. • To promote safe travel. • To promote active travel infrastructural development. • To encourage modal shift.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives	• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act (2021) required each local authority to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan to meet national climate targets and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change. The plans are consistent with the most recently approved National Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Framework. Tipperary County Council has prepared their Climate Action Plan for the period 2024 to 2029 to create a low carbon and climate resilient county, by delivering and promoting best practice in climate action in Co. Tipperary.	The plan demonstrates the ambition, focus and commitment of each local authority to reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of life for people living, working and studying in each county. The plan is built on a strong evidence base. To help inform the plans, Tipperary County Council developed a Climate Change Risk Assessment which sets out the likely risks in terms of climate change, such as increased rainfall or flooding. They also did a Baseline Emissions Inventory which calculates the emissions within the local authority area and sets out emission by sector such as transport, the built environment and agriculture. As part of its local authority climate action plan, Tipperary County Council is responsible for establishing a decarbonising zone within their local authority area. Decarbonising zones (DZs) are intended to be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and will help local authorities to identify projects which will contribute to the delivery of the national climate objective. The National Bio-Economy Campus has been designated as the decarbonizing zone.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024	This Corporate Plan has been prepared in compliance with the Local Government Act 2014 and also recognises and takes into account a range of existing National and European policies, strategies and plans in relation to programmes and activities which are central to the goals and objectives in this Corporate Plan. The purpose of the Corporate Plan is to outline our vision for County Tipperary, describe the main priorities for the Council during the next five years, and the benefits we will deliver for our communities.	The key priority themes of our Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024 include: • Growing our economy, facilitating development and attracting entrepreneurs; • Developing resilience to climate change and embracing biodiversity; • Creating functional living town centres; • Citizen safety; • Ensuring a fit for purpose organisation and identifying new ways of working; • Leading multi agency approaches and maximising the potential of shared services.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Tipperary County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023	This third round Noise Action Plan has been prepared by Tipperary County Council to address environmental noise from major roads in the county carrying more than three million vehicles per annum.	The action planning area covers the following roads or qualifying sections of roads: • M8 Motorway as it passes through Tipperary (64.8kms); • M7 Motorway as it passes through Tipperary (57kms); • N24 National Primary Road as it passes through Tipperary (69.8kms); • N52 National Secondary Road , from M7 Interchange, (Junction26) to Ardcroney (13Kms); • N62 National Secondary Road, from M8 Interchange, (Junction 6) to Thurles (8Kms); • R688 (Cashel to Clonmel Road) for a distance of 1.3kms north from its junction with the N24 National Primary Road at the Cashel Road Roundabout, Clonmel; • R689 (Urlingford to Clonmel Road) for a distance of 1km north from its junction with the N24 National Primary Road at the Fethard Road Roundabout, Clonmel.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028	The Plan is a framework for how the local authority will deliver for all communities, through protecting the environment, reducing energy demands, maintaining the viability of towns, villages and rural communities and supporting job creation. • Guides sustainable physical, economic, and social development across Tipperary, whilst protecting the environment and guiding and supporting our move to a low-carbon society. • Identifies the social, economic and environmental character of Tipperary, provides guidance on the growth of towns, villages and rural areas, informs the nature of future investment, and protects our environment. • Informs decisions on public services, infrastructure and amenities, and will influence many facets of daily economic and social life, in terms of where we live, availability of services and our job opportunities.	The plan is informed by a set of 'Core Ambitions' integrating the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability: • Healthy Natural Environment, Working Landscapes, Supporting Infrastructure • Vibrant, Living Towns driving the Regional and Local Economy • Valued Built and Cultural Heritage • Strong Rural Economy with Diverse Connected Communities • Climate Resilient, Sustainable & Low-Carbon County	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021	The aim of this plan is to connect the citizens of Tipperary to their heritage, raise awareness and appreciation of this rich asset and ensure its protection for future generations. We aim to make it an integral part of everyday life at the core of our communities.	The plan is a five year plan with 35 actions and will form the basis of the work programme of the Heritage Office and the Heritage Forum.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tipperary Landscape Character Assessment	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	- Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. - Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary Local Development Strategy Action Plan 2023-2027	Tipperary Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is the Local Action Group (LAG) responsible for delivering the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 in County Tipperary. The LEADER Programme envisions improved quality of living and working in Co. Tipperary underpinned by sustainable environmental, social, economic, cultural and climate action development.	This Strategy has been developed in response and concentrates on the identified high-level priorities to ensure the optimum distribution of limited resources across the County.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tipperary Road Safety Strategy 2022-2030	The objective of the Tipperary Road Safety Strategy is to create a greater awareness of road safety through our stakeholders to reduce the number, severity and life-changing impact of road collisions in Tipperary by advancing Vision Zero in adherence with the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.	The aims of the Tipperary Road Safety Strategy are: • To create a safer road environment in Tipperary for all road users. • To improve co-operation between the agencies and groups represented on the Road Safety Working Together Group. • To improve road user behaviour by co-ordinating public education and awareness and to ensure compliance by the public with all relevant legislation.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary Transforming, Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030	The purpose of this Plan is to guide and assist the council and Tipperary Tourism in delivering its plan to significantly improve the visitor product experience in the county, increase capacity, dwell time, bed nights and the overall county tourism economy.	The Plan suggests ideas for creating exciting new tourism experiences and significantly enhancing existing ones. These will lead to building greater capacity among tourism providers and extending visitor length of stay in the county, whilst also building synergies and collaborations between tourism product offerings in order to deliver top-quality visitor experiences. There is a suite of innovative and creative potential projects included, along with a range of key targets, followed by an action plan plotting out the roadmap to be focused on for the decade.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

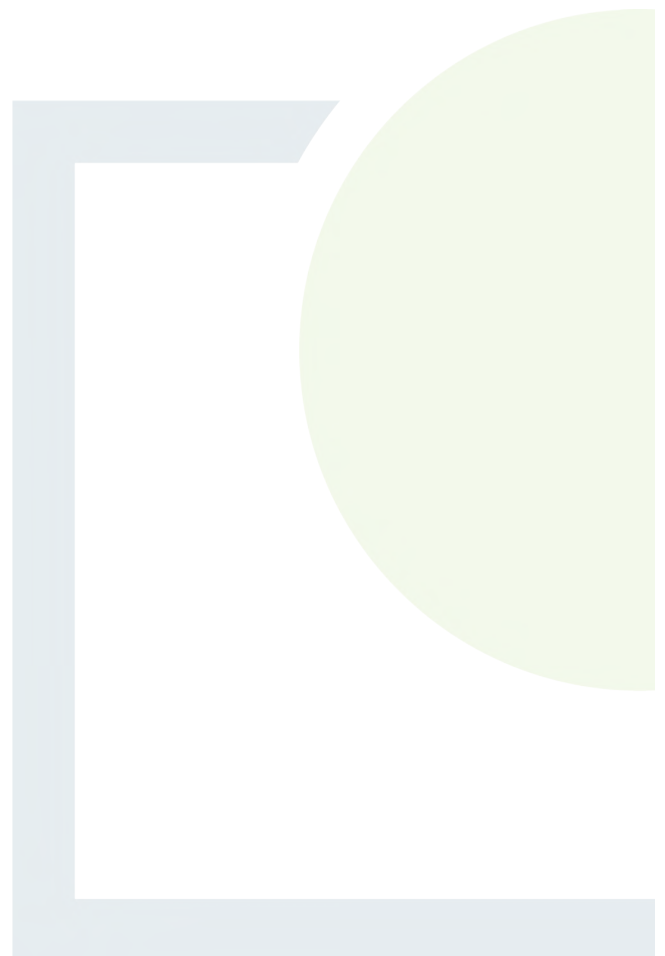
Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Quality Management Plans	• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve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



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 2

Scoping Consultation
Feedback



The table below shows a list of all Scoping Responses received from the statutory environmental authorities as part of the statutory Scoping consultation process for the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

Ref.	Environmental Authority	Date Received
1	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	21 st August 2024
2	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	2 nd September 2024
3	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	2 nd September 2024
4	Kilkenny County Council	2 nd September 2024

4 Documents in total were received. These are presented below - in the order they were received.

Planning Department
Tipperary County Council
Civic Offices
Limerick Road
Nenagh
Co. Tipperary

21st August 2024

Our Ref: SCP240801.1

Re. SEA Scoping for Carrick on Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031

A chara,

We acknowledge your notice, dated 2nd August 2024, in relation to the Carrick on Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031 ('the Plan').

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

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

In preparing the Plan, Tipperary County Council should also ensure that the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant



objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

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

Available Guidance & Resources

Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:

- SEA process guidance and checklists
- Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA
- topic specific SEA guidance (including *Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment* (EPA, 2020), *Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring* (EPA, 2020), *Integrating climatic factors into SEA* (EPA, 2019), *Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA* (EPA, 2015), and *Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2012))

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

EPA SEA GIS Search and Reporting Webtool

Our SEA GIS Search and Reporting Webtool is publicly available through EPA Maps at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>. It allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.

Catchments.ie

Our <https://www.catchments.ie/maps/> website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.

EPA AA GeoTool

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

State of the Environment Report – Ireland's Environment 2024

The EPA will be publishing the next iteration of our State of the Environment Report later in 2024. Once published, this report should be considered and integrated as appropriate, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.

Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society

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

Environmental Authorities

Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.

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

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cian O'Mahony'.

Cian O'Mahony
SEA Section
Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
Environmental Protection Agency



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

2024 (Version 1.23)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

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Tracking of Updates for 2024

Version No.	Date	Updates since previous version
Version 1.21	04/01/2024	Added link to SEA and Landscape guidance (EPA, 2023) Added link to Guide for inclusive community engagement in local planning and decision making (DRCD, 2023) in appendix 1a
Version 1.22	21/05/2024	Added link to bathing water quality report (EPA 2024) Added link to final GHG emissions for Ireland 1990-2022 (EPA, 2024)
Version 1.23	02/08/2024	Added link to drinking water quality in public supplies 2023 report Added link to water quality in 2023 indicators report (EPA, 2024)

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1. Introduction

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

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

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

State of the Environment Report – Ireland's Environment 2024

In preparing the *plan/programme/modification* and associated SEA, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within our State of the Environment Report [Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020](#) (EPA, 2020) should be considered. The next iteration of this will be published this autumn. Once published should be taken into account, as appropriate in finalising or implementing the plan.

2. Key Environmental Recommendations to Consider

Drinking Water

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

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

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

Conservation of Water Resources

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

Waste Water

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agglomerations with no treatment or poorly performing (or at capacity) treatment plants are highlighted in the [Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2022](#) (EPA, 2023). A commitment to support the provision of appropriate measures to address these issues as a priority, in collaboration with Irish Water should be considered where relevant. Measures to ensure that combined storm water overflows, sewers and trade effluent in the area covered by the Plan is also managed properly should also be included as appropriate.

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

Water Framework Directive

Protection of Surface and Ground Water Resources

Protecting our valuable surface and ground water resources is of vital importance to protect both human health and provide for a healthy environment. In this context, you should provide clear commitments in the Plan to protect surface water, groundwater and coastal/estuarine resources and their associated habitats and species, including fisheries within and adjacent to the Plan area. Where specific recommendations/concerns for water bodies within the Plan area are identified in EPA water quality reports, including the [Water Quality Monitoring Report on Nitrogen and Phosphorus Concentrations in Irish Waters – 2022](#) (EPA, 2023), and [Water Quality in Ireland 2016-2021](#) (EPA, 2022), these should also be addressed/considered at an appropriate level in the Plan.

The Plan should also ensure that any specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies, within the Plan area as set out in the existing relevant Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan, are provided for in order to ensure water quality is protected/improved/maintained. The Plan should also consider that subsequent water management plans (including catchment management plans) may arise out of current review of the second cycle of WFD River Basin Management Planning should be integrated as appropriate upon their adoption. The ‘integrated catchment management’ approach for protecting and managing water resources, should also be supported in the Plan. The EPA’s www.catchments.ie website provides useful resources such as GIS mapping and related information that should be useful in preparing the Plan.

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

Protection of Groundwater Resources

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

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

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

Protection and Management of Bathing Waters

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

recreational waters/bathing water areas are included on the Register of Protected Areas. The Plan should provide for the protection of any waters which are used for bathing within or adjacent to the Plan area.

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

Water Framework Directive & Biodiversity

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

Marine Waters

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

Flooding

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

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

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

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

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

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

Climate Change / Climatic Factors

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

The Agency in 2023 published [Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2022-2040](#) (EPA, 2023) and [Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023](#) (EPA, 2024) which should be taken into account in preparing the Plan, as appropriate and relevant.

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

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

Mitigation

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

Adaptation

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

Under the National Adaptation Framework (DCCAE, 2018) a number of Government Departments are required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to the priority sectors they are responsible for. Local Authorities are also required to prepare local adaptation strategies. These plans and strategies will be reviewed at least once every five years in line with reviews of the Framework. These sectoral adaptation plans and local authority strategies can be found at <https://www.climateireland.ie/#!/tools/adaptationStrategyExplorer>

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

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

These were prepared in line with DECC Guidelines to assist local authorities prepare adaptation strategies (DECC, 2018³) and the relevant sectors prepare sectoral adaptation plans. (DECC, 2018⁴). The local Guidelines were prepared building on earlier guidelines published by the EPA to support local authorities in developing local climate adaptation strategies (EPA, 2016).

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

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

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

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

Monitoring

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

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

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

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

The OPR has published a Case Study Paper entitled '*Climate Action and the Local Authority Development Plan*'. The paper is available from the OPR website using the following link: <https://publications.opr.ie/view-file/89>. The paper demonstrates how local authority development

³<https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/publications/Pages/Local-Authority-Adaptation-Strategy-Development-Guidelines.aspx>

⁴<https://dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/publications/Pages/Sectoral-Planning-Guidelines-for-Climate-Change-Adaptation.aspx>

plans have the potential to play a significant role, at local level, in supporting wider efforts to ensure that Ireland meets its ambitious climate mitigation targets.

Air

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

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

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

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

Noise

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

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

The National Planning Framework <https://npf.ie/> recognises the significance of environmental noise and includes National Policy Objective 65 to ‘Promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life and support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations through national planning guidance and Noise Action Plans.’ As part of the LA Performance framework (REMCI) reporting priorities, there are two new targets for noise in 2021 (i) NAPs Reporting Deadline, and (ii) Strategic Noise mapping data collection phase. A local authority working group are currently developing a ‘Noise in Transportation - Planning Advice Note’⁵.

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

⁵ The LA group is being led by Kildare Co Council (John O Neill) and Limerick City & Co Council (Simon Jennings).

The noise action plans (NAPs) involve the identification of measures needed for the prevention and reduction of environmental noise. The LAs are now required to report progress (each year) on the implementation of their NAPs. The Noise Action Plans should be considered and reviewed by Local Authorities as required, to reflect the Plan period and associated development proposals. Consideration should be given to any relevant noise maps, and action plans. Strategic noise maps are designed to assess population noise exposure resulting from major roads, railways and airports. Noise action plans are designed to act as a means of managing environmental noise through land use planning, traffic management and control of noise sources. The fourth round of noise mapping is currently underway in Ireland. <http://noise.eionet.europa.eu/help.html>.

For larger urban areas, the extra value placed on Quiet areas will be a key priority as part of noise action planning going forward. One of the key messages in the SOER 2020 Noise chapter is that '*Local Authorities should promote the value of designating quiet areas in cities for health and wellbeing*'. <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-the-environment/irelands-environment-2020---chapter-4---environmental-noise.php/>. Separately, the SOER 2020 noise chapter also has three key messages around noise that could be relevant.

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

Waste Management

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

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

- [Circular economy and waste statistics highlights report 2021](#) (EPA, 2023)
- [National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027](#) (EPA, 2021)
- EPA [National Waste Statistics](#)
- [National Waste Statistics Summary Report for 2020](#) (EPA, 2022)

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

Radon

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

3. Wider Environmental Recommendations to Consider

Biodiversity

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

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

Plans should be supported / informed by available habitat mapping (including wetland mapping) and other ecological surveys as relevant. The Plan should refer to and reflect the relevant commitments in Ireland's *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-21* (DHLGH, 2017). The NPWS are currently progressing preparation of the *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2027*. Additionally, the NPWS have published the [Article 17 Report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland](#) (NPWS, 2019). Local Heritage/Biodiversity plans should be highlighted and should promote the implementation of key actions set out in these plans. Where not established, commitments should be included to prepare these plans.

Appropriate Assessment

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

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

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

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

Green & Blue Infrastructure

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

Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

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

Energy Conservation & Renewable Energy

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

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

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

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

Landscape

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

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

Geology / Geomorphology

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

Human Health / Quality of Life

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

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

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

Transportation

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

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

Promoting the development of traffic management measures to reduce the potential for traffic congestion and associated vehicular emissions should be considered. In particular, it would be useful

to prepare (and review existing) Integrated Traffic Management Plans, where relevant and appropriate, for the existing urban areas and proposed new urban developments to consider and address the short, medium and long-term traffic management requirements within the Plan area.

Infrastructure Planning

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

The Plan should, (when considering additional development proposals), support and promote the provision of adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure, surface and storm water drainage, public transport, waste management, community services and amenities etc. on a planned and phased basis. This is in the context of taking into account and addressing existing infrastructural inadequacies to meet the expected needs of predicted increases in population associated with the Plan implementation.

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

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

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

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

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

Appendix 1a: Links to environmental guidance/reports

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

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

Appendix 1b: Links to spatial environmental resources

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

EPA SEAGIS Search and Reporting Tool

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

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)

One of the statutory functions of the OPR is to evaluate and assess local authority development plans. A further statutory role of the OPR relates to research, training and

public awareness. The relationship between SEA and plan-making is an area identified for further research and training, by both the EPA and OPR. The OPR works closely with the EPA and other agencies in driving innovation and learning in order to achieve shared objectives.

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

Appendix II: Key national & regional plans and programmes⁶

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

⁶ Plan-makers should identify key relevant plans/programmes/strategies in the SEA. The above list is indicative only; all of the above may not be relevant to a particular plan.

Appendix III – List of EPA SEA Guidance Notes

Year	Title
2023	Good practice guidance on SEA and landscape
2023	Good practice guidance on SEA for the Tourism Sector
2023	Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring
2022	Good practice guidance note on SEA in the Water Sector
2021	Good practice guidance on SEA Screening
2021	Good practice guidance note on SEA for the Energy Sector
2021	SEA Process Flow
2021	Good practice guidance on cumulative effects assessment in SEA
2019	Integrating Climatic Factors into SEA in Ireland – A guidance note
2019	Good practice guidance note on SEA for the Waste Sector
2019	Good practice guidance note on SEA for the Forestry Sector
2015	Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA



Tipperary County Council,
Civic Offices,
Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary
E91 N512

2nd September 2024

RE: SEA Scoping for the Carrick on Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (**DECC**) welcomes the opportunity to input into the scoping stage of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (**SEA**) process relating to the Carrick on Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031 (**the Plan**).

Relevant Plans and Programmes

It is of critical importance that the analysis of climatic factors in the SEA process incorporates the latest quantitative data and analysis against which the proposed Plan can be assessed, in order to ensure that the Plan appropriately supports the State's climate ambition and legally binding target.

As such, we welcome the inclusion of the following relevant plans, programmes and policies and associated environmental assessments in the assessment of the Plan, which our Department has considered during previous SEAs of plans and programmes:

- The recently approved [Climate Action Plan 2024 \(CAP24\)](#), which is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The CAP24 lays out the roadmap of actions to meet our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.



- [The Clean Air Strategy for Ireland](#) provides the high-level strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote the integrated measures across government that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner ambient air, while delivering on wider national objectives. It outlines how we will enhance and protect the quality of the air that we breathe and realise the full environmental and health benefits of cleaner air.

We further encourage consideration of the following relevant plans, programmes and policies and associated environmental assessments in the assessment of the Plan:

- [Water Action Plan 2024 – A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland](#) which is committed to protecting and restoring Ireland's natural waters by complying fully with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This, soon to be published (early September 2024), Water Action Plan will accelerate the identification and implementation of the right measures in the right places to both restore and protect all waterbodies.
- The Government's new [National Adaptation Framework](#), which was approved in June 2024.
- [Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Plan 2023-2030](#) which sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.

The further suite of documents set out in the list below, can also provide useful and relevant baseline and benchmarks for quantitatively assessing the climate and environmental impacts of the proposed Plan.

- SEAI's report on the [National Energy Projections 2023](#) and associated [article](#)
- The Government's [Draft Updated National Energy & Climate Plan 2021-2023](#) (which will be finalised in the coming months)
- [Sectoral Emissions Ceilings](#)
- [Sectoral Adaptation Plans](#) made under the NAF
- The outputs from the [National Dialogue on Climate Action \(NDCA\)](#)
- EPA's reports [Climate Change in the Irish Minds \(CCIM\)](#)
- The EPA's report on [Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2022](#)
- Action 5.1 of the [Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023 – 2025](#)
- [The Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Plan 2022- 2024](#)
- The Government of Ireland's [Land Use Review](#).
- The EPA's [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050](#).



- The EPA's [Air Quality data](#), which details the locations of all monitoring stations currently in operation, along with real-time and historic data from each station.

We encourage the inclusion of the above listed reports as data sources and suggest they be included in the assessments to be set out in the Environmental Report. It is suggested that the Plan should be assessed in terms of its effects on the achievement of the objectives in the plans, policies and strategies in as detailed a manner as possible, by quantifying the impact of the Plan and its effects on the environment and climate objectives set out in them.

EU Legislation

In terms of EU Legislation, we recommend including reference to:

- The Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (the latest recast Renewable Energy Directive), Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy)
- The EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment)
- The Public Participation Directive 2003/35/EC (public participation in the process of drawing up certain plans and programs related to the environment).
- The [Soil Monitoring Law](#)
- The recently enacted [Nature Restoration Law](#)

We trust the above is of assistance in the scoping of the SEA process for the Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Planning Advisory Division

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications



Planning Ref: **Carrick on Suir - LAP SEA Screening**
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

2 September 2024

Director of Services – Planning
Tipperary County Council
Civic Offices
Nenagh
Co Tipperary
E45 TE81

Via upload: planningpolicy@tipperarycoco.ie

Proposed Part 8 Development: Tipperary County Council: new Local Area Plan 2025-2031 (LAP) for the Carrick-on-Suir (COS) area, which will supersede the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan 2013 that has now expired

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings

Built Heritage

The Department refers to the correspondence in relation to the 'SEA Scoping Report Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031'. The Department has reviewed the same and has the following observations:

1. Section 2.3 Key Planning Issues associated with the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan.

Under key planning and environmental issues, point number 8 currently states: '*The potential impact of town centre development on built heritage and historic fabric, including protected structures*'. Town centre development it has the potential to impact on both protected structures and the architectural conservation area. The potential impact on built heritage particularly in relation to protected structures and their curtilage can arise from both urban and rural development, in the context of the Local Area Plan.

In light of the above it is suggested that the text is amended throughout the SEA Report to read as follows; '*The potential impact of development on built heritage and historic fabric, including protected structures and the architectural conservation area*'.



2. Section 3.4 Landscape and Visual Amenity (Page 24)

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage includes a survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes. This survey includes over 6,000 records of historic gardens and designed landscapes. These are principally demesnes but also included garden cemeteries and urban parks. This resource can be availed of as a source of information utilised in the assessment of landscape and visual amenity.

3. Section 3.4.1 Key Considerations relating to the Draft LAP (Page 24)

The points outlined under key considerations in relation to Landscape and Visual Amenity should be amended to specifically include reference to historic and designed landscapes associated with protected structures, their curtilage and/or located within an Architectural Conservation Area.

4. Section 3.5 Cultural Heritage –Archaeological and Architectural (Page 25)

Paragraph 2 relates to protected structures. The following amendment to the text is recommended to better illustrate the council policy in respect of protected structures: - *'It is the policy of the Council to conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites contained in the Record of Protected Structures and to ensure that development is appropriate and sensitively undertaken'*.

Paragraph 3 which refers to Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) does not currently reference the council policy. It is recommended the following text is included: - *'It is the policy of the council to ensure the enhancement and management of the ACA.'*

The SEA assessment of Cultural Heritage – Archaeological and Architectural does **not** include *Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities'* as a source. The *'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities'*

have been issued under Section 28 and 52 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and are available here¹ for consultation. These guidelines are a practical guide for planning authorities and for all others who must comply with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) on the protection of the architectural heritage. It is therefore recommended that this is included and used as part of the SEA assessment of architectural heritage.

5. Section 3.5.1 Key Considerations Relating to Draft LAP (Page 26)

Point 3 should be amended to read as follows: *'The potential impact of development on built heritage including protected structures and the architectural conservation area'*.

¹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0937a-architectural-heritage-protection-guidelines-for-planning-authorities/>



6. Section 3.13 Summary of Key Environmental Considerations (Page 52)

Point 3 should be amended to read as follows: *'The potential impact of development on built heritage including protected structures and the architectural conservation area'*

You are requested to send further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the address below.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diarmuid Buttiner', enclosed within a circular, scribbled border.

Diarmuid Buttiner
Development Applications Unit
Administration



2nd September 2024

Re: Scoping of Environmental Report for Carrick On Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031

A Chara,

I refer to the above referral received on the 02nd August 2024. Please see below the assessment of Kilkenny County Council's Planning Department under the following headings.

Context.

Firstly, it is important to set out the context of the location proximate to lands in Co. Kilkenny. The nearest part of Co. Kilkenny administered lands commence due west of the Linguan River, c.100m due east of the developed area of Carrick On Suir town. The Linguan River forms the county boundary.

Zoning

There are no nearby zoned lands to the Co.Kilkenny side of the county boundary.

Nearby previous zonings in the 2013 Carrick On Suir Local Area Plan are Industrial to the southern side of the N24, Light Industrial, and, Social and Public to the northern side, and, Amenity towards the Linguan River.

Environmental Impacts

With regard to the environmental impacts of the Local Area Plan, the Linguan River connects to the Lower River Suir SAC and is shared between both Co. Tipperary and Co. Kilkenny (and Co. Waterford).

Flooding

The River Linguan currently forms the Carrick On Suir town boundary and also the boundary between Co.Tipperary and Co.Kilkenny to the east of the town. The River Linguan is part of the Lower River Suir SAC and flows into River Suir c.2km south of Three Bridges. The area to both sides of the River Linguan to both sides of the county boundary is in a CFRAM Flood Zone A (High Risk), hence further development to the Co.Tipperary side should be resisted and uses should be restricted to water compatible resilient uses such as green amenity space.

Zoning, Archaeological, Heritage, Visual Amenity, Residential Amenity, Tourism, and other Impacts

Any such impacts will be addressed at any pre-draft consultation stage and statutory consultation stage for the draft Local Area Plan.

Transport impacts

Any Strategic Environment Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment needs to take account of the N24 improvement corridor and route selection (up for consideration) including Carrick On Suir bypass route(to the northern side of the town) to both sides of the county boundary, any improvements to Waterford to Limerick Junction railway line which runs to the south of the N24, construction of the blueway routes along the River Suir from Carrick On Suir towards Piltown/Co.Kilkenny/Waterford City, and, improvements to pedestrian and active travel.

Services

Irish Water public mains and public sewer runs towards the county boundary at Three Bridges, however there is no Irish Water public sewer to the Co. Kilkenny side of the county boundary, and, no intention to zone lands at this stage, hence no public sewer to the Co. Kilkenny side will be affected.

Conclusion

I trust that all of the aforementioned is in order. Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Niall Sheehan".

Date: 02nd September 2024

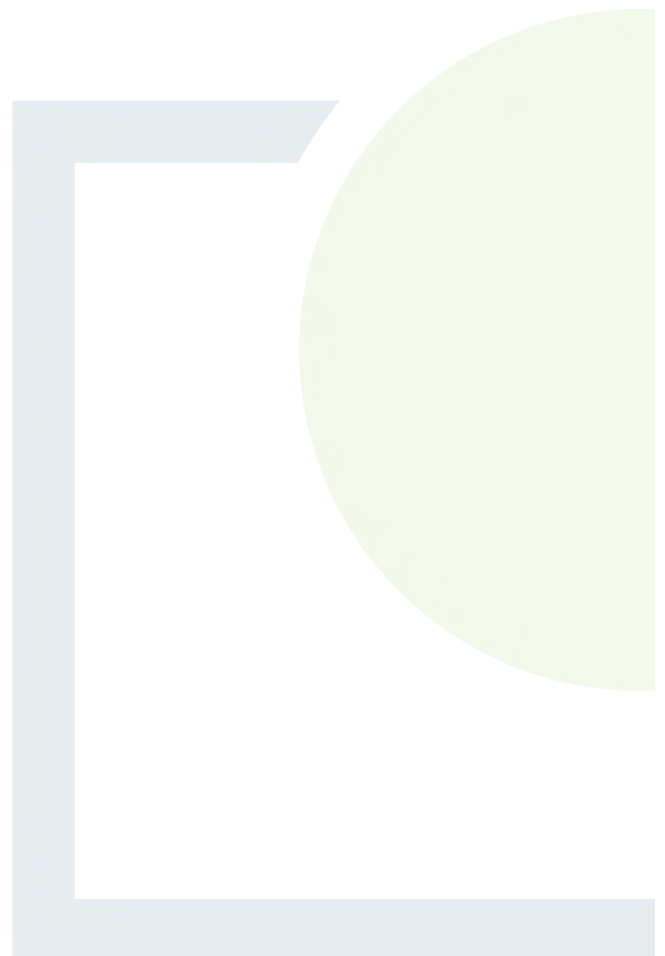
**Niall Sheehan,
Executive Planner,
Kilkenny County Council**



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 3

Detailed Evaluation of the
Environmental Effects of Plan
Implementation



Approach and Methodology for the Detailed Evaluation of Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation

A detailed evaluation of the potential effects of the Drat Plan on the baseline environment has been carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines. An evaluation matrix template has been developed to facilitate the evaluation of the Plan on Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) relevant to each Environmental Component.

A dedicated evaluation matrix has been prepared for each chapter contained in the LAP. Policies/objectives of a particular chapter are listed on one axis of this matrix. The corresponding potential environmental effects of the policies/objectives are then described. An evaluation of the environmental effects of policies/objectives on Environmental Components, having regard to the SEOs relevant to each Environment Component, was then carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. Potential effects of the LAP on Environmental Components/SEOs have been categorised as follows:

- Potential Positive Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '+').⁵⁸
- Potential Negative Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '-').⁵⁹
- Potential Positive and Negative Environmental Impacts (indicated in the matrix by a '+/-').
- Uncertain Environmental Impact ((indicated in the matrix by a '?').
- Neutral, No or Insignificant Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '0').

The following should be noted in relation to the evaluation undertaken:

- Environmental effects of the Plan have been described in accordance with descriptive terminology defined in the Environmental Protection Agency's guidance document entitled 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (2022).
- The evaluation considers all potential direct, indirect/secondary, cumulative⁶⁰, synergistic⁶¹, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative environmental effects.
- The evaluation considers inter-relationships and interactions between one Environmental Component and another which can result in an environmental impact.
- The evaluation considers all potential environmental effects arising from unforeseen abnormal events.
- The potential environmental effects described are the potential effects that could occur with the adoption of any environmental mitigation measures.

Detail on the SEOs associated with Environmental Components which the environmental effects of the Plan have been measured against is provided in Table 1 overleaf. Completed Evaluation Matrices are then presented.

⁵⁸ Potential Positive Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to support the achievement of an SEO.

⁵⁹ Potential Negative Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to hinder the achievement of an SEO.

⁶⁰ The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.

⁶¹ The addition of effects to create a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects so that the nature of the final impact is different to the nature of the individual impact.

Table 1: Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Overall	O1	Ensure, where appropriate, alignment with higher-level plans and that projects contribute to overall environmental monitoring processes within the Plan area.
Population and Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or minimise impacts to population and human health.
	PHH2	Promote economic activity and growth
	PHH3	Ensure supporting infrastructure and services in the area are developed in a manner commensurate with population growth.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure supported development is in alignment with biodiversity protection, restoration, and rehabilitation goals.
	B2	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species.
	B3	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species.
	B4	Avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species
	B5	Aim for no net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L1	Avoid or minimise impacts on statutory landscape designations defined in the CDP.
	L2	Avoid or minimise adverse visual effects on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.
	L3	Protect and enhance landscape character.
	L4	Protect, as appropriate, create and improve streetscape character.
Cultural Heritage - Archaeological & Architectural	CH1	Avoid impacts upon archaeological heritage (including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)), architectural heritage (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)), industrial heritage and ACAs.
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on mineral resources or soils.
	S2	Ensure appropriate management of all soil and excavation material. Promote sustainable material reuse wherever appropriate.
	S3	Re-use of brownfield lands, where appropriate, together with the appropriate and sustainable development of greenfield lands.
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.
	LU2	Compliance with existing land use policy in the CDP
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Increase the number of people travelling to work or school via sustainable modes of travel, including public transport, walking and cycling.
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts on existing or proposed sensitive receptors.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface water bodies.
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009).
	W5	Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow.
	W6	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality.
Material Assets	MA1	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure.
	MA2	Avoid or minimise effects upon existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.
	MA3	Promote sustainable transportation and deliver enhanced traffic and transport conditions, where possible.
	MA4	Promote sustainable waste/material management and the circular economy.
	MA5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.
Tourism and Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities, and enhance tourism and recreation, where possible.
Climate Change	CC1	Support in the achievement of the 2030 target of a 51% reduction in carbon emissions.
	CC2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.
	CC3	Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local level.
	CC4	Promote the carrying out of climate resilient development.
	CC5	Promote low carbon and net zero development.
	CC6	Promote the carrying out of development that incorporates nature-based solutions.
	CC7	Promote active travel and reduce reliance on the use of private vehicles for transport.
	CC8	Support the transition to zero or low carbon Electric Vehicles.
Inter-relationships	IR1	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes. Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement during adaptation to climate change.

Introduction

[illegible]

Planning and Development Strategy

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 2.1	Require the retrofitting of existing structures on brownfield sites, unless it is demonstrated that retrofitting is unfeasible, or redevelopment of the site would provide positive carbon impact through the re-design, construction and use stages of a new building, compared with retrofitting.	This policy has the broad potential to promote good spatial planning and support sustainable land use within the Plan area. The policy has the potential to support utilising existing built environment, which can reduce the requirement for construction of new development generally, and the associated embodied GHG emissions associated with such development. Retrofitting of vacant structures has the potential to impact on the conservation status of protected structures and by extension the character of the ACA in the town. Such works may also impact on protected species that may be present in vacant structures, such as protected bat species - through disturbance and habitat loss.	+/-	-	0	-	0	+	-	-	+	0	+
Policy 2.2	Support new development that will enable sustainable housing growth, employment, community development and prosperity for Carrick-on-Suir as a District Town in line with the Strategic Objectives of the TCDP.	This policy supports the carrying out of sustainable housing, social and economic development. This has the potential to result in positive environmental effects on population and human health and material asset components. The construction phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, that may negatively affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	+/-

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		transport conditions, landscape character and visual amenity.											
Policy 2.3	Require new development to incorporate best practice in low- carbon and energy efficient planning and techniques as reflected by the policies and objectives of the TCDP and this LAP and in accordance with the Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (and any review thereof).	This policy supports the carrying out of sustainable development, leading to positive environmental effects on population and human health, material asset and climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. This policy generally has the potential to result in positive environmental effect on climate by ensuring alignment with higher order plans and policies.	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
Policy 2.4	Support compact residential growth in Carrick-on-Suir through the sustainable intensification and consolidation of the town centre and established residential areas to meet identified housing targets and requirements in line with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2024) and any review thereof.	This policy supports the carrying out of development (housing, social etc.) that has the potential to result in adverse construction and operational phase effects on a range of environmental components. However, this policy aligns with compact growth principles defined in the NPF and RSES and supports well-balanced development, leading to positive effects on the land use and climate environmental components (i.e. through the reduction of sprawl and travel distances).	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	+/-

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 2.5	Facilitate development of existing but non-conforming and long-established uses, to support their continued operation and expansion, provided such does not result in loss of amenity to adjoining properties, have an adverse impact on the environment, visual detriment to the character of the area or creation of a traffic hazard.	This policy supports development and the retention of relevant existing land-use within the Plan Area. The implementation of this policy - which has integrated environmental protection considerations - is unlikely to generate any significant adverse environmental effects.	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
Objective 2A	Support the local community to identify and implement measures and actions to reduce energy consumption, produce renewable energy from local resources and to adapt to a changing climate, in accordance with the Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.	This objective supports sustainable development in the Plan Area by harnessing the existing local renewable energy resources and reducing reliance, costs and emissions associated with fossil fuels. This will have positive effects on population and human health, air and climate and material assets. In the absence of mitigation, the objective could support the carrying out of renewable energy development which could have negative environmental effects, including impacts on population and human health (due to solar panel glint and glare, for example), biodiversity impacts, and impacts on the water or soils environment (due to development construction phase run-off of silt or cement based material, for example).	+/-	+/-	-	-	0	0	+/-	-	+	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Objective 2B	Work in partnership with community and civic groups in the regeneration and revitalisation of Carrick-on-Suir and to actively seek and secure funding and investment under available national and regional investment and funding programmes in line with the development strategy as set out.	The policy supports the regeneration and revitalisation of Carrick-On-Suir and has the potential to result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, including local people and communities and the local economy. The policy is broadly supportive of regenerative development in the town centre. Such development may generate a range of adverse environmental effects, including construction related effects (e.g., dust, noise emissions, nuisance etc.) the conservation status of protected structures and by extension the character of the ACA in the town, and effects on protected species that may be present in vacant or derelict structures being subject to regeneration, such as protected bat species - through disturbance and habitat loss.	+/-	-	0	-	0	+	-	-	+	0	+
Objective 2C	Support and facilitate the development of lands in collaboration with landowners and service providers for residential and employment development over the lifetime of the LAP.	This objective supports the carrying out of development (housing, social etc.) that has the potential to result in adverse construction and operational phase effects on a range of environmental components.	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	0
Objective 2D	Actively respond to the specific need in Carrick-on-Suir for affordable housing and housing units for one and two-bedroom units, through the delivery of local authority social and affordable housing programmes and through the implementation of funds	This objective supports the carrying out of residential development that will have positive environmental effects on population and human health and material assets. The objective has the potential to result in adverse construction and operational phase environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	0

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	and programmes available from central government to support the delivery of new homes.	traffic disruption, that may affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, landscape character and visual amenity.											
Objective 2E	Monitor the scale, type, tenure and location of constructed and permitted developments in Carrick-on-Suir to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy and to achieve the delivery of strategic plan-led and coordinated balanced development within the town.	This objective is a monitoring based action that has the potential to support sustainable housing development in plan area and generate positive environmental effects on local people and communities. It also has the potential to ensure optimum spatial development and utilisation of material assets. The promotion of sustainable, compact development has the potential to contribute to reduced transport GHG emission reductions through the promotion of sustainable transport and travel patterns and generate positive effects on climate.	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+
Objective 2F	Undertake Town Centre Health Checks periodically, in accordance with the methodology set out in the Heritage Council's guidance, in order to ascertain the quantum of vacant building stock in the town centre.	This objective relates to the monitoring of town centre vacancy. It will serve to inform, support and underpin town centre regeneration and the realisation of positive environmental effects associated with such regeneration. The policy will not create any adverse environmental effects in and of itself.	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	+

[illegible]

Town Centre Strategy

[illegible]

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	Retail Area to provide active uses on the ground floor and resist the proliferation of takeaways and betting shops with the Primary Retail Area.	retail environment. This will have a positive impact on population and human health, material assets and tourism and recreation.											
Policy 3.5	Support new development proposals which accord with the Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan and the policies and objectives set out in the Town Centre First Plan (when complete).	This policy focuses on Town Centre regeneration and development and is likely to have positive environmental effects on population and human health and material assets. This policy supports the carrying out of development that has the potential to result in adverse construction and operation effects on a range of environmental components.	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	0
Policy 3.6	Support new development which enhances the setting of Carrick-on-Suir town centre, including its architectural and historical heritage and character, and facilitates compact growth, high quality urban design, connectivity and active travel as opportunities arise.	This policy aligns with compact growth principles defined in the NPF and RSES and supports well-balanced development, leading to positive effects on the land use and climate environmental components (i.e. through the reduction of sprawl and travel distances). The policy supports development that enhances architectural heritage within the Plan area, which is likely to have positive environmental effects on cultural heritage and tourism and recreation. It also supports the development of active travel infrastructure which will likely promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes within the local community. This policy has the potential to encourage modal shift and the reduction of vehicle related emissions. It is also likely to have positive environmental effects on	+/-	-	-	+	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+	+/-

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		population and human health and material assets. This objective supports the carrying out of linear development that has the potential to result in adverse construction and operation effects on a range of environmental components, including biodiversity, water quality and hydrology.											
Policy 3.7	Require existing shop fronts which are of high quality, exhibit unique features or add to the character of the streetscape, to be retained or refurbished, in accordance with the requirements of Policy 13-2 of the TCDP and Chapter 12 of the Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011).	This policy supports minor refurbishments to existing buildings and is likely to have positive environmental effects on visual amenity and cultural heritage.	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 3A	Support the Town Regeneration Officer and the Town Team in the preparation and implementation of a collaborative Town Centre First Plan for Carrick-on-Suir that will build on collaborate work and successful funding applications to date, and to provide a framework for which further funding will be sought.	These objectives have the potential to support the sustainable urban development of the Plan Area, given that it intends to reutilise under-used built infrastructure. This will have positive effects on population and human health (through the provision of much-needed housing), material assets, lands, soils and geology (through the avoidance of building on greenfield sites, promotion of compact development and prevention of sprawl) and air and climate.	+/-	-	0	-	+	+	-	-	+	0	+
Objective 3B	Support landowners with potential sites for regeneration and development through the Council's planning, housing and local enterprise services and offer regeneration	The carrying out of development and regeneration in built up surroundings has the potential to lead to significant adverse impacts on a variety of environmental components, including population and human health, traffic and transport conditions,	+/-	-	0	-	+	+	-	-	+	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	schemes such as the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme, the Croí Cónaithe Scheme, the Repair and Lease Scheme, Buy and Renew Scheme etc. as part of a Town Centre First programme.	archaeology and built heritage, existing material assets and the air and noise environments - due to the carrying out of construction works and changes in the built environment and townscape.											
Objective 3C	Offer support in the form of advice and pre-planning services to landowners and planning agents, to help overcome planning obstacles to the occupation and reuse of vacant upper floors and commercial units in the town centre; and develop best practice guidance in the re-use of upper floors.	The objective generally has the broad potential to result in positive environmental effects on material assets (e.g. reuse of existing buildings) and on climate. This objective has no real adverse environmental effect when considered in isolation.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
Objective 3D	Develop and improve areas in need of regeneration, renewal and redevelopment and to apply, where appropriate, the provisions of the Finance Act, Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, Derelict Sites Act, and use Compulsory Purchase Orders to enable regeneration, reduce vacancy, increase housing supply, employment opportunities and provide community facilities.	The objective has the potential to support the sustainable urban development of the Plan Area, given that it intends to reutilise under-used built infrastructure. This will have positive effects on population and human health (through the provision of much-needed housing), material assets, lands, soils and geology (through the avoidance of building on greenfield sites, promotion of compact development and prevention of sprawl) and air and climate. The carrying out of development and regeneration in built up surroundings has the potential to lead to significant adverse impacts on a variety of environmental components, including population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, archaeology and built heritage, existing material assets and the air and noise environments - due to the carrying out of construction	+/-	-	0	-	+	+	-	-	+	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		works and changes in the built environment and townscape.											
Objective 3E	Support the development of a Site Development Brief for the 'Goldcrop Site' in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders.	This objective supports the sustainable re-development of the 'Goldcrop Site.' This has the potential to result in positive environmental effects on population and human health and material assets (through the creation of high-quality development). The 'Goldcrop Site' is situated in close proximity to important habitat such as alluvial woodland and the Lower Suir River SAC. Re-development at this site is likely to have a negative effect on biodiversity and the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the SAC in the absence of appropriate mitigation. However, consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders will ensure that these negative environmental effects are mitigated.	+	-	0	0	-	+/-	0	-	+	0	0
Objective 3F	Deliver the Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan; "A Journey from the Suir Blueway to the Ormond Castle Quarter - Delivering Our Community's Ambition".	The objective has the potential to support the sustainable urban development of the Plan Area, given that it intends to reutilise under-used built infrastructure. This will have positive effects on population and human health, material assets, lands, soils and geology (through the avoidance of building on greenfield sites, promotion of compact development and prevention of sprawl) and air and climate. The carrying out of development and regeneration in built up surroundings has the potential to lead to significant adverse	+/-	-	0	-	+	+	-	-	+	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		impacts on a variety of environmental components, including population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, archaeology and built heritage, existing material assets and the air and noise environments - due to the carrying out of construction works and changes in the built environment and townscape.											
Objective 3G	To identify suitable locations for coach parking within the town and examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays.	The policy supports the rezoning of existing carpark areas for coach parking bays, which will likely have positive environmental effects on population and human health and material assets (i.e. through improved ancillary infrastructure for the public transport network) and climate. Inappropriate planning of coach parking in the town centre could lead to unintended adverse effects on the traffic and transport environment (e.g., congestion, increased traffic safety risk).											
			+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	+

Economic Development Strategy

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 4.1	Support and direct new development proposals that generate high densities of employment towards lands zoned 'Urban Core' and 'Regeneration'.	This policy expressly supports development at appropriately zoned sites in the Plan Area. Such development may promote economic activity and generate positive effects for people, communities and the local economy. The construction phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, that may negatively affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, landscape character and visual amenity.	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	+/-

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 4.2	Support new employment proposals on lands zoned for 'Employment', having regard to the nature of the proposed use, the availability of space within existing serviced employment areas, and the following: a) New office-based development with a high number and density of employees shall be located on sites with easy employee access i.e. supporting public transport/active travel accessibility between home and work. b) New office, research and development and high technology / manufacturing type employment shall include provision for high quality built and landscaped environment.	This policy expressly supports the carrying out of high-quality, appropriately designed commercial and industrial development at appropriately zoned sites in the Plan Area. Such development may promote economic activity and generate positive effects for people, communities and the local economy. The construction phases of such development have the potential to result in environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, that may affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, the noise environment, the air environment, the water environment, landscape character and visual amenity.	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	+/-
Policy 4.3	Support sustainable development of strategic enterprise, in accordance with the principles for each 'Strategic Employment Area' as set out in Section 4.2, ensuring the provision of appropriate scale and form of employment uses.		+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	+/-
Policy 4.4	Enhance the visitor experience to the town and support new visitor accommodation, arts and cultural development, orientation and signage to support the tourism industry and the development of tourism linkages/clusters with neighbouring areas and towns in line with current national and	These policies seek to improve tourism, cultural and economic aspects within the Plan area, in line with higher-order plans. This will have a positive impact on people (population and human health) that live in and visit the Plan area. It will also have a positive effect on material assets, tourism and recreation and cultural heritage. These policies support the carrying out of development that has the	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+	0

[illegible]

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	employment uses with active travel linkages with the town centre.												
Objective 4D	Support the development of an Enterprise and Digital Hub at the disused former Post Office on Main Street.	This objective seeks to reuse vacant buildings which will have a positive impact on population and human health, cultural heritage and material assets. Regeneration or retrofitting works supported by this objective has the potential to have slight unintended environmental effects, including noise, dust, traffic or biodiversity related effects, or effect on heritage features or the heritage context.	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	0	-	0	+/-	0	0
Objective 4E	Regenerate Carrick-on-Suir as an immersive visitor destination through public realm enhancements, developing the Ormond Castle Quarter and improving linkages to the town centre, rail station and The Suir Blueway Tipperary in line with the Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan.	These objectives seek to improve tourism aspects within the Plan area, to develop the town as a potential tourist destination. This will have a positive impact on people (population and human health) that live in and visit the Plan area. It will also have a positive effect on the tourism and recreation environmental component. Ancillary development for tourism enhancement such as improving transport linkages and new visitor accommodation has the potential to result in construction and operational phase effects on a range of environmental components.	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+	+/-
Objective 4F	Work with project partners, including Fáilte Ireland and the OPW to develop the Ormond Castle Quarter, new visitor accommodation and cultural activities to support the tourism industry in the town.	Water-based activities may also have negative implications on water quality (River Suir SAC).	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+	0
Objective 4G	Engage with the local community and other relevant stakeholders to develop tourism projects, activity-based tourism and water-based activities.		+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+	0

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[illegible]

Sustainable Communities

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 5.1	Support new development and growth in the town and within the identified ‘Neighbourhoods’, in accordance with the principles for each ‘Neighbourhood’ as set out in Section 5.1.1, ensuring appropriate residential densities on central areas in accordance with the relevant s28 planning guidelines.	This policy supports the sustainable development of residential areas in the Plan Area - which has the potential to lead to positive effects on population and human health. Inappropriate development of such development has the potential to generate unintended adverse effects on population and human health or residential amenity. This objective supports the carrying out of development (e.g. residential), which will have construction and operational phase effects on a range of environmental receptors (e.g. through dust, noise, visual impacts, aqueous emission).	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	0	-
Policy 5.2	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of ‘New Residential’ zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamauck Road. A masterplan must provide 1) for a coordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; and 2) an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery. Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be	This policy supports the carrying out of Residential development on the northern side of Coolnamuck Road. Lands in this area has been re-zoned from Agriculture to Residential to support the fulfilment of this objective. This re-zoning is supported by Serviced Land Assessment. The re-zoned site is a fully serviced site, and the re-zoning allows for meeting the quantum of land required for residential development under the CDP. The preparation of a masterplan for this residential development - with integrated environmental considerations - is likely to contribute to the carrying out of high-quality development at this location and create have positive effects on various environmental receptors (e.g. local people, communities, visual amenity, biodiversity etc.). This policy expressly supports residential development. The construction phases of this development has the potential to	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	0	-

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands.	result in environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, that may affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, material assets (e.g. water & wastewater infrastructure), landscape character and visual amenity.											
Policy 5.3	Support new dwellings on lands zoned for 'Town Environs' where the applicant meets (i) an 'Economic Need' (see TCDP Table 5.3 and Planning Policy 5 - 11), and there is no availability of alternative sites OR (ii) a 'Social Need' (see TCDP Table 5.3 and Planning Policy 5 - 11), where the proposed site has been in the ownership of immediate family members for a minimum of 10 years, and there is no availability of alternative sites. An existing and/or shared domestic dwelling entrance of the applicant's family dwelling should be used, where practicable, and it will meet sightline requirements set out in TCDP Volume 3, Appendix 6, Section 6.1 Road Design and Visibility at a Direct Access.1	This policy supports the development of new dwellings on lands zoned for 'Town Environs' in the Plan Area - which has the potential to lead to positive effects for people, local communities and the local economy. The policy provides a framework for ensuring such development is sustainable and justified in the context of proper planning. Inappropriate development of such development has the potential to generate unintended adverse effects on population and human health or residential amenity. This objective supports the carrying out of development (e.g. residential), which will have construction and operational phase effects on a range of environmental receptors.	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	0

[illegible]

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Objective 5A	Support the local community and relevant sectors in engaging in programmes such as ‘the SEAI Sustainable Energy Community’ through the provisions of the Tipperary Climate Action Plan and Delivering Climate Action 2030 (CCMA, 2021). In preparing sectoral adaptation plans and sustainable energy and climate action initiatives, including in the preparation of an Energy Master Plan and in the identification and use of local renewable energy sources.	This objective is in support of the aims and objectives of renewable energy programmes and resources. The preparation and implementation of sustainable energy and climate action initiatives and an Energy Master Plan for the Plan Area will empower the Plan area to meet the national renewable energy targets and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This has positive implications for air and climate, population and human health, and material assets. The objective supports use of local renewable energy sources which will empower the local community by making them self-sufficient, reducing reliance and costs. In the absence of mitigation, the objective could support the carrying out of renewable energy development which could have negative environmental effects, including impacts on population and human health (due to solar panel glint and glare, for example), biodiversity impacts, and impacts on the water or soils environment (due to development construction phase run-off of silt or cement based material, for example).	+/-	+/-	-	-	0	0	+/-	-	+	0	+
Objective 5B	Develop, in conjunction with the Council’s Active Travel Team, interconnectivity and linkages within, and between the neighbourhoods as identified in Section 5.1.1 and the town centre, the train station, employment areas and local schools.	This objective supports the development of active travel infrastructure which will likely promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes within the local community. This policy has the potential to encourage modal shift and the reduction of vehicle related emissions, benefiting climate. It is also likely to have positive environmental effects on population and human health and material assets. This objective supports the carrying out of linear development that has the potential to result in adverse construction and	+/-	-	-	+	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+	+/-

[illegible]

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Objective 5G	Support educational, community-led and cultural projects which enhance the well-being of residents of the town and protect existing community uses and sporting facilities.	This engagement-based objective will promote awareness and the protection of community and sporting facilities, and cultural and architectural assets in the Plan area. This will have positive effects on population and human health, material assets and cultural heritage.	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Objective 5H	Seek the development of additional recreational and amenity spaces in Carrickbeg.	These objectives seek to improve access to public open space in the town. It has the potential to enhance recreation and amenity value in town, generating positive effects for local people and communities and material assets (through the enhancement of recreation and amenity assets).											
Objective 5I	Support access to public open space along the Glen River, at the Duck Pond and along the River Suir.	The deliberate development and provision of access routes to public open space in the vicinity of these areas may generate development related impacts (e.g., land-take, polluting run-off, noise, dust, light etc.) that affect ecological sensitivities associated with the areas, including important habitat and species and the Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives of the Lower River Suir SAC. An increase in visitor access to sensitive areas may contribute to recreation pressures on biodiversity receptors also.	+	-	0	-	0	+	-	-	0	+	0

Transport and Connectivity

[illegible]

[illegible]

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 6.4	Support the sequential development of lands zoned for development, and to ensure that provision is made for the orderly expansion into areas that may be zoned in the future. In assessing new planning applications, and on a case-by-case basis, the Council may require the maintenance of a corridor to provide for future connectivity with adjoining un-zoned lands.	This policy seeks to support development at lands zoned for development at appropriate scales. This policy supports the carrying out of development that has the potential to result in adverse construction and operation effects on a range of environmental components.	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	0
Policy 6.5	Preserve and safeguard the Route Corridor for the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme (Major National Road Project) and support and prioritise the implementation of the scheme.	This policy will ensure that there are no conflicts between the proposed N24 Project by providing land-use guidance with the prioritisation of existing and vital transport corridors. This policy supports a strategic transport infrastructure project that has the potential to create good connections between settlement in the region and generate positive effects for people, communities and the local economy. The policy supports the carrying out of a large-scale, strategic linear development projects. Such development has the potential to impact on various environmental components during construction (i.e. through land-take, noise, dust, changes in the hydrological or soils environment etc.) and during its operation (i.e. through air emissions, noise, etc.)	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	0

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 6.6	Support, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the development of a third river crossing to the west of town, subject to the identification of a need for such transport-related infrastructure.	This policy will improve transport assets and connectivity within the Plan area, which will generate positive environmental effects for population and human health and material assets. The policy supports significant development adjacent to the Lower River Suir SAC and water body, and the construction and operation phases of this development may generate adverse impacts on a range of environmental receptors in the absence of mitigation. The objective has the potential to result in adverse construction and operational phase environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, that may affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, landscape character and visual amenity.	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	0	0
Policy 6.7	Support the development of Carrick-on-Suir Rail Station and encourage associated uses.	The enhancement of public transport facilities has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the Plan area, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to significant positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		Works involved in the development of the rail station may generate construction related effects (e.g., noise, dust, polluting run-off) that could affect a range of environmental components such as the water, air or noise environment, population and human health, and built heritage aspects of the existing station.											
Policy 6.8	Safeguard the N24 and require new development proposals on or affecting national roads within the Plan area to have regard to national, regional and local policies and guidelines as set out in Section 6.5.	This policy ensures alignment of development proposals affecting national roads with higher order policies and guidelines. This policy seeks to support and promote sustainable travel and transportation in development planning and good transport planning and development generally. The policy does not expressly support any development. It has the potential to generate positive effects for population and human health and material assets through the delivery of development that integrates well with national routes from a transport design/planning perspective.	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
Objective 6A	Actively seek funding for investment in active travel and public transport in the town in line with the provisions of the Sustainable Travel Plan as outlined in Appendix 2 (and any review thereof).	This objective will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. This objective will support the development of transport infrastructure that promote sustainable transport and travel options for the local community. Implementation of this policy will have positive environmental effects on population and human health, air quality, material assets and climate.	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Objective 6B	Work in partnership with TII and regional stakeholders to deliver the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme as part of the upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford.	This objective will ensure that there are no conflicts between the proposed N24 Project by providing land-use guidance with the prioritisation of existing and vital transport corridors. This policy supports a strategic transport infrastructure project that has the potential to create good connections between settlement in the region and generate positive effects for people, communities and the local economy. The objective supports the carrying out of a large-scale, strategic linear development projects. Such development has the potential to impact on various environmental components during construction (i.e. through land-take, noise, dust, changes in the hydrological or soils environment etc.) and during its operation (i.e. through air emissions, noise, etc.)	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	0	0
Objective 6C	Collaborate with the NTA and Irish Rail to consider how the rail service, infrastructure and facilities can be better tailored to the needs of the community including passengers commuting to Waterford City for work or education.	These objectives are centred around the enhancement of the public transport network providing links between key settlements in the Plan Area. Further augmentation to the public transport network is proposed to be done in collaboration with the NTA and Irish Rail to improve cross-county linkages.											
Objective 6D	Collaborate with the NTA, national and local bus service providers to consider how the bus service, infrastructure and facilities can be better tailored to the needs of the community, including for a consideration of the nature and location of public bus stops, and improved connectivity and parking at the Rail Station.	The objectives will have positive effects on population and human health, material assets, air quality and climate. The enhancement of the public transport network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to significant positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		reduction targets and requirements.											
Objective 6E	Achieve a modal shift in transport modes as set out in the Sustainable Travel Plan (Appendix 2) through collaboration with the community and transport sectors over the life time of this LAP.	This engagement-related objective will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. The objective will underpin and support modal shift within the Plan area. Implementation of this policy will have positive environmental effects on population and human health, air quality, material assets and climate.	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+
Objective 6F	Control the proliferation of non-road traffic signage on and adjacent to national roads within the LAP area in accordance with TII Policy on Provision of Tourist & Leisure Signage on National Roads (March 2011) and Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012).	This objective is likely to have positive environmental effects on visual amenity and tourism.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Objective 6G	Seek opportunities to improve permeability in existing developed areas in accordance with NTA's Permeability Best Practice Guide, and where the opportunity exists, require that new development incorporates pedestrian and cycle routes to increase permeability for walking and cycling within the neighbourhoods identified in Figure 9	The objective will underpin and support modal shift within the Plan area. Implementation of this policy will have positive environmental effects on population and human health, air quality, material assets and climate. Adherence to the NTA's Permeability Best Practice Guide will ensure the prevention and/or minimisation of adverse effects on the environment components such as population and human health	+/-	-	-	+	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+	+/-

[illegible]

Recognising Our Local Heritage

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 7.1	Protect and conserve the integrity, ecological and biodiversity value of the River Suir, the Glen River and the Lingaun River and the associated riparian zones as they run through the town. Ensure that any development proposals within or adjacent to the rivers are appropriately assessed to ensure the protection of water quality and river access.	The policy is centred around protection of the rivers Suir, Glen, Lingaun and the associated riparian zones by ensuring that development proposals situated near any of the watercourses are subject to the appropriate planning and environmental assessments. This will have positive implications for various environmental receptors, including water, soils and geology and biodiversity, flora and fauna, the landscape and population and human health.	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0
Policy 7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental and assessment.	The policy pertains to the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir. The project involves paddling trails and a cycle route, which will serve as recreational amenities for users, resulting in positive effects on population and human health, and tourism and recreation. The development will have positive effects on material assets of the Plan Area through the creation of community infrastructure. The policy supports the carrying out of linear development, which has the potential to result, in the absence of mitigation, in environmental effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, the soils and water environments and air quality through its construction and operational phase environmental effects. The policy conditions the requirement to ensure appropriate planning and assessment is undertaken for the supports infrastructure project, however.	+	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+	+	0

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 7.3	a) Support the retention of trees of significant amenity value and require public realm proposals to include for urban greening that is appropriate to the character of the area, provides for urban shading, supports biodiversity and provides an appropriate visual setting.	This policy revolves around the conservation of existing trees, particularly those of amenity value, in the Plan Area. The policy also encourages the incorporation of new trees in any development proposal. This will result in the preservation of the ecosystem and result in positive effects on a range of receptors, particularly local biodiversity, the water and soils environments, and air quality. There will also be additional positive effects on population and human health and climate through reductions in the urban island effects. The retention of existing and addition of new trees furthermore contributes to the local landscape. However, it is recommended as an enhancement measure that any tree species proposed as part of this measure should be of native seed stock to best support local wildlife and prevent the accidental introduction of invasive species.											
	b) Allow the removal of mature trees, or trees of significant amenity value, only where it can be demonstrated that the loss of the tree(s) is outweighed by the wider public benefits of the proposal. c) Require development proposals which affect trees of significant amenity value to identify trees to be retained, and methods for the protection of those trees to be retained during and post-construction to be set out within development proposals. d) Require new development proposals to incorporate the provision of trees, in accordance with the requirements of Section 3.7 of the Development Management standards of the TCDP.		+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
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Policy 7.4	Support the full implementation of the projects and actions outlined in the Carrick-on-Suir Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2028 and any subsequent biodiversity actions introduced by the Council for the area, including actions within the forthcoming Tipperary County Council Biodiversity Plan.	The Carrick-on-Suir Biodiversity Action Plan is aimed at guiding the local community and stakeholders in their efforts to protect and restore natural heritage and maximise ecosystem benefits. In a similar vein, the Tipperary County Council Biodiversity Plan will aim to protect biodiversity at a county level. The relevant actions and projects contained within both Plans will result in positive effects on the surrounding ecosystem and receptors, including biodiversity, flora and fauna, air quality, the water and soils environments, land-use and landscape. The enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage will have positive effects for population and human health, tourism and recreation, and cultural heritage. It is also expected that there will be indirect positive effects that will contribute to climate.	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
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Policy 7.5	Protect the designated natural heritage sites and sites of high ecological value within the plan area including the Alluvial Wet Woodland habitat on the Islands of the River Suir.	The protection of designated natural heritage sites and sites of high ecological value has direct positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, air quality, the soils and water environments, land-use and landscape. The conservation of the heritage sites and sites of interest will have positive effects on population and human health, tourism and recreation and cultural heritage. There will be additional, indirect positive effects on climate. No adverse effects on any environmental receptor has been identified.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
Policy 7.6	Require the introduction of appropriate species of new street trees in urban development proposals and other urban greening measures, where these can be practically implemented.	The introduction of trees in urban development proposals as a greening measure has positive implications for a range of environmental receptors. Through supporting the ecosystem, this policy will have positive effects for local biodiversity, air quality, the water and soils environment, and the local landscape. Trees have been shown to reduce the urban heat island effect, which has positive effects for population and human health and climate. However, it is recommended as an enhancement measure that any tree species proposed as part of this measure should be of native seed stock to best support local wildlife and prevent the accidental introduction of invasive species.	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+
Policy 7.7	Safeguard the setting and character of Ormond Castle, including the Castle Park, amenity lands and riverscape.	The Ormond Castle is an important historic feature in the Plan Area. The policy is centred around the protection of the manor house and its surroundings which serve as an amenity for visitors and users. This has direct positive effects for population and human health, cultural heritage and tourism and recreation. The	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		protection of Castle Park and surrounding amenity lands and riverscape has additional positive effects on local biodiversity, soils and water environments, and landscape. No adverse effects or interactions have been identified in relation to any environmental receptor.											
Policy 7.8	Preserve and enhance the character of the designated Carrick-on-Suir ACA, in accordance with the Carrick-on-Suir ACA Statement of Character (Appendix 6) and the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2011).	The Carrick-on-Suir ACA is located in the town centre, along Main Street (R835 and R676) and Bridge Street, north of the River Suir. The ACA is characteristic of Carrick-on-Suir's townscape and is protected under provisions of the County Development Plan. The policies will have positive effects on the cultural heritage and landscape / townscape of the Plan Area. The preservation of the built and existing structures contributes positively to the Plan Area's material assets, which in turn has a positive effect on the local community (population and human health), and tourism and recreation.	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
Policy 7.9	Require that the views and streetscapes as listed in Section 7.2.4 shall be given due consideration as part of the design process for new development to the satisfaction of the Council. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) or Landscape Value and Impact Assessment (LVIA) may be required to demonstrate development proposals accord with this policy.		+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
Objective 7A	Support and work with the local community, and other stakeholders in the development of blue and green infrastructure in the town, including the enhancement of the biodiversity and conservation value of the River Suir, Glen River and Lingaun River.	The delivery of blue and green infrastructure will have positive effects on users of the infrastructure, therefore, receptors such as population and human health and tourism and recreation. The objectives will have positive effects on landscape through enhancement, and material assets through the creation of community infrastructure. The objectives however support the carrying out of development,	+	+/-	+	0	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+	+	0

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Objective 7B	Work in partnership with stakeholders and the local community in the delivery of projects for Carrick-on-Suir in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways (TCC, 2018) and the proposed Tipperary Greenway and Trail Strategy and seek funding opportunities as they arise.	which has the potential, in the absence of good design, proper planning and mitigation, to result in construction and operational phase impacts of environmental receptors.	+	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+	+	0
Objective 7C	Support the actions and objectives of the Carrick-on-Suir Local Biodiversity Plan and the forthcoming County Tipperary Biodiversity Plan.	The Carrick-on-Suir Biodiversity Action Plan is aimed at guiding the local community and stakeholders in their efforts to protect and restore natural heritage and maximise ecosystem benefits. In a similar vein, the Tipperary County Council Biodiversity Plan will aim to protect biodiversity at a county level. The relevant actions and projects contained within both Plans will result in positive effects on the surrounding ecosystem and receptors, including biodiversity, flora and fauna, air quality, the water and soils environments, land-use and landscape. The enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage will have positive effects for population and human health, tourism and recreation, and cultural heritage. It is also expected that there will be indirect positive effects that will contribute to climate. No adverse effects have been identified in relation to this objective.	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Objective 7D	Ensure that new development, extensions, renovation works and infill development within or adjacent to the ACA is sympathetic to the distinctive character of the area and enhances the special character and visual setting of the Carrick-on-Suir ACA.	The objective is designed in the best interests of the Carrick-on-Suir ACA, where works being carried within and around the ACA are undertaken in a manner which enhances the uniqueness of the townscape. The objective has positive effects on cultural heritage, and landscape/townscape. No interactions with other environmental receptors can be identified.	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 7E	Ensure that Carrick-on-Suir remains a member of the Irish Walled Towns Network. Protect the town walls, have regard to the Town Wall Conservation Management and Implementation Plan and secure funding for conservation work to the Walls.	The town walls of Carrick-on-Suir are an important historic feature from the medieval times. Carrick-on-Suir became a member of Irish Walls Town Network in 2014, with vital work undertaken on the surviving sections of the medieval town walls to ensure its survival in the future.	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
Objective 7F	Mark the original route of the town walls (particularly in the Castle Park) with signage, planting or ornate paving stones as appropriate.	The objective intends to protect and conserve the town walls, with regard to the Town Wall Conservation Management and Implementation Plan and through funding for conservation and restoration works. The objective has positive effects for cultural heritage, landscape/townscape, and material assets. There will be indirect positive effects on the local community and tourists (i.e., population and human health, and tourism and recreation) through the continuation of heritage.	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0

Infrastructure, Energy and Utilities

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 8.1	Support the use of renewable energy technologies at appropriate scales in residential, commercial and community developments and support the principle of on-site energy generation for self-consumption.	This policy support of aims and objectives of renewable energy programmes and resources put in place by the government. The integration of appropriately- scaled renewable technologies in developments will support self-sufficiency with regards to energy requirements and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This has positive implications for air and climate, population and human health, and material assets.	+/-	0	-	-	0	0	+	0	+	0	+
Policy 8.2	Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water service; permit new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and waste water supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Eireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Eireann's Connections and Developer Service process.	The policy supports and protects the existing capacities in water and wastewater infrastructure in the Plan Area, and intends to deliver upgrades where required in accordance with Uisce Éireann policies. The policy supports sustainable development and sustainable utilisation of water service assets in accordance with relevant requirements. Appropriately managing and enhancing the water service networks has the potential to generate positive effects for population and human health, material assets, and the soils and water environments. The policy is broadly supportive of the carrying out of development (e.g., water and wastewater infrastructure) that may generate	+/-	-	0	-	+/-	0	-	+/-	+/-	0	0

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		adverse environmental effects. The construction of such infrastructure may generate construction phase impacts (e.g., land-take, noise, dust, polluting SW run-off) that could affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the noise environment, the water environment, air quality and biodiversity). Such infrastructure may also generate adverse operational phase effects on the environment. The improper operation of water supply infrastructure may result in excessive abstraction affecting groundwater and the water environment generally. The improper operation of wastewater infrastructure may lead to the release of polluting wastewater discharges to the environment.											
Policy 8.3	Require that all development proposals in Carrick-on-Suir integrate SUDS and nature-based solutions to SUDS as part of an overall sustainable urban drainage and urban greening approach, in accordance with the guidance documents set out in Section 8.3, unless they are demonstrated to be operationally unfeasible to the satisfaction of the Council.	In and of itself - this policy has the potential to promote sustainable development and proper management of surface water. It has the potential to generate positive effects for the soil and water environments, population and human health (through minimization of flood risk), biodiversity, flora and fauna (through the promotion of NBS and visual amenity (through the creation and enhancement of natural settings), for example. It will improve the standard of development in the plan area generally	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 8.4	Require proposals for development to comply with requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines (DEHLG, 2009) (and any updated thereof) including providing detailed design specifications as may be required to facilitate the impact of development. The following provisions apply: a) Extensions of existing uses or minor development within flood risk areas will be supported, provided they do not: obstruct important flow paths; introduce a number of people into flood risk areas; entail the storage of hazardous substances; have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities; or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. b) Applications for development on previously developed lands within Flood Zones A or B, shall be subject to site specific flood risk assessment and shall provide details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning	The policy is centred around requiring development proposals to comply with the principles and requirements contained within Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines. This would involve (inter alia) carrying out flood risk assessments for developments situated in Flood Zones A or B and undertaking measures to ensure flood risk for existing developments does not increase. The policy is supportive of population and human health, material assets and water. No conflicts or adverse effects on other environmental receptors have been identified from this policy.	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+

[illegible]

[illegible]

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 8.5	Require new development proposals to safeguard the strategic function of the Carrick-on-Suir Waste Water Treatment Plant	The policy is centred around protecting the strategic functions of the existing Carrick-on-Suir Waste Water Treatment Plant. In doing so, the policy is positive for population and human health, material assets, and the soils and water environments by preventing inappropriate development that may place the WWTP under additional pressures which could lead to a range of adverse effects.	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
Policy 8.6	Support local schools, environmental and community groups in their efforts to reduce waste, encourage reuse and the circular economy through education and awareness programmes and where available, through the provision of grant funding.	The policy is centred around education and awareness regarding waste management and reducing of waste in the local community through the delivery of programmes in community institutions and groups. This will have a positive effect across a range of environmental effects, particularly for population and human health, climate, land-use, and material assets. There will likely be indirect positive effects on ecological and interacting receptors such as biodiversity, flora and fauna, the water and soils environments, and air quality. As the policy does not propose any works, no adverse effects have been identified.	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Policy 8.7	Require, as part of development proposals on or within the vicinity of the former municipal landfill site, the developer to implement mitigation measures as deemed necessary, to offset any potential risk which may result from the closed landfill.	This policy is centred around the protection of new development or sensitive environmental receptors on or within the vicinity of the former municipal landfill site. This will have a positive effect across a range of environmental components, particularly for population and human health, landscape, soils, air quality and noise, and water quality.	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0
Objective 8A	Continually progress, in conjunction with Uisce Éireann, water supply and sewer rehabilitation activities, extension of the municipal waste water network, capital maintenance activities, and to continue to monitor the performance of the networks to ensure that the most urgent works are prioritised as required.	These objectives are centred around cooperation with Uisce Éireann to ensure water and wastewater capacities in the Plan Area, and progress projects that augment these capacities to accommodate additional pressures from population growth. The objectives support the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation. This is positive for population and human health, material assets and water.	+/-	-	0	-	+/-	0	-	+/-	+/-	0	0
Objective 8B	Support Uisce Éireann in surface water separation works to alleviate system surcharge and facilitate additional foul network capacity.	The objectives however support the carrying out of development (e.g. water and wastewater infrastructure), that, in the absence of good design and appropriate mitigation, may generate adverse environmental effects. These include but are not limited to construction phase impacts (e.g., land-take, noise, dust, polluting SW run-off) that could affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the noise environment, the water environment, air quality and biodiversity).	+/-	-	0	-	+/-	0	-	+/-	+/-	0	0

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		Such infrastructure may also generate adverse operational phase effects on the environment. The improper operation of water supply infrastructure may result in excessive abstraction affecting groundwater and the water environment generally. The improper operation of wastewater infrastructure may lead to the release of polluting wastewater discharges to the environment.											
Objective 8C	Integrate a Nature Based Approach to SUDS, with a focus on biodiversity as part of new public realm and public sector development in the town.	In and of itself - this policy has the potential to promote sustainable development and proper management of surface water. It has the potential to generate positive effects for the soil and water environments, population and human health (through minimization of flood risk), biodiversity, flora and fauna (through the promotion of NBS and visual amenity (through the creation and enhancement of natural settings), for example. It will improve the standard of development in the plan area generally	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0
Objective 8D	Support the sustainable management of waste and enable a significant reduction in the production of waste in Carrick-on-Suir, in line with the principles of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 (and any review thereof).	The objective pertains to the waste management within the Plan Area in line with principles outlined in the National Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy. The aim of this would be to move away from waste disposal and towards preserving resources by creating a circular economy, through increased regulation and measures across various waste streams. This has positive implications across a range of environmental receptors, particularly for climate in the longer term.	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Objective 8E	Support and work in co-operation with the Office of Public in the design, development and implementation of upgrades to the Suir River/ Carrick-on Suir Flood Relief Scheme.	The objective is centred around the Flood Relief Scheme in the Plan Area, which provides protection to properties through flood defence walls, embankments, localised floating barriers and pumping stations for storm water. Ongoing maintenance and upgrades will ensure long-term protection to material assets and the local community, which results in positive effects on population and human health, water, soils and geology, and material assets and in the longer term, climate through the avoidance of damage to the built environment. The objective support the carrying out of development of flood defence infrastructure, which has the potential to result in construction phase effects on some environmental receptors such as water quality, biodiversity (e.g., riparian corridors), and European sites.	+/-	-	-	0	+/-	+	-	+/-	+	0	+/-
Objective 8F	Support any further remediation of the historic municipal landfill in Carrickbeg, if deemed necessary.	This objective supports the remediation of a historical landfill site and is likely to benefit the environment, including positive effects to biodiversity, landscape, soil, air quality, water and human health. Any works involved in the remediation of the historical landfill site could lead to impacts on biodiversity, soil, water quality, and air quality and noise.	+/-	+/-	0	0	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	0	0	+

Monitoring and Evaluation

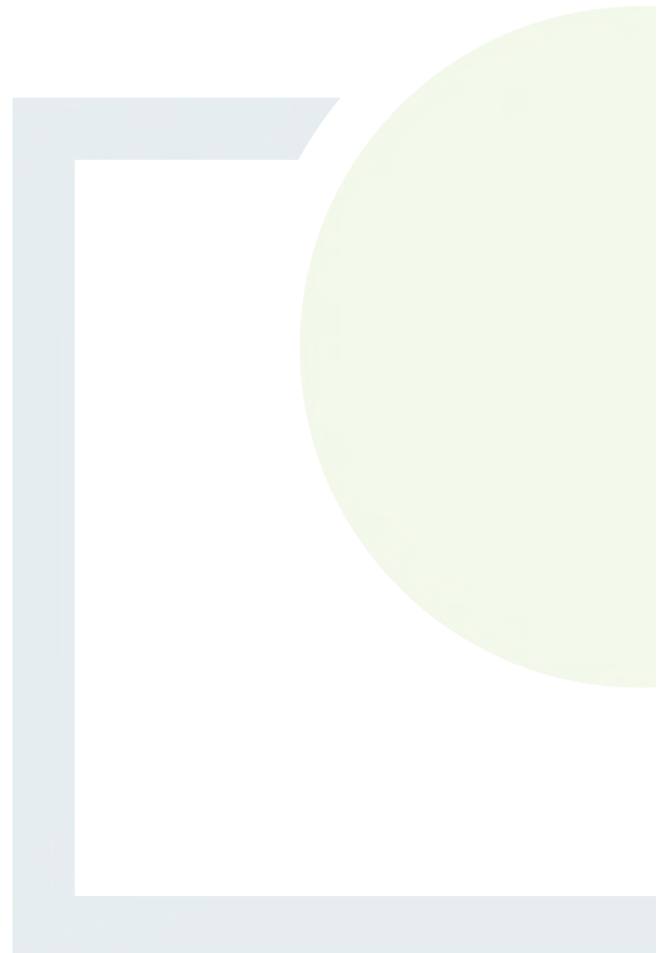
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DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 4

SEA Screening for the
Proposed Material Alterations
to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir &
Environs Local Area Plan



STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

SEA Screening Report for Material Amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

Prepared for:

Tipperary County Council



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SEA SCREENING REPORT FOR MATERIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT CARRICK-ON-SUIR & ENVIRONS LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025 - 2031

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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1	Final	RD/NSC	RD	BG	25/02/2025

Client: Tipperary County Council

Keywords: Strategic Environmental Assessment, SEA, Screening, Local Area Plan, LAP.

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this SEA Screening Report for Material Amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Tipperary County Council (TCC) prepared the Draft Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 (herein referred to as the 'Draft Plan' or 'Draft LAP').

The Draft LAP outlines the local spatial planning framework for Carrick-on-Suir and defines planning policies and objectives unique to the town. Planning policies will inform private and public sector local development proposals, and planning objectives represent the key local objectives of the Council to be achieved over the lifetime of the LAP.

The Draft LAP was published for public consultation. A Chief Executive Report for the Draft LAP was subsequently prepared. Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft LAP were set out in this document. This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Material Amendments to the Draft LAP.

1.2 SEA Process to Date

A draft version of the LAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LAP on the environmental baseline and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimize identified environmental effects. This SEA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive and transposing national legislation.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) was also undertaken on the Draft LAP in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing national legislation. A Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered the effects of the Draft LAP on European sites was therefore prepared also. This report suitably informed the SEA process.

A period of consultation has been undertaken in relation to the Draft LAP, the Draft SEA Environmental Report and the Draft NIR. Statutory environmental authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public were invited to make submissions in connection with the Draft LAP and the associated Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR.

All submissions made on this documentation have been reviewed by TCC. These submissions were taken into consideration. TCC have prepared a Chief Executive Report on the submissions received. This document details the submissions received, TCC responses to the submissions, and Proposed Material Amendments arising following consideration of the submissions.

An SEA Screening Assessment has been completed for the Proposed Material Amendments. This report documents the assessment undertaken.



1.3 SEA Environmental Report

A Draft SEA Environmental Report has been produced for the Draft LAP. This report contains the information specified in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive. A checklist of information included in this SEA Environmental Report under the SEA Directive and transposing national legislation is provided in Table 1-1. This checklist cross-references the sections in the report where information can be found.

The information contained in this Draft SEA Environmental Report has been referred to during the carrying out of the SEA Screening Assessment documented in this report.

Table 1-1: Draft SEA Environmental Report Checklist

Information Required	Relevant Section of the SEA Environmental Report
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Draft Plan and relationship with other relevant plans.	Section 2 and Appendix 1.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Draft Plan.	Section 4.
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 4.
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Draft Plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive.	Section 4.
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the Draft Plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 5.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 6.
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.
Interrelationships between each Environmental Component.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan.	Section 8.
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Draft Plan.	Section 10.
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Front section



2. SEA SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Overview of the SEA Process

The SEA Directive – Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *‘to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development’*¹

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental consequences of implementing Plan or Programme (P/P) initiatives prepared by authorities at a national, regional or local level or which have been prepared for adoption through legislative means.

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government’s (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *‘formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme’*.

The SEA process comprises the following steps:

- Screening – the process whereby a decision is made on whether a particular P/P (or Material Amendments to a Draft Plan in this case), other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would require SEA.

If SEA is required following the Screening Determination, the following steps are necessary:

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

¹ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



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

2.2 Overview of the SEA Screening Process

The first step of the SEA process is to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of a P/P (or Proposed Material Amendments this case).

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

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

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



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

2.3 Legislative Context

The screening stage of SEA is primarily addressed through Article 2 and Article 3 of the SEA Directive and Annex II which sets out the considerations in relation to determining significant environmental effects.

Article 2(a) of the SEA Directive establishes two cumulative conditions which P/P must satisfy in order for the further elements of the SEA Directive to be applicable to them:

- They must have been prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure, by a parliament or government; and
- They must be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

If these conditions are not satisfied, the measure is not regarded as a P/P which comes within the scope of the SEA Directive.

Once a P/P has been determined to be within the scope of the SEA Directive, Article 3 sets out the criteria for determining which P/P require environmental assessment. Again, several conditions must be met. A P/P must (a) belong to the list of sectors and (b) set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive, or (c) require an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).



Annex II of the SEA Directive presents the criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of the Directive. The significance of effects is determined with reference to the type and nature of the P/P, its position in the planning hierarchy and its influence on other P/P. It also has regard to the nature of the effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment as well as the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects. Cumulative and transboundary issues must also be considered.

The SEA Directive is transposed into Irish legislation by the following:

- [S.I. No. 435 of 2004](#) (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 200 of 2011](#) (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011)
- [S.I. No. 436 of 2004](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 201 of 2011](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

This SEA Screening has been carried out in accordance with above legislation.

2.4 Relevant SEA Guidance

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

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Resource Manual for Planning Authorities Integration of SEA legislation with procedures for Land Use Plans (EPA, 2015)
- Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening (EPA, 2021).
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2022)
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022)
- EPA SEA Pack (EPA, 2023)
- EPA SEA Process Checklist (EPA, 2023)
- SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources (EPA, 2025)

2.5 Appropriate Assessment and relationship to SEA Screening

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

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

Article 3(c) of the SEA Directive requires that an SEA is carried out on a P/P wherever such a P/P requires an AA under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).



A 'Report to Inform AA Screening' has also been prepared for the Proposed Material Amendments in this case in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The Report concludes the following:

'It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have any significant effect on European sites.'

2.6 SEA Screening of Plan Amendments

The following has been considered when carrying out the SEA Screening Assessment of Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Plan.

- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan (as already assessed)
- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the amendments.
- The Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) defined in Section 5 of the SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Plan that the Proposed Material Amendments must accord with and support.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 8 of Draft SEA Environmental Report and Section 5 of the Draft NIR for the Draft Plan.

The amendments are therefore considered in relation to the environmental assessment undertaken for the Draft Plan and environmental mitigation already defined and integrated into the Plan.



3. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING

This section of the report documents the SEA Screening undertaken.

Stage 1 Applicability Analysis was undertaken initially. This analysis is detailed in Section 3.1 of this report (Table 3-1 and Table 3-2).

Stage 2 Screening Analysis was then undertaken. This analysis is detailed in Section 3.2 of this report (Table 3-3, Table 3-4 and Table 3-5).

3.1 Stage 1 - SEA Applicability Analysis

Table 3-1: SEA Applicability Analysis

SEA Applicability Analysis	
Status of Plan/Programme Maker	
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes. The Plan Amendments have been prepared by Tipperary County Council - a local authority - in accordance with the requirements of Planning legislation.
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes. The Plan Amendments are being made under Planning legislation.
Nature of the Plan/Programme	
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	Yes. The Plan Amendments relate to a land use plan.
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	Yes. The Plan Amendments relate to a plan that provides a framework for development consent
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	A 'Report to Inform AA Screening' has been completed for the Proposed Material Amendments arising following the Plan/SEA consultation period. This report concluded the following: <i>'It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have any significant effect on European sites.'</i>



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

Table 3-2: Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis

Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis	
Applicability Analysis Criterion	Outcome (Yes or No)
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	Yes
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	Yes
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	No
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No
Conclusion	
Having regard to the SEA Screening steps identified by the EPA guidance in Figure 2-1, Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis is required to whether the Proposed Material Amendments in this case are likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out on the Proposed Material Amendments.	



3.2 Stage 2 - SEA Screening Analysis

To inform the Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis, an evaluation of the potential environmental implications of the Proposed Material Amendments to Plan policies and objectives has been carried out. This evaluation is presented in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications

Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Policy 2.1	Amend Policy 2.1 as follows: Require the retrofitting of existing structures on brownfield sites, unless it is demonstrated that retrofitting is unfeasible, or redevelopment of the site would provide positive carbon impact through the re-design, construction and use stages of a new building, compared with retrofitting - having due regard to the need to conserve protected structures, archaeological monuments , historic fabric generally, and protected species of biodiversity value.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the policy. It does not materially change the policy. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Policy 3.6	Amend Policy 3.6 as follows: Support new development which enhances the setting of Carrick-on-Suir town centre, including its architectural , archaeological and historical heritage and character, and facilitates compact growth, high quality urban design, connectivity and active travel as opportunities arise.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the policy. It does not materially change the policy. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Objective 3H	Add Objective to Section 3.7 as follows: Objective 3H Encourage and facilitate the reuse and regeneration of derelict buildings in the town centre for retail, commercial, residential, and other mixed uses and other strategic purposes, including car parking, and where necessary through appropriate legislative mechanisms/instruments and / or by supporting the progression and delivery of projects funded by the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and other appropriate funds.	This objective clarifies approaches to be used to promote regeneration. The environmental effects of policies/objectives supporting regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the SEA already. It will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 3G	Amend Objective 3G in Section 3.7 as follows: Identify suitable locations for car, campervan and coach parking to support businesses and grow tourism within the town, including on lands close to the Primary Care Centre and Ormond Castle with access off the existing road network. Also, to examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays - having due regard to the Sustainable Transport Plan and safety, along with the needs of businesses and traders in the town.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning and scope of the objective. It does not materially change the objective. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Objective 4F	Amend Objective 4F as follows: Work with project partners, including the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Fáilte Ireland and the OPW to develop the Ormond Castle Quarter, new visitor accommodation, cultural activities and events to support the tourism industry in the town.	This amendment clarifies project partners and the intended meaning of the objective (i.e. the carrying out of cultural activities, including events). It clarifies the legal requirement for works to Ormond Castle to be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments). The aim,	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Any works to Ormond Castle shall be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments).	focus, and scope of the objective has not materially changes. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Objective 4H	Amend Objective 4H as follows: Support and facilitate the development of a greenway connection between the Suir Blueway Tipperary and the Waterford Greenway, including improved or additional cycle and pedestrian links over the River Suir.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the objective. A variety of policies/objectives already considered and assessed support the development of active travel infrastructure and a crossing at the River Suir (e.g., 6.6, 7.2). A strong level of mitigatory policy has been integrated into the Plan to ensure the protection of the River Suir, including the River Suir Special Area of Conservation. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		The amendment does not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Objective 4K	Add Objective 4K Objective 4K Increase the tourist accommodation capacity of Carrick-on-Suir by supporting and facilitating the development of a diversity of tourist accommodation, and particularly hotel accommodation in the town centre.	This objective clarifies the approach toward promoting tourism accommodation in the town. Policy 9-1 of the Draft LAP already supports such tourism development, including accommodation. The effects of policy supportive of tourism development/accommodation, and associated tourism activity that may result in the town, have been fully assessed and mitigated against already under the SEA for the Draft Plan and the higher-order CDP) (See Objective 4G and CDP Policies 9-2, 9.-3). A robust framework for sustainable tourism development has been established in the Plan	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Objective 4L	Amend Objective 4I as follows: Build synergies between Carrick-on-Suir and the tourism assets of the Munster Vales, the Butler Trail, Thoroughbred County and Irelands Ancient East and promote and expand physical and cultural tourism linkages with neighbouring areas and towns including the 'Irish Walled Town Network'.	This is a minor edit that clarifies the scope of objective and the name of the Irish Walled Town Network. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Policy 5.2	Amend Policy 5.2 as follows: Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road. A masterplan must: 1) provide for a co-ordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability;	The amendment includes minor wording changes and clarifies the intended meaning of the Policy. It does not materially change the policy/ The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	2) provide an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery; and Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands. The masterplan must be informed and guided by all relevant environmental considerations, including the need to manage and mitigate (where necessary) the potential effects development in this area may have on the Lower River Suir SAC.				
Objective 5H	Seek the development of additional recreational and amenity spaces and associated car parking in Carrickbeg and on lands between Ormond Castle and adjacent to the River Suir, having due regard to environmental constraints and sensitivities in this area.	This amendment clarifies the scope of the amendment. Carrickbeg is situated adjacent to the River Suir. The effects of recreation development and associated ancillary development (and other forms of the development) occurring adjacent to	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		the River Suir have been fully assessed and mitigated against under the SEA already. Environmental mitigation has been integrated into the plan to ensure the appropriate protection of the River Suir, including the River Suir SAC (e.g., 5H, 7.1, 7.5 etc.) The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Objective 5J	Add Objective 5J to Section 5.6 as follows: Objective 5J Seek to provide appropriate amenity spaces or playgrounds in the Clairin and Green Hill Village areas.	The development of new amenity spaces or playground at these locations is unlikely to introduce any likely, significant effects, given the minor extent and scale of this development and the location of such development within residential estates. Such development will take place on low value amenity grassland.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Policy 6.9	Amend Policy 6.9 of the Draft LAP as follows: Policy 6.8 Safeguard the N24 and require new development proposals on or affecting national roads within the Plan area to have regard to national, regional and local policies and guidelines as set out in Section 6.5, and Policy 12 – 4 of the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028.	This amendment clarifies higher-order policy in the County Development Plan that must be considered when assessing development proposal effects on the N24. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Objective 6G	Amend Objective 6G of the Draft LAP as follows: Seek opportunities to improve permeability in existing developed areas in accordance with NTA's Permeability Best Practice Guide, and where the opportunity exists, require that new development incorporates pedestrian and cycle routes to increase permeability for walking and cycling within the neighbourhoods identified in Figure 8 and the wider area, and as outlined in Map 1 within Appendix 2 of this Plan.	This amendment clarifies the scope of the objective. It does change the scope of objective, however. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 6K	Add the following: Objective 6K: Investigate the feasibility of delivery a new vehicular street to the south of the Ormond Castle linking the Pill Road to the Town Centre.	This objectives supports the carrying out of a feasibility study. Such a study will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Policy 7.13	Amend Section 7.3 to add Policy 7.13 as follows: Seek to Preserve and protect trees and tree groupings as identified in Section 7.1.4 that are considered significant landscape features within the Plan area.	This Policy supports tree protection in the Plan area in accordance with higher-order plans and policy. It does not have the potential to result in any negative likely significant effects on the environment or European sites. The principle of protecting trees of amenity value and woodland has already been established under Policy 7.3.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Objective 7G	Amend Section 7.3 to add Objective 7G as follows: Review and update as appropriate the Record of Protected Structures for Carrick-on-Suir, and amalgamate the RPS for Carrick-on-Suir into the Record of Protected Structures for the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028.	This objective supports updating the Record of Protected Structures for Carrick-on-Suir. This will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 8E	Amend Objective 8E as follows: Support and work in co-operation with the Office of Public Works in the design, development, implementation and delivery of upgrades to the Suir River/ Carrick-on-Suir Flood Relief Scheme.	This amendment clarifies the intention of the objective. It does not materially change the aim and scope of the objective. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Policy 8.2	Amend Policy 8.2, as follows: Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water service; permit new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and waste water supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Éireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Éireann's Connections and Developer Service process.	This amendment clarifies the need to secure water and wastewater connections from Uisce Eireann. This will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	New connection applications to the public water and wastewater infrastructure should be submitted directly to Uisce Éireann.				
Policy 8.4(d)	Amend Policy 8.4(d), as follows: Require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A & B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works. These Flood Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events. The minimum design level requirements for fluvial flooding set out in Table 6.4 of the accompanying SFRA shall be employed.	This amendment clarifies the need to ensure adherence to the minimum design level requirements for fluvial flooding set out in Table 6.4. The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	The Flood Risk Assessments shall apply the precautionary approach recommended in the Guidelines and shall be informed by the advice on the expected impacts of climate change and the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management provided in the OPW's (2019) Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein.				
Appendix 3: Regeneration Sites	Addition of the following planning criteria to Site 1, Goldcrop; Site 2, Tirlan; Site 3, North Quay Site/ Strand Lane; and Site 5 North Quay / Strand Land. The capacity of the site should be maximised, and residential development of the site should accord with the residential densities set out in Section 3.3.3 of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities.	These additions support maximizing capacity at each of these development sites. The effects of compact growth and maximal regeneration at these sites have already been fully assessed and mitigated against under the SEA. A variety of mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan to ensure such development does not have adverse effects on the environment or European sites (e.g., 3E).	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Appendix 7: Town Centre First Plan	To include the Carrick-on-Suir Town Centre First Plan in its entirety, as indicated in the Draft Plan. The TCF Plan is appended to this document as Appendix A as a separate attachment in full.	The environmental effects of policies/objectives supporting regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the SEA already. The Town Centre First Plan is an extension to these policies/objectives, but it does not introduce any additional potential sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA already.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Appendix 10: SFRA – Section 6.7	Amend Section 6.7, as follows: It is noted that updates to the above documents and / or new published documents during the lifetime of the SFRA are to be implemented as part of Development Management where appropriate.	This amendment serves to reference the SuDS principles that are to be followed as part of any future development within Carrick-on-Suir. It clarifies the possibility of using of regional SuDs (as per DHLGH guidance)	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	The following sections outline SuDS principles that are to be followed as part of any future development within Carrick-on-Suir. Regional SuDS (i.e. catchment-wide rather than site-specific) could be considered through a Rainwater Management Plan for the settlement in line with the DHLGH guidance listed above which requires settlements / urban areas to undertake RMPs within a specified timeline.	The environmental effects of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the SEA already (see Policy 8.4). The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Appendix 10: SFRA – Section 2.6	Amend Section 2.6, by adding a note following Table 2.3 as follows: Note on Land Use Zoning Objectives and Matrix per Tipperary County Council: The limitation described in this note applies to a relatively small number of instances where Flood Risk Zones A and B overlap with certain Land Use Zoning objectives. Uses under all Land Use Zoning Objectives (apart from where the Justification	This amendment consists of the addition of a note clarifying the primacy of flood risk zones. The environmental effects of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the SEA already (see Policy 8.4). The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Plan has been passed) shall be limited to water compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B (as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines), and detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas. This limitation shall take primacy over any other provision relating to these land use zoning objectives.				
Appendix 10: SFRA – Justification Tests	The Justification tests in Appendix F of the SFRA to be updated. See amended justification tests appended to this document as Appendix B.	This amendment proposes updating the justification tests in the SFRA. The environmental effects of the adoption of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the SEA already (see Policy 8.4). The policy is centered around requiring development proposals to comply with the principles and requirements contained within Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines and has the potential to create positive effects.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		The amendment will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Land Use Zoning Map	Amend the zoning on the site of the new Gaelscoil development from 'Urban Core' to 'Community Services and Infrastructure'.	This amendment assigns an appropriate zoning objective for the new Gaelscoil development. It will not have any significant land use implications. This amendment does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA already.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
	Amend the zoning at a location in Carrickbeg on the R680 Waterford Road, to change the zoning objective of a parcel of land to the south East of the site. Zoning objective changes from New Residential to Town Environs	This amendment constitutes a minor zoning change. The principle of significant development taking place at this location has been established and assessed in the SEA already.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		It does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA already.			
	Amend the zoning of land at the park to the South East of Dillon Bridge from 'Community Services and Infrastructure' to 'Open Space and Recreation'.	This amendment is minor in nature and does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA already. It will minimize the extent of development taking place at this location.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis has been carried out to determine whether the Proposed Material Amendments are likely to result in significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out. This analysis is presented in Table 3-4 and Table 3-5. A summary of the assessment is presented in Table 3-6.

Table 3-4: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Environmental Effects - Characteristics of the Plan (Plan Amendment in this instance)

Potential Significant Effects	
Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:	
The degree to which the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance) sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	The Proposed Material Amendments relate to a Plan that sets a framework for development projects. The amendments are minor in nature however and do not alter the land use framework defined in the Draft Plan in a manner that has the potential to result in likely, significant environmental effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA already.
The degree to which the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance) influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The Proposed Material Amendments, in and of themselves, will have a negligible influence on other plans and programmes.
The relevance of the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance) for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The Proposed Material Amendments are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The changes made are consistent and harmonious with, and align with the intended effect of, existing Draft Plan Strategic Vision and Aims, and inter-related policies and objectives that sit within the Draft Plan, which are intended to promote sustainable development in the Plan area. The existing Draft Plan has been subject to environmental assessment. A strong level of environmental mitigation has already been embedded and integrated into the Draft Plan. The amendments will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA. There is no requirement to define additional environmental mitigation for the amendments.
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance).	The Proposed Material Amendments are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The amendments will not have any significant interaction, influence or impact on environmental problems affecting the area of the zone of influence of the Plan. They will not give rise to any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA, or cause or contribute to environmental problems.



Potential Significant Effects

Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:

The relevance of the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance) for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g., plans linked to waste-management or water protection)

The Proposed Material Amendments are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The changes made are consistent and harmonious with, and align with the intended effect of, existing Draft Plan Strategic Vision and Aims, and inter-related policies and objectives that sit within the Draft Plan. The changes will not have a likely significant effect on any of the SEOs defined for environmental components in the Draft Plan, which are based on environmental protection objectives enshrined in EU legislation. The changes will alter any policies or objectives in the Draft Plan supportive of the implementation of European legislation on the environment.



Table 3-5: Criteria for Determining Potential for Significant Effects - Characteristics of the Effects

Potential for Significant Effects	
Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The Proposed Material Amendments will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA.
The cumulative nature of the effects	
The transboundary nature of the effects	
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accidents)	The amendments will not result in any additional sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against, that may contribute to cumulative effects on the environment, in combination with other plans, programmes and projects.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The amendments will not result in any additional sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against, that could create transboundary effects.
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	They will not create any risks to human health or the environment.
Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	
Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;	
Intensive land-use	They will not result in an intensive land use not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	
	They will not give risk to any significant landscape related impacts not previously considered under the SEA.



Table 3-6: Summary of SEA Screening Analysis

Summary of SEA Screening Analysis

Having regard to the Stage 2 Screening Analysis undertaken in Table 3-4 and 3-5, it is concluded that the Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft LAP in this case will not give rise to any additional likely, significant effects on the environment not previously considered and mitigated against in the Draft LAP.



4. CONCLUSIONS

SEA Screening was carried out to determine the need for a SEA for the Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.

It has been concluded, based on the pre-screening check, and review against the environmental significance criteria as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, that the amendments will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment.

The principal reasons the amendments to the Draft LAP do not require an SEA are as follows:

- The amendments are either clerical in nature or only intended to clarify the intended meaning of land use policies and objectives previously defined in the Draft LAP, which were considered, assessed and mitigated against under the SEA of the Draft LAP.
- The amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA of the Draft LAP.

It is concluded that the amendments will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment.



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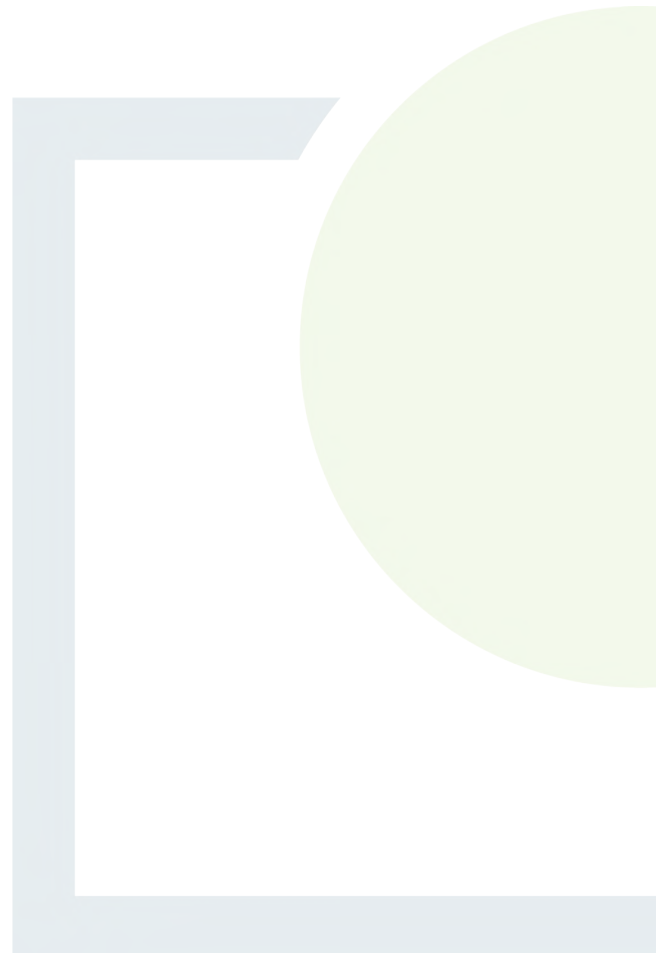




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APPENDIX 5

SEA Screening for Further
Amendments to the Proposed
Material Alterations to the
Draft Carrick-on-Suir &
Environs Local Area Plan



SEA SCREENING FOR FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS TO THE DRAFT CARRICK-ON-SUIR & ENVIRONS LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

Prepared for:

Tipperary County Council



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SEA Screening of the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this SEA Screening Report of the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Tipperary County Council (TCC) prepared the Draft Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 (herein referred to as the 'Draft Plan' or 'Draft LAP').

The Draft LAP outlines the local spatial planning framework for Carrick-on-Suir and defines planning policies and objectives unique to the town. Planning policies will inform private and public sector local development proposals, and planning objectives represent the key local objectives of the Council to be achieved over the lifetime of the LAP.

The Draft LAP was published for public consultation. A Chief Executive Report for the Draft LAP was subsequently prepared and published, which was informed by the SEA and AA Screenings for the Proposed Material Alterations (PMA) to the Draft LAP. This was followed by consultations on the Proposed Material Alterations, which have been further amended.

These proposed Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations of the Draft LAP have been set out in this document. This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for Further Amendments to the Material Alterations to the Draft LAP.

1.2 SEA Process to Date

A draft version of the LAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LAP on the environmental baseline and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimize identified environmental effects. This SEA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive and transposing national legislation.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) was also undertaken on the Draft LAP in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing national legislation. A Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered the effects of the Draft LAP on European sites was therefore prepared also. This report suitably informed the SEA process.

A period of consultation has been undertaken in relation to the Draft LAP, the Draft SEA Environmental Report and the Draft NIR. Statutory environmental authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public were invited to make submissions in connection with the Draft LAP and the associated Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR. Submissions made on this document were reviewed by TCC and the issues raised were taken into consideration. TCC then prepared a Chief Executive Report on the submissions received, which detailed the submissions received, TCC's responses to these submissions, and the Proposed Material Alterations arising following consideration of these submissions. SEA Screening and AA Assessments were completed for the Proposed Material Alterations.

In consideration of the substantive consultation submissions received, TCC have considered Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations previously recommended. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan were published on 28th February 2025 and consultations were undertaken up until 31st March 2025. A second Chief Executive Report was subsequently published detailing the consultation submissions received on the Proposed Material Alterations and providing a consideration of the response and recommendations.



An SEA Screening Assessment has been completed for the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations of the Carrick-on-Suir Draft LAP. This report documents the assessment undertaken.

1.3 SEA Environmental Report

A Draft SEA Environmental Report has been produced for the Draft LAP. This report contains the information specified in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive. A checklist of information included in this SEA Environmental Report under the SEA Directive and transposing national legislation is provided in Table 1-1. This checklist cross-references the sections in the report where information can be found.

The information contained in this Draft SEA Environmental Report has been referred to during the carrying out of the SEA Screening Assessment documented in this report.

Table 1-1: Draft SEA Environmental Report Checklist

Information Required	Relevant Section of the SEA Environmental Report
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Draft Plan and relationship with other relevant plans.	Section 2 and Appendix 1.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Draft Plan.	Section 4.
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 4.
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Draft Plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive.	Section 4.
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the Draft Plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 5.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 6.
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.
Interrelationships between each Environmental Component.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan.	Section 8.
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Draft Plan.	Section 10.



Information Required	Relevant Section of the SEA Environmental Report
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Front section



2. SEA SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Overview of the SEA Process

The SEA Directive – Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *‘to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development’*¹

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental consequences of implementing Plan or Programme (P/P) initiatives prepared by authorities at a national, regional or local level or which have been prepared for adoption through legislative means.

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government’s (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *‘formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme’*.

The SEA process comprises the following steps:

- Screening – the process whereby a decision is made on whether a particular P/P (or Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to a Draft Plan in this case), other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would require SEA.

If SEA is required following the Screening Determination, the following steps are necessary:

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

¹ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



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

2.2 Overview of the SEA Screening Process

The first step of the SEA process is to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of a P/P (or Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations this case).

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

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

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



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

2.3 Legislative Context

The screening stage of SEA is primarily addressed through Article 2 and Article 3 of the SEA Directive and Annex II which sets out the considerations in relation to determining significant environmental effects.

Article 2(a) of the SEA Directive establishes two cumulative conditions which P/P must satisfy in order for the further elements of the SEA Directive to be applicable to them:

- They must have been prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure, by a parliament or government; and
- They must be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

If these conditions are not satisfied, the measure is not regarded as a P/P which comes within the scope of the SEA Directive.

Once a P/P has been determined to be within the scope of the SEA Directive, Article 3 sets out the criteria for determining which P/P require environmental assessment. Again, several conditions must be met. A P/P must (a) belong to the list of sectors and (b) set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive, or (c) require an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).



Annex II of the SEA Directive presents the criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of the Directive. The significance of effects is determined with reference to the type and nature of the P/P, its position in the planning hierarchy and its influence on other P/P. It also has regard to the nature of the effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment as well as the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects. Cumulative and transboundary issues must also be considered.

The SEA Directive is transposed into Irish legislation by the following:

- [S.I. No. 435 of 2004](#) (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 200 of 2011](#) (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011)
- [S.I. No. 436 of 2004](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 201 of 2011](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

This SEA Screening has been carried out in accordance with above legislation.

2.4 Relevant SEA Guidance

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

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Resource Manual for Planning Authorities Integration of SEA legislation with procedures for Land Use Plans (EPA, 2015)
- Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening (EPA, 2021).
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2022)
- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022)
- EPA SEA Pack (EPA, 2023)
- EPA SEA Process Checklist (EPA, 2023)
- SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources (EPA, 2025)

2.5 Appropriate Assessment and relationship to SEA Screening

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

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

Article 3(c) of the SEA Directive requires that an SEA is carried out on a P/P wherever such a P/P requires an AA under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).



A 'Report to Inform AA Screening' has also been prepared for the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations in this case in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The Report concludes the following:

'It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have any significant effect on European sites.'

2.6 SEA Screening of Plan Amendments

The following has been considered when carrying out the SEA Screening Assessment of the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan.

- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan (as already assessed)
- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the amendments.
- The Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) defined in Section 5 of the SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Plan that the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations must accord with and support.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 8 of Draft SEA Environmental Report and Section 5 of the Draft NIR for the Draft Plan.

The amendments are therefore considered in relation to the environmental assessment undertaken for the Draft Plan and environmental mitigation already defined and integrated into the Plan.



3. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING

This section of the report documents the SEA Screening undertaken.

Stage 1 Applicability Analysis was undertaken initially. This analysis is detailed in Section 3.1 of this report (Table 3-1 and Table 3-2).

Stage 2 Screening Analysis was then undertaken. This analysis is detailed in Section 3.2 of this report (Table 3-3, Table 3-4 and Table 3-5).

3.1 Stage 1 - SEA Applicability Analysis

Table 3-1: SEA Applicability Analysis

SEA Applicability Analysis	
Status of Plan/Programme Maker	
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes. The Plan Amendments have been prepared by Tipperary County Council - a local authority - in accordance with the requirements of Planning legislation.
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes. The Plan Amendments are being made under Planning legislation.
Nature of the Plan/Programme	
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	Yes. The Plan Amendments relate to a land use plan.
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	Yes. The Plan Amendments relate to a plan that provides a framework for development consent
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	A 'Report to Inform AA Screening' has been completed for the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations arising following the Plan/SEA consultation period. This report concluded the following: <i>'It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have any significant effect on European sites.'</i>



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

Table 3-2: Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis

Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis	
Applicability Analysis Criterion	Outcome (Yes or No)
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	Yes
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	Yes
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	No
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No
Conclusion	
Having regard to the SEA Screening steps identified by the EPA guidance in Figure 2-1, Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis is required to whether the Further Amendments to the PMAs in this case are likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out on the Further Amendments to the PMAs.	



3.2 Stage 2 - SEA Screening Analysis

To inform the Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis, an evaluation of the potential environmental implications of the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan policies and objectives has been carried out. This evaluation is presented in Table 3-3.

Table key:

' ~~Crossed out~~ '	Text to be deleted
'Normal text'	Text to remain as is
'Text in red'	Text added to the Draft Plan through Proposed Material Alteration (PMA)
' ~~Cross-out in red~~ '	Text included as PMA but now proposed to be removed
'Text in green'	Further changes to be added
'PMA'	Proposed Material Alteration (as proposed to the Draft Plan over the Material Alterations Stage of the Plan-Making process)



Table 3-3: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications

Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Non-Technical Summary	Public participation is important to the process of plan preparation. After the public consultation period for the Draft LAP has ended, the Council will consider all submissions received. At this time, the Council may either adopt the Draft LAP in February 2025 or make recommendations for changes to the Proposed LAP. If proposed changes are materially different to the Draft LAP, a further round of public consultation may take place, specifically on those changes proposed. Any further submissions received at this stage would again be considered by the Council and the LAP would, in this case take effect in Spring 2024.	The further amendment relates to changes in the text of the Non-Technical Summary of the Draft Plan. These changes detail the Plan-Making process with key dates and the evolution of the Draft Plan. In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating positive or negative environmental effects.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Public participation is important to the process of plan preparation. 23 submissions were received on the Draft LAP and following consideration of same a number of recommended changes to the Draft LAP are proposed were agreed at the Council meeting on 10 February 2025. A further round of public consultation on the proposed amendments was undertaken from 28 February 2025 to 31 March 2025, during which time 14 submissions were received. A number of further changes are recommended on foot of these submissions. is required and any further submissions received would These recommendations will be considered by the Council and at Council meeting on 12 May and the final Local Area Plan would take effect in Summer 2025, if the Plan is made.				
Section 3.7	Amend Objective 3G as follows: Identify suitable locations for car, campervan and coach parking to support businesses and grow tourism, including for tourism purposes, within the town,	The amendment has been made to clarify the intended meaning and scope of the original objective and subsequent PMA.	No.	No	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	~~including on lands close to the Primary Care Centre and Ormond Castle with access off the existing road network. Also, to~~ and examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays - having due regard to the Sustainable Transport Plan and safety, ~~along with the needs of businesses and traders in the town.~~	This was formerly assessed and concluded to not materially change the scope of the original objective as contained within the Draft Plan. The further amendment has been made to revert to the original objective. This amendment will therefore not introduce any new likely, significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Section 3.7	Amend Objective 3H as follows: Objective 3H Encourage and facilitate the reuse and regeneration of derelict buildings in the town centre for retail, commercial, residential, mixed uses and other strategic purposes, ~~including car parking,~~ and where necessary through appropriate legislative mechanisms/instruments and / or by supporting the progression and delivery of projects funded by the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and other appropriate funds.	The further amendment to the PMA has excluded car parking as an acceptable use for derelict buildings in the town centre on the recommendation of the NTA, therefore defining the scope of proposed regeneration within the Plan Area. The environmental effects of policies and objectives supporting regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the SEA already. This amendment will therefore not introduce any new likely, significant	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Section 4.2.2	Amend Section 4.2.2 as follows: There is a significant landbank in this location zoned for 'Employment' use, and it is considered appropriate to zone land in this location for this purpose to preserve the strategic nature of the land and ensure other inappropriate and piecemeal development in this location does not hamper the future employment use of the lands. ~~The lands, however, must be developed in a~~ To ensure these lands are developed in a phased, cohesive and sequential manner, to avoid leapfrogging development, the following principles will apply to the development of these lands: Lands must be developed in a sequential manner, and leapfrogging will not be permitted; New development proposals will be required to examine the existing landscape and character context, and demonstrate how new development proposals will be consistent with this context in	The amendment has been made in consideration of the recommendations put forward by the NTA regarding the omission of the caveat 'wherever possible'. The amendment further clarifies the approaches to be utilised for development of lands zoned for 'Employment' use. The amendment will not introduce any likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	terms of use, scale, mass, architecture and landscaping; New development proposals should ~~wherever possible~~, provide suitable active travel infrastructure and link into existing active travel routes.				
Section 4.4	Amend Objective 4F as follows: Work with project partners, including the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Fáilte Ireland and the OPW to develop the Ormond Castle Quarter, accommodation, cultural activities and events to support the tourism industry in the town. Any works in proximity to Ormond Castle shall be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments).	The further amendment to the PMA clarifies the legal requirement for works occurring at or near Ormond Castle (in proximity thereof) to be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments). The aim, focus, and scope of the objective has not materially changed. The amendment will not introduce any likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Section 5.1.1	Amend the text as it relates to '2. Carrickbeg' as follows: The lands at Coolnamuck Road represent a significant landbank within Carrickbeg for new residential development. The lands are well-located, in close proximity to the town	The further amendment relates to a revision in the text relating to lands at Carrickbeg within the Plan Area. The additional text (in green) serves to clarify the purpose of a proposed Masterplan for the Carrickbeg lands, which will incorporate the provision of	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	centre. However, given the constraints associated with the medieval layout of Carrickbeg, the development and delivery of the entire landholding is likely to require additional transport-related infrastructure. The redevelopment of these lands must be supported by a comprehensive masterplan for the lands, identifying a sustainable approach to the phasing and infrastructure delivery requirements for the lands. The proposed Masterplan for the site must set out: • ~~That vehicular access to the site from the Coolnamuck Road will be provided for at the western end of the Coolnamuck Road;~~ • The provision of an active travel route onto Rack Hill towards Carrickbeg; • ~~The provision of an active travel bridge, linking into the Suir Blueway on the northern side of the Suir, subject to feasibility and funding;~~ • The provision of public amenity and recreation space and a playground on southern banks of the River Suir, as well as water-	active travel infrastructure and recreational and public spaces. The environmental effects from the development of recreational and public spaces in Carrickbeg have been assessed and mitigated against in the SEA (Objective 5H). The environmental implications of the preparation of a Masterplan for the lands at Coolnamuck has been assessed and mitigated against under the SEA for the Draft Plan (Objective 5.2). Environmental effects arising from the development of active travel have been strategically addressed and mitigated against through a suite of policies and objectives embedded, amended or added within the Draft LAP (7.1, 7D, 7E, &.10, 7.12), as well as the higher-order CDP (13-1, 13-4). The amendment will not introduce any likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	based and water compatible community recreation infrastructure, subject to feasibility.				
Section 5.6	Amend Policy 5.2 as follows: Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road. A masterplan must provide: 1) provide for a co-ordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; and 2) provide an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery; and	The further amendment to the PMA comprises of a minor change that serves to ensure consistency with the principles set out in Section 5.1 of the Draft LAP, which relates to sustainable residential development. This amendment does not materially change the policy, and will not introduce any new likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	3) be consistent with the principles set out in Section 5.1 of this LAP Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands. The masterplan must be informed and guided by all relevant environmental considerations, including the need the manage and mitigate (where necessary) the potential effects development in this area may have on the Lower River Suir SAC."				
Section 5.6	Amend Objective 5H as follows: Seek the development of additional recreational and amenity spaces ~~and associated car parking~~ in Carrickbeg ~~and on lands between Ormond Castle and adjacent to the River Suir~~, having due regard to environmental constraints and sensitivities in this area.	The further amendment comprising the omission of car parking has been made on the recommendation of the NTA to promote sustainable travel within the Plan Area. Environmental mitigation to ensure protection to the River Suir and the River Suir SAC has been integrated into the Plan (e.g., 5H, 7.1, 7.5 etc.).	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		This amendment will not introduce any likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Section 6.6	Omit Objective 6K added as a Proposed Material Alteration: ~~Investigate the feasibility of delivery a new vehicular street to the south of the Ormond Castle linking the Pill Road to the Town Centre.~~	The further amendment comprising of the removal of Objective 6K has been made on the recommendation of the NTA. The PMA pertained to the carrying out of a feasibility study, which was devoid of any environmental implications in and of itself. The removal of this PMA, therefore, similarly will not result in any environmental interactions resulting in positive or negative environmental effects.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.
Section 8.2.1	Amend Section 8.2.1, as follows: ~~Uisce Éireann publishes Water Supply Capacity Registers annually for each county. The latest capacity register for the county was published in June 2023~~ December 2024 and indicates that the Carrick-on-Suir Water Resource Zone (WRZ) has potential spare capacity available. Connection applications will be assessed on	The further amendment pertains to a correction in text relating to the publication date of Uisce Éireann's Water Supply Capacity Registers. Additional text provides context to the publication's purpose, which is to indicate to available water supply in the Plan Area, and the frequency to which the registers are updated.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	an individual basis considering their specific load requirements. Uisce Éireann's Water Supply Capacity Register provides an indication of available water supply in County Tipperary. Capacity registers are updated on an annual basis and are subject to change throughout the year.	In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating positive or negative environmental effects.			
Section 8.2.2	Amend Section 8.2.2, as follows: Uisce Éireann is responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of public wastewater. Uisce Éireann publishes ~~Water Supply~~ Wastewater Treatment Capacity Registers annually for each county. The latest capacity register for the county was published in ~~June 2023~~ December 2024 and indicates that the Carrick-on-Suir Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) currently has capacity to cater for growth. Local network upgrades may be required in some areas to provide capacity to individual sites. These will be customer driven/funded in accordance with the requirements of the Uisce Éireann's Connections Charging Policy. Ongoing improvement works are required in the town to ensure adequate separation	The further amendment pertains to the correction of text relating to the publication date Uisce Éireann's Water Supply Capacity Registers. Additional text provides context to the publication's purpose, which is to indicate to available water supply in the Plan Area, and the frequency to which the registers are updated. In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating any positive or negative environmental effects.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	of foul and surface water, and to service of lands identified for development over the lifetime of this LAP. Uisce Éireann's Wastewater Treatment Capacity Register provides an indication of available capacity at Wastewater Treatment Plants in County Tipperary. Capacity registers are updated on an annual basis and are subject to change throughout the year.				
Section 8.6	Amend Policy 8.2, as follows: Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water services; ~~permit~~ support new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and ~~waste water~~ wastewater supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water wastewater network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Éireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Éireann's Connections and Developer Service process. New connection applications to the public water and wastewater infrastructure	The further amendment to the PMA is clerical in nature, serving to clarify the intended meaning of the original objective and the proposed material alteration thereof. In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating any positive or negative environmental effects.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	should be submitted directly to Uisce Éireann.				
Section 8.6	Amend Policy 8.4(d), as follows: Require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A & B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works. These Flood Risk Assessments should follow the general guidance provided in Section 6 of the SFRA and shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events. The FRA should address climate change scenarios in relation to finished floor levels and potential mitigation measures. The minimum design level requirements for fluvial flooding set out in Table 6.4 of the accompanying SFRA shall be employed. The Flood Risk Assessments shall apply the precautionary approach recommended in	The further amendment to the Policy have been made on the recommendation of the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) in consideration of the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 and Circular 2014/4. The amendment clarifies the focus of Flood Risk Assessments (to be undertaken on lands identified to be at risk of flooding) to align with guidance provided in the SFRA, to address climate change scenarios and potential mitigation required, and the application of the sequential approach. The environmental effects of the adoption of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the SEA; See Policy 8.4. This policy centres around the requirement for development proposals to comply with the principles and	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	the Guidelines and shall be informed by the advice on the expected impacts of climate change and the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management provided in the OPW's (2019) Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein. The sequential approach should be applied and highly vulnerable infill and redevelopment shall not be permitted in Flood Zones A and B apart from where the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Guidelines has been passed.	requirements contained within the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines, which has the potential to create positive effects. This amendment will not introduce any new likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.			
Further Amendments to Appendix 7 of the Draft LAP: Town Centre First Plan					
Appendix 7 (Town Centre First Plan)	Update the Town Centre First Plan as attached.	The further amendment relates to the inclusion of an updated Carrick-on-Suir Town Centre First Plan, in entirety, as indicated in the Draft Plan. The environmental effects of policies and objectives supporting town centre regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the SEA already. The Town Centre First Plan is	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		an extension to these policies/objectives, but it does not introduce any additional potential sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated at the appropriate scale against under the SEA already.			
Further Amendments to the Appendix 10 of the Draft LAP: SFRA					
Section 2.6 of the SFRA	Amend Section 2.6, by adding a note following Table 2.3 as follows: Note on Land Use Zoning Objectives and Matrix per Tipperary County Council: The limitation described in this note applies to a relatively small number of instances where Flood Risk Zones A and B overlap with certain Land Use Zoning objectives. Uses under all Land Use Zoning Objectives (apart from where the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Plan Guidelines has been passed) shall be limited to water-compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B (as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines), and detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas. This limitation shall take primacy	The further amendment is clerical in nature and serves to correctly cite the Flood Risk Management Plan Guidelines in the PMA. In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating any positive or negative environmental effects.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	over any other provision relating to these land use zoning objectives.				
Appendix F of SFRA – Justification Tests	Amend Part 3) of justification test Ref JT-15 as follows: ~~The LAP is subject to the policies, objectives and requirements of the TCDP that relate to flood risk and climate change and the LAP contains a number of specific policies and objectives in this regard. Furthermore, much of these lands are protected by the Carrick-on-Suir Flood Relief Scheme that provides for a 2% Annual Exceedance Probability Standard of Protection. Benefitting areas are mapped in this SFRA. Criteria for redevelopment of the regeneration sites are set out in Appendix 3.~~ Specific policies are to be applied to this site: Finished Floor levels to the northern area of the site are raised to a minimum level of 4.27m OD, which is 0.5m above the 1 in 1000-year flood level in both watercourses adjacent to the site.	This further amendment clarifies in more granular detail the flood risk policy to be applied, for the purpose of achieving consistency with the Criteria of Plan-Making Justification Tests. The environmental effects of the adoption of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the SEA; See Policy 8.4. This policy centres around the requirement for development proposals to comply with the principles and requirements contained within the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines, which has the potential to create positive effects. This amendment will not introduce any new likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.	No.	No.	No requirement for SEA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Evaluation of Environmental Implications of Draft Plan Amendment	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	- Flood Storage compensation shall be provided to account for flood waters that may be displaced as a result of raising the ground levels in the northern area of the site above the 1 in 1000-year flood level. - An evacuation plan be put in place and shall be implemented by the facility operator to comply with the appropriate standards and regulations				



Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis has been carried out to determine whether the Further Amendments to the PMAs are likely to result in significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out. This analysis is presented in Table 3-4 and Table 3-5. A summary of the assessment is presented in Table 3-6.

Table 3-4: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Environmental Effects - Characteristics of the Plan (Plan Amendment in this instance)

Potential Significant Effects	
Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:	
The degree to which the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance) sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	The Further Amendments to the PMAs relate to a Plan that sets a framework for development projects. The amendments are minor in nature however and do not alter the land use framework defined in the Draft Plan in a manner that has the potential to result in likely, significant environmental effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA already.
The degree to which the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance) influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The Further Amendments to the PMAs, in and of themselves, will have a negligible influence on other plans and programmes.
The relevance of the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance) for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The Further Amendments to the PMAs are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The changes made are consistent and harmonious with, and align with the intended effect of, existing Draft Plan Strategic Vision and Aims, and inter-related policies and objectives that sit within the Draft Plan, which are intended to promote sustainable development in the Plan area. The existing Draft Plan has been subject to environmental assessment. A strong level of environmental mitigation has already been embedded and integrated into the Draft Plan. The amendments will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA. There is no requirement to define additional environmental mitigation for the amendments.



Potential Significant Effects	
Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:	
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance).	The proposed amendments are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The amendments will not have any significant interaction, influence or impact on environmental problems affecting the area of the zone of influence of the Plan. They will not give rise to any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA, or cause or contribute to environmental problems.
The relevance of the plan or programme (Plan Amendment in this instance) for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g., plans linked to waste-management or water protection)	The proposed amendments are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The changes made are consistent and harmonious with, and align with the intended effect of, existing Draft Plan Strategic Vision and Aims, and inter-related policies and objectives that sit within the Draft Plan. The changes will not have a likely significant effect on any of the SEOs defined for environmental components in the Draft Plan, which are based on environmental protection objectives enshrined in EU legislation. The changes will alter any policies or objectives in the Draft Plan supportive of the implementation of European legislation on the environment.



Table 3-5: Criteria for Determining Potential for Significant Effects - Characteristics of the Effects

Potential for Significant Effects	
Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft LAP will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA.
The cumulative nature of the effects	
The transboundary nature of the effects	
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accidents)	The amendments will not result in any additional sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against, that may contribute to cumulative effects on the environment, in combination with other plans, programmes and projects.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	The amendments will not result in any additional sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against, that could create transboundary effects.
Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	
Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;	
Intensive land-use	They will not create any risks to human health or the environment.
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	
	They will not result in any sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against, that could create effects on receiving environmental sensitivities, including special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, or result in the exceedance of any prescribed Environmental Quality Standards.



Potential for Significant Effects

Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:

They will not result in an intensive land use not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA.

They will not give risk to any significant landscape related impacts not previously considered under the SEA



Table 3-6: Summary of SEA Screening Analysis

Summary of SEA Screening Analysis
Having regard to the Stage 2 Screening Analysis undertaken in Table 3-4 and 3-5, it is concluded that the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft LAP in this case will not give rise to any additional likely, significant effects on the environment not previously considered and mitigated against in the Draft LAP.



4. CONCLUSIONS

SEA Screening was carried out to determine the need for a SEA for the Further Amendments to Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.

It has been concluded, based on the pre-screening check, and review against the environmental significance criteria as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, that the amendments will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment.

The principal reasons the amendments to the Draft LAP do not require an SEA are as follows:

- The amendments are either clerical in nature or only intended to clarify the intended meaning of land use policies and objectives previously defined in the Draft LAP, which were considered, assessed and mitigated against under the SEA of the Draft LAP.
- The amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA of the Draft LAP.

It is concluded that the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft LAP will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment.



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CARRICK-ON-SUIR LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report - Non-Technical Summary

Prepared for:
Tipperary County Council



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Date: May 2025

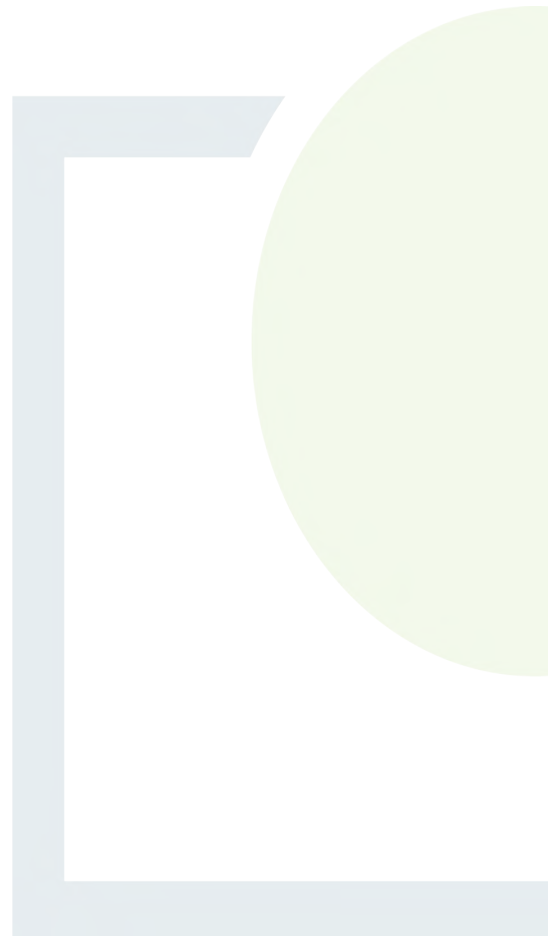
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Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report - Non-Technical Summary

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Client: Tipperary County Council

Keywords: Tipperary, Strategic Environmental Assessment, SEA, Environmental Report, LAP, Local Area Plan, Carrick-on-Suir.

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Non-Technical Summary of the SEA Environmental Report to Tipperary County Council for the Carrick-On-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

Tipperary County Council has prepared the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 (herein referred to as the 'Plan' or 'LAP'). Given the LAP is being prepared for a town and environs area with a population of greater than 5,000 persons, it was determined that the LAP should be subject to mandatory Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the [S.I. No. 436 of 2004](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 201 of 2011](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

An SEA has been undertaken for the Plan. The purpose of the SEA is to identify and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementation of the LAP.

This is the non-technical summary of the Environmental Report for the SEA of the Plan.

1.2 Approach to SEA

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

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

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

1.3 Plan Amendments

This Non-Technical Summary pertains to the consolidated version of the SEA Environmental Report, which has been updated in response to consultation submissions received during SEA Consultation and considering Material Alterations to the Plan and Further Amendments to Material Alterations made during the Plan-making process.

The Plan amendments arising from SEA consultation and the post consultation Plan-making process have been subject to further environmental assessment. These assessments are presented in Appendices 4 and 5. It was concluded that the amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA, and therefore further SEA of the amendments was not required.



1.4 The Plan

The Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031 (LAP) has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. LAPs are required for towns with a population over 5,000. Therefore, a new LAP is mandatory for Carrick-on-Suir. This LAP replaces the Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013 (as varied and extended).

The LAP outlines the local spatial planning framework for Carrick-on-Suir with planning policies and objectives unique to the town set out at the end of each chapter. Planning policies will inform private and public sector local development proposals, and planning objectives represent the key local objectives of the Council to be achieved over the lifetime of the LAP.

The LAP has been prepared having consideration to Local Area Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2013), and the accompanying best-practice manual and the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022).

The LAP sets out a strategic vision for Carrick-on-Suir and has been informed by collaboration and consultation with stakeholders and the general public. This LAP has been prepared to underpin the Core Strategy of the Tipperary County Development Plan (CDP) and its Core Ambition to deliver ‘Vibrant, Living Towns driving the Regional and Local Economy’. The 10 Strategic Objectives of the Tipperary CDP each comply with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and are reflected in the local spatial planning framework outlined.

The LAP sits at the 'local' tier of planning policy and is consistent with the objectives of national and regional level planning policies, as well as the Tipperary CDP. The LAP is comprised of the following documents:

- A Written Statement with specific policies and objectives laid out across 10 sections
- Maps including land-use zoning with flood risk areas, and built and natural heritage
- Appendices as follows:
 1. Serviced Land Assessment
 2. Sustainable Travel Plan
 3. Regeneration Sites
 4. Social Infrastructure Audit
 5. Monitoring and Implementation Strategy
 6. Architectural Conservation Area Statement of Character
 7. Town Centre First Plan

The LAP is focused on a renewed and targeted approach to compact growth and regeneration, with the town centre as the heart and focal point of Carrick-on-Suir, and with clear consideration of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and modal shift change in terms of how we get around. At the centre of this LAP is consideration of quality of life for the community in the form of housing, jobs, education and amenities.

The LAP includes policies and objectives at the end of each Chapter. The policies of the Plan seek to manage and guide new development of the town in a sustainable way. The objectives of the Plan are included to provide clarity on the active role of the Council in managing, supporting, and implementing the vision for the Plan. The policies and objectives of this LAP have been framed in a manner to ensure consistency with the provisions of the NPF, RSES and Tipperary CDP 2022-2028. This provides for a compact approach to growth with the aim of facilitating the delivery of climate resilient and sustainable communities in the town.



1.5 The Environmental Baseline

An evaluation and a characterisation of the current state of the environment likely to be affected by the Plan has been undertaken to inform the SEA process. The receiving environment within the plan area has been considered during this evaluation.

The following Environmental Components were considered during this evaluation:

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

A non-technical and high-level summary of the baseline environment is provided in the table below. This table provides an overview of the baseline environmental features present in the Plan area.

Environmental Component	Summary of the Baseline Environmental Characteristics
Population and Human Health	• In the 2022 Census, the total population in Carrick-on-Suir was estimated to be 5,752 persons, an increase of 2.3% from the 2016 Census. The total population in County Tipperary was 167, 895. • The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 designates Carrick-on-Suir as a District Town.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	• There is 1 designated SAC within the Plan area; Lower River Suir SAC and this is hydrologically connected to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. Other SACs within the 15km radius include River Barrow and River Nore SAC, Comeragh Mountains SAC, Hugginstown Fen SAC and Nier Valley Woodlands SAC. • There is one NHA within the 15Km Zol; Slievenamon Bog NHA (002388). • The River Suir Below Carrick-on-Suir pNHA is within the Plan area. The 15km Zol includes an additional 14 pNHA. • There are 7 designated Flora Protection Order Sites within 15km of the Plan area located at the Comeragh Mountains. • There is 1 Wildfowl Sanctuary within 15km of the Plan area, including Coolfin Marshes in Co. Waterford (WFS-50). • CORINE 2018 landcover for the Plan area includes Urban Fabric, Agricultural Pastures, and Coniferous forests.



Environmental Component	Summary of the Baseline Environmental Characteristics
Landscape and Visual Amenity	The Ormond Castle area offers a strong heritage resource and a key site on the Butler Trail.
Cultural Heritage - Archaeological and Architectural	- There are 40 entries recorded in the Record of Protected Structures of the Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013. - There are currently 46 registered Monuments within the Plan area, as recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places of the Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013. - An ACA has been designated in the centre of Carrick-on-Suir and includes Main Street, West Gate, Sean Kelly Square and parts of Bridge Street, New Street and Castle Street.
Soils	- Dominant soil types in the Plan area include Urban Soils and Acid Brown Earths/Brown Earths. - Other soil types in the Plan area include Gleys, Grey Brown Podzolics and Alluvial soils.
Land Use	Land use mapping for Tipperary is shown in Figure 4-8 of the main body of the report. This mapping shows the extent of all land use present in the Plan area (e.g., urban fabric, continuous urban fabric, stream courses, and non-irrigated arable land etc.).
Air Quality and Noise	- The Air Quality in Ireland 2022 report prepared by the EPA identifies that air quality in Ireland is generally good, however, there are concerning localised issues that are negatively impacting the air we breathe. - Air quality monitoring results in 2022 show that the main pollutants are fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from solid fuel combustion and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from vehicle emissions. People's health and the health of our environment is impacted by these pollutants. - Ireland's ambition in the Clean Air Strategy is to move towards the World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality guidelines¹, this will be challenging but will have a significantly positive impact on health. - Under the Clean Air for Europe Directive [Directive 2008/50/EC], Tipperary is within 'Zone D' of the four zones in Ireland. - There are no air quality monitoring stations within the Plan area. However, the nearest air quality monitoring stations to the Plan area are located in Clonmel, Paddy Browne's Road in Waterford and Merchants Quay in Waterford City. The current air quality at the time of reporting at all locations is of Good² status. - Existing noise related impacts can be seen in Figure 4-9 of the main body of the report.
Water	The Plan area is located within the Suir catchment.

¹ World Health Organization. 2021.WHO global air quality guidelines: particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide. World Health Organization.

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345329>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

² Air Quality Index for Health <https://airquality.ie/information/air-quality-index-for-health> - 14/06.2024.



Environmental Component	Summary of the Baseline Environmental Characteristics
	- The WFD Status 2016-2021 for the Suir, Tinhalla and Glenbrook Streams are recorded as 'Moderate' and for the Lingaun Stream it is recorded as 'Good'. There is no status recorded for the River Suir, however, it should be noted that all four streams identified above feed into the main River Suir riverbody. - The WFD groundwater status (2016-2021) underlying the Plan area has been projected to be 'At Risk' of not meeting its WFD objectives. However, the overall groundwater status of the area is designated to be 'good'. - The WFD risk status of the Lingaun Stream has been defined as 'Not at risk', Tinhalla Stream as under 'Review', and Suir and Glenbrook as 'At risk'.
Material Assets	Carrick-on-Suir is traversed by the N24 and a number of regional roads, namely R696, R697, R885, R676, and R680. The town is served by the intercity Waterford - Clonmel - Limerick Junction rail line and local connections to metropolitan commuter towns. Further to this, Bus Éireann - Expressway provides several routes through Carrick-on-Suir. There are also private bus operators that service the town.
Tourism and Recreation	- Tourism and recreation are influenced by a range of factors in Ireland. International tourism has increased in recent years. Failte Ireland has recently published their four brand strategies which will define the spatial scope and spread of future tourism developments within Ireland. - Tipperary hosts the Ireland's Ancient East and the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands tourism brands.
Climate Change	- Tipperary is affected by climate change policy and issues broadly. - The recent Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was established to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change. This aims at pursuing the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of the year 2050. Ireland's Climate Action Plans 2023 and 2024 set out Ireland's national and sectoral targets in this regard. - Future changes in climate and associated impacts on sea level, rainfall patterns/intensity and river flow will influence flooding frequency and extent in the future. Local Authorities in compliance with the Regional Planning Guidelines are attempting to adopt sustainable flood risk strategies in areas likely to be at risk of flooding in the future in the context of climate change and changing weather patterns. Changes to climate could lead to an increase in flooding events in Ireland.

Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report contains further detail on baseline environmental characteristics, including a variety of detailed environmental mapping, for those who wish to develop a more in-depth understanding of the environmental baseline. Section 7 of the SEA Environmental Report contains a summary of the evaluation of the environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan, including a summary of the various positive impacts, negative impacts, and cumulative impacts associated with Plan implementation.



1.6 Evolution of the Baseline Environment

The SEA Directive requires that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the baseline environment in the event the Plan is not adopted and implemented.

It is predicted that the following would occur in the event the Carrick-On-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031 is not adopted and implemented:

- Planning and development in the Carrick-on-Suir Plan area would be governed by higher-order planning policy defined in the Tipperary CDP.
- There would be absence of an appropriately focused strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Carrick-on-Suir.
- There would be an absence of appropriately focused planning and development related environmental protection policies/objectives for Carrick-on-Suir.
- Environmental protection requirements defined in legislation and higher order plans would still apply to Carrick-on Suir.
- The baseline environment at Carrick-on Suir would still be influenced by the Tipperary CDP, the Tipperary Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024-2029 and the Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013 (as varied and extended).
- Development in Carrick-on-Suir would not be subject to an appropriately focussed local area framework of planning control – which is necessary for a town of its size and the levels of development and change predicted for the area. There would be a greater risk of improper planning and unsustainable development occurring in and around the town. This scenario increases the risk of significant adverse environmental effects occurring due to the carrying out of inappropriate development, including effects on:
 - Population and Human Health – e.g., through reductions in residential amenity, noise, dust.
 - Biodiversity – e.g., loss of valuable habitat, habitat fragmentation, impacts on protected species, impacts on the Lower River Suir SAC.
 - Landscape Character and Visual Amenity – e.g., loss of scenic value (e.g., at The Butler Trail, visual amenity etc.
 - Cultural Heritage – e.g., diminishment of built heritage including protected structures and historic fabric.
 - Soils – e.g., ground contamination, impacts on soil structure and function.
 - Land use – e.g., promotion of unsustainable and incoherent land use.
 - Air Quality and Noise – e.g., generation of air and noise emissions resulting in significant negative effects on people.
 - Water – e.g., the carrying out development that contributes to polluting emissions to waters or increased flood risk.
 - Material Assets – e.g., the failure to provide appropriate services to the development carried out in the town (e.g., water supply, wastewater services).
 - Tourism and recreation – e.g., the failure to create sustainable tourism in the town, the diminishment of tourism and recreation assets in the town.
 - Climate Change – e.g., failure to provide a suitable framework for compact growth and sustainable transport – resulting in a failure to reduce Energy and Residential sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.



- The multitude of positive environmental effects across all environmental components associated with Plan policies and objectives pertaining to sustainable development and environmental protection and enhancement would not be realised, such as positive effects on:
- Population and Human Health – e.g., achieved through proper planning and protection and enhancement of residential amenity and community infrastructure.
- Biodiversity – e.g., through the implementation of policies/objectives that afford an appropriate level of protection to biodiversity, including designated sites, non-designated sites of local importance, ecological connections and protected species, and through the implementation of policies/objectives that promote Nature Based Solutions.
- Landscape Character and Visual Amenity – e.g., through the implementation of policies/objectives that control the scale of built development and serve to protect and enhance scenic value and visual amenity.
- Cultural Heritage – e.g., through policies/objectives that ensure appropriate consideration is given to built and archaeological heritage impacts during the carrying out of development, and through policies/objectives promoting sensitive town regeneration.
- Soils – e.g., through policies/objectives that promote good soil management during development projects.
- Land use – e.g., achieved through the promotion of sustainable, well-balanced land use planning.
- Air Quality and Noise – e.g., through promotion of active travel measures supporting modal shift resulting in local air quality improvements, policies/objectives supporting noise minimisation and control.
- Water – e.g., through pollution prevention and the application of good and proper flood risk management during the planning process.
- Material Assets – e.g., through the appropriate delivery of services in the town (e.g., water supply, wastewater services) in collaboration with relevant statutory bodies (e.g., Uisce Éireann).
- Tourism and recreation – e.g., through the application of environmental protection measures that result in the protection and enhancement of tourism and recreation assets.
- Climate Change – e.g., via the provision of a robust framework for compact, regenerative and interconnected development.

1.7 Strategic Environmental Objectives

The SEA Directive states that an SEA should also look at *'the environmental protection objectives, established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.'* The identification of environmental protection objectives relevant to a plan provides the basis for evaluating the significance of impacts during the SEA process. All environmental protection objectives relevant to the Plan have been identified.

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which facilitate the development of targets against which the environmental effects of the Plan can be tested. SEOs are based on wider environmental protection objectives on local, regional, national, European and international level that are relevant to TCC's LAP. They are high-level in nature and set strategic goals for environmental protection and improvement.

All SEOs applicable to the Plan are presented in the table below.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Overall	O1	Ensure, where appropriate, alignment with higher-level plans and that projects contribute to overall environmental monitoring processes within the Plan area.
Population and Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or minimise impacts to population and human health.
	PHH2	Promote economic activity and growth
	PHH3	Ensure supporting infrastructure and services in the area are developed in a manner commensurate with population growth.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure supported development is in alignment with biodiversity protection, restoration, and rehabilitation goals.
	B2	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species.
	B3	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species.
	B4	Avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species
	B5	Aim for no net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L1	Avoid or minimise impacts on statutory landscape designations defined in the CDP.
	L2	Avoid or minimise adverse visual effects on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.
	L3	Protect and enhance landscape character.
	L4	Protect, as appropriate, create and improve streetscape character.
Cultural Heritage - Archaeological & Architectural	CH1	Avoid impacts upon archaeological heritage (including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)), architectural heritage (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)), industrial heritage and ACAs.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on mineral resources or soils.
	S2	Ensure appropriate management of all soil and excavation material. Promote sustainable material reuse wherever appropriate.
	S3	Re-use of brownfield lands, where appropriate, together with the appropriate and sustainable development of greenfield lands.
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.
	LU2	Compliance with existing land use policy in the CDP
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Increase the number of people travelling to work or school via sustainable modes of travel, including public transport, walking and cycling.
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts on existing or proposed sensitive receptors.
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface water bodies.
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009).
	W5	Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow.
	W6	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality.
Material Assets	MA1	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure.
	MA2	Avoid or minimise effects upon existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.
	MA3	Promote sustainable transportation and deliver enhanced traffic and transport conditions, where possible.
	MA4	Promote sustainable waste/material management and the circular economy.
	MA5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.
Tourism and Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities, and enhance tourism and recreation, where possible.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Climate Change	CC1	Support in the achievement of the 2030 target of a 51% reduction in carbon emissions.
	CC2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.
	CC3	Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local level.
	CC4	Promote the carrying out of climate resilient development.
	CC5	Promote low carbon and net zero development.
	CC6	Promote the carrying out of development that incorporates nature-based solutions.
	CC7	Promote active travel and reduce reliance on the use of private vehicles for transport.
	CC8	Support the transition to zero or low carbon Electric Vehicles.
Inter-relationships	IR1	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes. Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement during adaptation to climate change.

1.8 Description and Evaluation of Plan Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the Plan (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of a plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Such reasonable alternatives must be realistic and capable of implementation. Reasonable alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the Plan.

The underpinning goal of the reasonable alternative evaluation process was to ensure that the selection of preferred alternatives by the local authority is informed by environmental considerations.

Reasonable alternatives to the Plan were identified as the Plan-making process evolved. Details on all Reasonable Alternatives considered during Plan-making and a brief summary of reasoning for selecting preferred alternatives are presented below.



Theme	Description of Reasonable Alternatives	Preferred Alternative	Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Alternative
Planning for development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.	Alternative 2	A Masterplan will set clear and area specific policy and objectives to address any development in a sustainable, appropriately managed and balanced manner. Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road has greater potential to ensure positive environmental outcomes – across a number of environmental components
	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.		
Approach to the protection of the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation.	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP.	Alternative 2	It was determined that it would be more beneficial to integrate more focused environmental mitigation for the protection of this SAC into the LAP (Alternative 2) given that the LAP supports more specific development proposals and measures that have the potential to result in direct, adverse effects on the Lower River Suir SAC specifically. These focused mitigation measures will ensure a stronger, more robust level of protection for the SAC in the context of the LAP, and would better safeguard the conservation objectives and qualifying interests of the SAC. This would result in a range of positive effects on environmental components, including biodiversity, land use, water, material assets, tourism and recreation and climate change.
	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP.		



Theme	Description of Reasonable Alternatives	Preferred Alternative	Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Alternative
Consolidation of Open Space Amenity in Established Residential Areas.	Alternative 1: Retain the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area.	Alternative 2	Alternative 2 will provide clear, express, and unambiguous support for the preservation of these open space amenity areas in existing neighbourhoods, resulting in positive effects on population and human health, biodiversity, landscape character and visual amenity, land use, material assets and tourism and recreation.
	Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning.		



1.9 Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation

A detailed evaluation of the potential effects of the Preferred Plan on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. A concise and non-technical summary of the key environmental effects associated with Plan implementation is presented below. The potential negative effects presented assume the absence of the appropriate mitigation defined in this Non-technical Summary and in Section 8 of the SEA Environmental Report.

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

- The Plan supports the carrying out of infrastructural development (e.g., housing, social, economic, transport etc.). The construction phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, that may affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, landscape character and visual amenity.
- The Plan supports the development of a third river crossing in the town. This development has the potential to result in a range of adverse environmental impacts, including effects on landscape character and visual amenity, water quality and hydrology, biodiversity, and the conservation objectives and qualifying interest of the Lower River Suir SAC.
- Development construction activities, generally, may generate dust emissions, vibration or noise that may impact residential amenity, human health and well-being, and biodiversity.
- The Plan provides a land use framework for development that has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g. land-take, dust, noise, light, polluting aqueous discharges) that directly or indirectly cause effects on European sites present or connected to the plan area, such as loss/reduction of habitat, habitat or species fragmentation, disturbance to key species (i.e. through human activity/movement, noise, light), reduction in species density, impact on non-designated sites or habitat that support European sites, or changes on indicators of conservation value (i.e. water quality, air quality, habitat quality).
- Development may lead to adverse impacts on biodiversity, including loss, disturbance or damage to biodiversity, flora and fauna; impacts on the Lower River Suir SAC, impacts on ecological connectivity and impacts on important non-designated habitats.
- Development may generate an increase in the quantum of light transmitted to sensitive ecological receptors, resulting in increased vulnerability and sensitivity of light-sensitive species.
- The Plan supports development construction at greenfield locations where invasive species may exist. Construction and waste management activities may increase the risk of the spread of invasive species.
- Greenfield development may impact and damage unknown archaeological remains.
- The Plan is supportive of the carrying out of development at sensitive locations (such as areas in proximity to the River Suir) which could potentially impact sensitive aspects of the environment, including biodiversity, water quality, landscape character and visual amenity, built and archaeological heritage and important habitats and species.
- Development, including town centre regeneration related development may generate negative impacts on built heritage (e.g., protected structures) and historic fabric, including historic structures present in town centres. Development supported by the Plan may impact on the setting of heritage assets and sense of place, generally.



- Significantly scaled residential and commercial development may impact visual amenity in the vicinity of these developments, streetscape character and wider landscape character.
- Transport related development supported by the Plan may generate significant levels traffic noise resulting in negative noise impacts on noise sensitive locations that are in close proximity to transport routes.
- Inappropriate or improperly designed greenfield development may contribute to significant hydrological changes and increases in flood risk.
- Development may generate adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Development will increase the quantum of water supply, wastewater and energy provisions and infrastructure required in the plan area, in contravention of aims and objectives defined in the Water Framework Directive and the Water Action Plan 2022 – 2027.
- Major development in the Plan area may generate an increase in traffic levels and effects on existing traffic and transportation conditions and dynamics.
- Development related excavation at greenfield and brownfield has the potential to result in the generation of substantial levels of material and waste, including potentially contaminated material that will need to be appropriate and sustainably managed in accordance with Waste Hierarchy principles.
- Development occurring in the Plan area may affect local heritage, archaeology or visual amenity and, in turn, local tourism or recreational features and activity in the area.
- Infrastructure development may have the potential to restrict or reduce the quality of resources important for recreation and/or tourism.
- The promotion or development of blueways and greenways (e.g., Suir Blueway) could add additional loading pressures in terms of visitor interactions at sensitive areas such as trampling, disturbance, erosion, littering etc.
- Linear transport development (including active travel development) has the potential to negatively affect biodiversity and ecological connectivity (through habitat loss/fragmentation).

Potential Positive Environmental Effects

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



- The Plan supports the development of a third river crossing in the town. This development has the potential to result in a range of positive environmental impacts, including positive effects on traffic and transport conditions in and around the town. This development has the potential to support interconnectivity within the town and alleviate traffic conditions in other parts of the town..
- The delivery of housing and community infrastructure has the potential to generate positive effects on population and human health (people and communities).
- Town regeneration related development has the potential to facilitate the sustainable development of town centres. The regeneration and enhancement of town centres may contribute to positive effects on communities, businesses, tourism and recreation amenities and cultural heritage.
- The promotion of sustainable land use, sustainable transportation and public transport may support modal shift and the use of public transportation, resulting in potential positive effects on population and human health, local air quality and climate.
- The Plan supports the development, expansion and management of safe active travel networks. The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift, reduce traffic related risks and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions - thereby positively impacting population and human health, local air quality and the climate environment.
- The plan supports the enhancement and interconnectivity of tourism and recreation assets in and around the town (e.g., through the development of the Ormond Castle Quarter). This has the potential to generate positive effects for tourism and recreation features in the town and enhance amenity value in the town generally.
- The promotion of economic development will support people, businesses and the local economy, through the generation of business activities and employment.
- The plan is supportive of community and local area based renewable energy/energy efficient development, which will have a positive effect on the climate environment.
- The plan is supportive of flood alleviation and the minimisation of flood risk in the Plan area (via the Carrick-on-Suir Flood Relief Scheme). This will generate positive environmental effects on water quality, hydrology and biodiversity. The delivery of flood alleviation has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including human receptors, ecological receptors and cultural heritage assets.
- The Plan supports measures promoting and enhancing circularity and resource efficiency in line with the principles of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 (e.g., through education and awareness programmes). These measures have the potential to generate positive effects for material assets (through the promotion of waste prevention, minimisation and recycling at local level).
- The plan supports the development nature based solutions - in response to flood and climate related risk - which are supportive of biodiversity protection and enhancement. The promotion of NBS has the potential to create positive effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna, water quality and hydrology.
- The Plan promotes protection of utility assets (including the Carrick-on-Suir Wastewater Treatment Plant) and collaboration with utility providers on utility infrastructure delivery and maintenance. This will support the sustainable provision of appropriately integrated material asset infrastructure (e.g., water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.), and promotes a high standard of environmental protection in the area of wastewater management and treatment in and around the town.



- The framework of locally focussed, environmental protection and enhancement related policies and objectives support the carrying out of considered, appropriate development sensitive to the receiving environment. Generally, this has the potential to generate positive impacts on all environmental components.

1.10 Mitigation Measures

Potential negative environmental effects that may occur as a result of the implementation of the Plan (without considering any mitigation) were identified.

The SEA Directive requires that mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any potential significant negative environmental effects due to the implementation of a plan are defined.

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

- The consideration of Plan Alternatives throughout the Plan-making process, having regard to environmental considerations.
- Environmental protection policies/objectives defined in the CDP.
- The integration of environmental considerations into the Plan.

The Plan development process was carried out in parallel with the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan development team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA, AA and SFRA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan development process.

A strong level of embedded environmental mitigation was found to be present in early drafts of the Plan. Environmental mitigation measures were also already defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan (CDP) which mitigate significant negative environmental effects, and maximise potential environmental benefits and co-benefits of the Plan.

As necessary, additional environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the Plan were developed and then integrated into the Plan. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximising identified positive environmental effects of the Plan.

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to policies/objectives in the Plan also. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during Plan implementation.

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



2. CONCLUSIONS

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

Environmental protection related policies/objectives defined in the CDP, which apply to the Plan area, will mitigate a wide range of potential negative effects associated with the Plan.

The adoption of the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the Plan will prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the Plan.

No further mitigation measures are required for the Plan.



3. MONITORING MEASURES

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

A series of indicators and targets were established for identified SEOs to enable ongoing monitoring and measurement of Plan implementation performance, the environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan and the efficacy of environmental mitigation measures. Such monitoring will be carried out periodically to support Plan implementation.

SEO indicators are simple and effective quantifiable indicators used to measure the environmental effects of implementing the Plan and the progress of SEOs and related targets. SEO targets set focused, measurable aims and thresholds that the Plan can support the achievement of.

TCC are responsible for implementation of the SEA monitoring programme. Given the position of the Local Area Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022- 2028, the measures identified in that County Development Plan SEA have been used as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring. A monitoring report will be prepared to document monitoring outcomes. This report shall be made available for public inspection.

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



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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

CARRICK-ON-SUIR LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:
Tipperary County Council



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

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Natura Impact Report for Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Natura Impact Report to Tipperary County Council for the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan (LAP) 2025-2031 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the “Habitats Directive”).

This report is part of the AA process that was undertaken alongside the preparation of the LAP.

1.2 Plan Amendments

This document is a consolidated version of the NIR, which has been updated in response to consultation submissions received during consultation and considering Material Alterations to the Plan and Further Amendments to Material Alterations made during the Plan-making process.

The Plan amendments arising from consultation and the post consultation Plan-making process have been subject to further assessment. These assessments are presented in Appendices 3 and 4. It was concluded that the amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA of the LAP.

1.3 Legislative Context

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

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



1.4 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature¹ was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

All of these data sources are likely to be useful for AAs that must be undertaken for lower-tier plans/projects under the Plan.

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

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

There are four main stages in the AA process, as follows:

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

¹ Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.



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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model², where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

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

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

The scope of the AA was informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment³ (SEA) process being undertaken on the LAP.

² Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites

³ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it.



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL AREA PLAN

2.1 Overview

This Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031 (LAP) has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (“the Act”). LAPs are required for towns with a population over 5,000. Therefore, a new LAP is mandatory for Carrick-on-Suir. This LAP replaces the Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013 (as varied and extended).

This LAP outlines the local spatial planning framework for Carrick-on-Suir with planning policies and objectives unique to the town set out at the end of each chapter. Planning policies will inform private and public sector local development proposals, and planning objectives represent the key local objectives of the Council to be achieved over the lifetime of the LAP.

This LAP has been prepared having consideration to Local Area Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2013), their accompanying best-practice manual and the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022).

2.2 Plan Content

This LAP sets out a strategic vision for Carrick-on-Suir and has been informed by collaboration and consultation with stakeholders and the general public. This LAP has been prepared to underpin the Core Strategy of the Tipperary CDP and its Core Ambition to deliver ‘Vibrant, Living Towns driving the Regional and Local Economy’. The 10 Strategic Objectives of the Tipperary CDP each comply with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and are reflected in the local spatial planning framework outlined.

The LAP sits at the 'local' tier of planning policy and is consistent with the objectives of national and regional level planning policies, as well as the Tipperary CDP. The LAP is comprised of the following documents:

- A Written Statement with specific policies and objectives laid out across 10 sections.
- Maps including land-use zoning with flood risk areas, and built and natural heritage.
- Appendices as follows:
 1. Serviced Land Assessment
 2. Sustainable Travel Plan
 3. Regeneration Sites
 4. Social Infrastructure Audit
 5. Monitoring and Implementation Strategy
 6. Architectural Conservation Area Statement of Character
 7. Town Centre First Plan

The LAP is focused on a renewed and targeted approach to compact growth and regeneration, with the town centre as the heart and focal point of Carrick-on-Suir, and with clear consideration of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and modal shift change in terms of how we get around. At the centre of this LAP is consideration of quality of life for the community in the form of housing, jobs, education and amenities.



The LAP includes policies and objectives at the end of each Chapter. The policies of the Plan seek to manage and guide new development of the town in a sustainable way. The objectives of the Plan are included to provide clarity on the active role of the Council in managing, supporting, and implementing the vision for the Plan. The policies and objectives of this LAP have been framed in a manner to ensure consistency with the provisions of the NPF, RSES and Tipperary CDP 2022-2028. This provides for a compact approach to growth with the aim of facilitating the delivery of climate resilient and sustainable communities in the town.

The strategic goal and aim of each section of the LAP are presented as below.

LAP Section/Chapter	Strategic Goal and Aim
2. Planning and Development Strategy	In 2031, Carrick-on-Suir will be a vibrant, sustainable and age-friendly community. The community will benefit from a high quality of life, quality housing choices, improved access to employment options and an improved range of services in the town. The town will benefit from significant investment and regeneration in the central areas of the town, enhanced social, cultural and tourism activities in the town, an increasing town centre residential population, and thriving and vibrant local businesses and services.
3. Town Centre Strategy	The Town Centre Strategy for Carrick-on-Suir will seek to ensure that the vibrancy and vitality of the town is maintained and enhanced. This will be achieved by increasing the residential population of the town centre, regenerating town centre brownfield lands, implementing and delivering the local town centre heritage-led strategies for the town, and providing a high-quality, pleasant and enjoyable town centre environment focused on active modes of travel.
4. Economic Development Strategy	By 2031, Carrick-on-Suir will have consolidated its existing employment base with enhanced employment opportunities for local residents. This will be achieved by supporting existing businesses to diversify and expand, supporting the development of existing business parks in the town, promoting and enabling tourism development and by improving the town centre experience through the delivery of new infrastructure and a heritage-led Town Centre First approach.
5. Sustainable Communities	Over its lifetime, this Carrick-on-Suir LAP, as part of a larger multi-stakeholder social and economic framework, will help facilitate the development of sustainable and socially inclusive communities, where high-quality and age friendly housing is provided consistently, and integrated with the delivery of community and social infrastructure to support a high quality of life for the residents of the town.
6. Transport and Connectivity	By 2030, Carrick-on-Suir will have initiated a model shift change in transport modes, with greater numbers of residents, workers and visitors utilising active travel such as walking and cycling and public transport, thereby enabling more sustainable transport patterns. This will be achieved by investing in sustainable transport infrastructure, provision of a high-quality public realm and the facilitation and activation of new development close to the town centre.
7. Recognising Our Local Heritage	In 2031, Carrick-on-Suir will have an enhanced built heritage, amenity and green and blue infrastructure that will showcase the best of the natural and built heritage of the town; enhancing amenity and providing a high-quality environment for locals, visitors and future generations. This will be achieved by ensuring that new development contributes to urban greening and local ecology, and by sensitive investment in the built heritage in the town.



LAP Section/Chapter	Strategic Goal and Aim
8. Infrastructure, Energy and Utilities	Over the lifetime of this Plan, there will be continued investment in a sustainable network of physical strategic infrastructure and utilities to support sustainable socio-economic growth and protect the quality of the environment of Carrick-on-Suir. This will be achieved through the identification of required infrastructure in collaboration with infrastructure providers, and continued investment in the right locations, and at the right time.
9. Land use Zoning Framework	The purpose of the land use zoning framework is to guide development to the right location and ensure that development takes places in a co-ordinated and coherent way, while protecting the built and natural environment of the town. The land use framework is underpinned by the SLA with a tiered approach to zoning in accordance with the NPF requirements and is informed by the Development Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022).
10. Monitoring and Evaluation	The Council places an emphasis on monitoring, and it is a key objective of this Plan to carry out effective, cross-sectional monitoring and evaluation of the policies and objectives contained in this LAP.

2.3 Relationship of the Plan with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

An examination of how the LAP interrelates with other national, regional and local plans and programmes has taken place and is documented in Appendix 2.



3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat⁴ or species⁵ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

All European sites that are in the Plan area, within the zone of influence of the Plan area, or connected by environmental pathways (e.g., hydrological connections) to the Plan area have been considered within this assessment. The assessment process also considers hydrogeological processes and possible effects to ground water with respect to ground water sensitive habitats and species.

Details of European sites considered in the assessment are provided in Table 3-1. European sites in and surrounding the Plan area are also mapped in Figure 3-1 below.

Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix 1) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

⁴ 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.

⁵ The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.



- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Suir SAC [IE002137] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Nier Valley Woodlands SAC [IE000668] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Comeragh Mountains SAC [IE001952] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Hugginstown Fen SAC [IE000404] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Tramore Back Strand SPA [IE004027] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [IE004193] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for River Nore SPA [IE004233] Version 1.

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

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

3.3.1 Is the LAP Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

The overarching objective of the LAP is to provide a framework for sustainable development within the County. Therefore, the LAP is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.



3.3.2 Elements of the LAP with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The LAP provides a land use planning framework for the Plan Area. There are a number of environmental sensitivities within the area and an assessment of effects indicates the potential effects relate to the following:

- *Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure.*
- *Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna.*
- *Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.*
- *Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.*
- *Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air.*
- *Adverse effects from tourism, amenity and recreation.*
- *Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.*
- *Adverse effects upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.*
- *Increase in the risk of flooding.*
- *Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure the mitigation of potential conflicts).*
- *Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.*

All policies and objectives defined in the LAP have been considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological integrity of all relevant European sites identified - considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

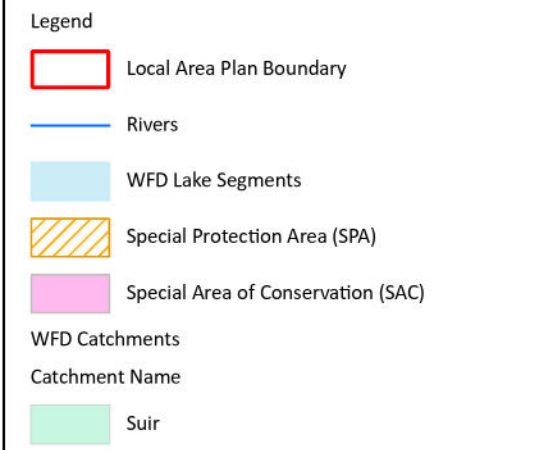
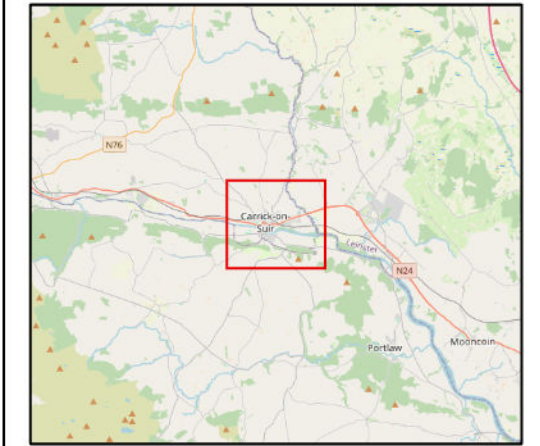
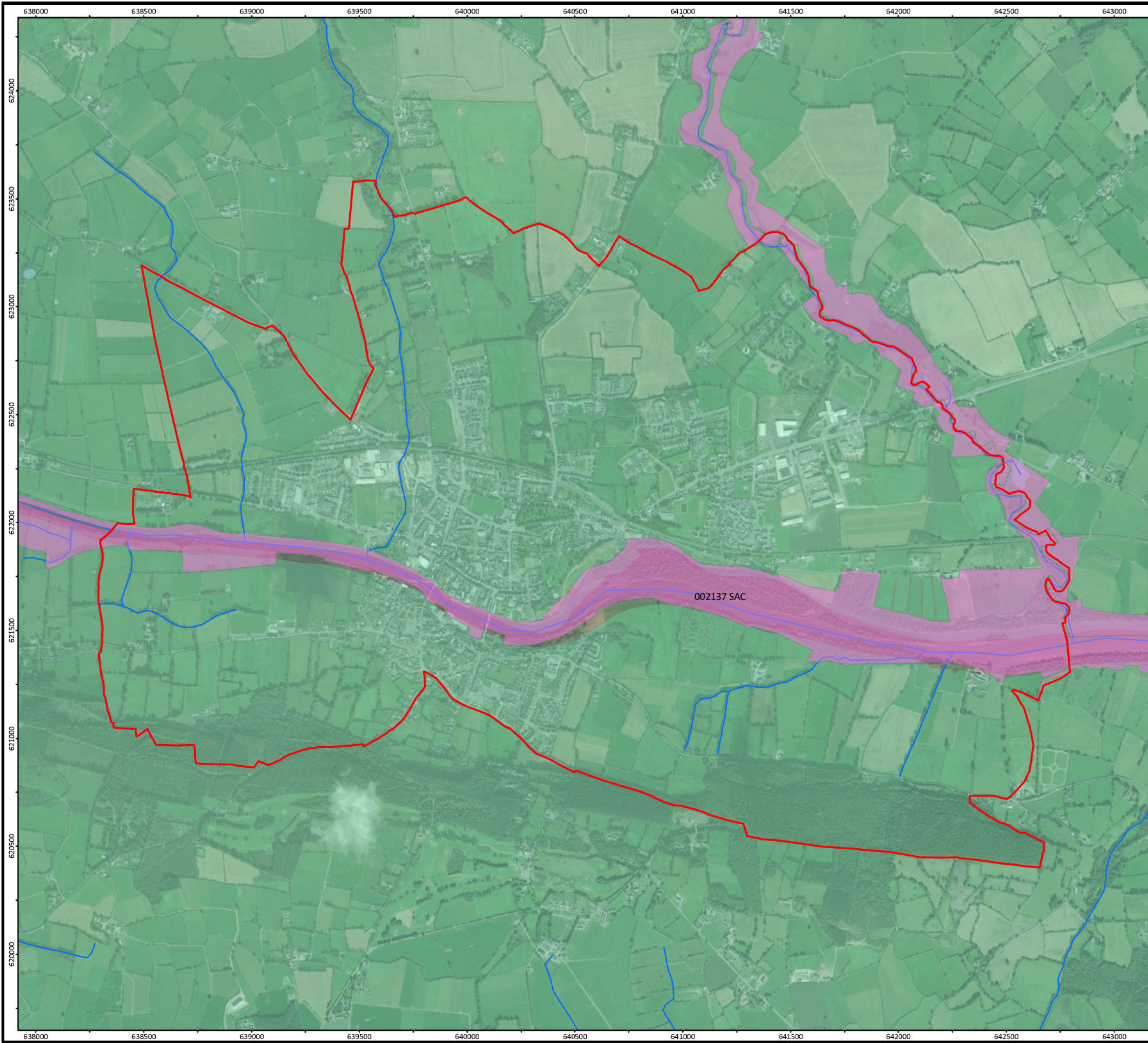
Table 3-1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European sites considering information provided above, including Appendix 1. Sites are screened in based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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



- Legend**
- Local Area Plan Boundary
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - LAP 15km Buffer

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	3.1
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	7/31/2024
SCALE:	1:135,000 @ A3



Hydrological Connectivity to European Sites	
Carrick on Suir	
Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031	
FIGURE NO:	3.2
CLIENT:	Tipperary County Council
DATE:	02/07/2024
SCALE:	1:17,500 @ A3



Table 3-1: Screening of European sites which have ecological pathways for potential effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	0.00	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twait Shad) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	The SAC is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions. The LAP provides a framework for development that is likely to result in land use changes, emission sources such as noise and dust, and hydrological interactions. There is direct overlap between the LAP boundary and the SAC therefore further consideration is required.	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	9.50	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Hamatocaulis vernicosus (Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216]	The SAC is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and hydrological and groundwater interactions. This SAC is located at a significant distance outside the LAP boundary and is not hydrologically connected, therefore no further consideration is required.	N	N
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	12.60	Alkaline fens [7230]	This SAC is highly sensitive to surface and groundwater interactions. This SAC is located a significant distance outside the LAP boundary and is not hydrologically connected, therefore no further consideration is required.	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	13.75	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The significant pressures facing this SAC are associated with invasive non-native species such as Rhododendron ponticum, cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) and beech (Fagus sylvatica) and overgrazing by deer. This SAC is located a significant distance outside the LAP boundary; therefore no further consideration is required.	N	N
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	14.94	Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], European dry heaths [4030], Reefs [1170], Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Estuaries [1130], Sea lamprey	The SAC is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions. This SAC is located a significant distance outside the LAP boundary however there is a direct hydrological connection between the LAP area and this site.	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			(Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Nore Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis) [1990], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]			
004233	River Nore SPA	19.45	Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis) [A229]	The QI species of this SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, invasive non-native species, changes in hydraulic conditions and direct land use management activities. This SPA is located a significant distance outside the LAP boundary, outside the foraging range for the QI species Kingfisher, and is not hydrologically connected, therefore no further consideration is required.	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	21.35	Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	The QI species of this SPA are sensitive to land use changes, direct disturbance, and marine pollution. This SPA is located a significant distance outside the LAP and outside the foraging distance for the QI species. There is hydrological connectivity, at a distance of 68km, including approximately 20km of seawater. The dilution effect at this distance means there will be no effects, therefore no further consideration is required.	N	N
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	24.07	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	The QI species of this SPA are sensitive to land use changes, direct disturbance and marine pollution. This SPA is located outside the LAP and outside the foraging distance for the QI species. There is hydrological connectivity, at a distance of 54.2km, including approximately 5.8km of seawater. The dilution effect at this distance means there will be no effects, therefore no further consideration is required.	N	N



3.4 In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites. Appendix 2 outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the LAP to cause in-combination effects to European sites. These plans, programmes, strategies etc. were considered throughout the assessment.

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier CDPs and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Southern Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the LAP. As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the LAP is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSEs for the Southern Region.

In order to be realised, projects included in the LAP (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

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

Additional information on the in-combination effects relationship with other plans and programmes is provided in Appendix 2.

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

The effects that could arise from the LAP were examined in the context of several factors that could potentially affect the integrity of any European site. On the basis of the findings of this Screening for AA, it was concluded that the LAP:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site.
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 2 (no.) European sites: Lower River Suir SAC (002137) and River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162).

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA was required for the LAP (see Section 4 of this report). An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority accompanies this report and the LAP.



4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assessed whether the LAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 2 European sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3-1 for which there is “Potential Pathway for Significant Effects” and/or “Potential for In-Combination Effects”), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 2 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the LAP.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters were used when characterising impacts⁶:

- Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.
- Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.
- Extent - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
- Duration - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature. Duration should be defined in relation to ecological characteristics (such as the lifecycle of a species) as well as human timeframes.
- Likelihood – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.
- Ecologically Significant Impact - An impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area.
- Integrity of a Site - The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

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

⁶ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2022) “Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in Ireland and the UK”; Environmental Protection Agency (2022) “Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports”; and National Roads Authority (2009) “Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes”.



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

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

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

A generic Conservation Objective for SACs includes:

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

A generic Conservation Objective for SPAs includes:

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

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

Assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4-1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).



Table 4-1: Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the subject land area

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects - in the absence of mitigation
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to cultivation, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, fertilisation, discharges, port areas, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), urbanised areas, human habitation, silviculture, forestry, dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, invasive non-native species. The LAP provides for future land use development. Development of infrastructure which could result in effects to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in Section 5 below.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to invasive non-native species, netting, agricultural intensification, intensive cattle grazing, use of fertilizers (forestry), pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, port areas, peat extraction, reduction in migration or migration barriers, forestry activities not referred to above, changes in abiotic conditions, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, forest replanting (native trees), water abstractions from surface waters, sand and gravel quarries, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, dredging or removal of limnic sediments, modifying structures of inland water courses, industrial or commercial areas, forest and plantation management & use, intensive fish farming, intensification, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, leisure fishing and erosion. The LAP provides for future land use development. Development of infrastructure which could result in effects to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in Section 5 below.

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The LAP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for Carrick-on-Suir. Potential effects arising from developments and activities include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution and excessive noise. Two European sites have the potential to be impacted by these developments and activities. Various measures have been integrated into the LAP itself and within the higher-order Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (CDP) with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Table 4-2; for example, 7.1, 7.2, 7.5, 11-1, 11-2, see also Section 5 for full list) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites.

These policies ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the LAP.



Table 4-2: Policies and objectives in the LAP and the CDP relevant to Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

Plan	Ref.	Objective/Policy
LAP	7.1	Protect and conserve the integrity, ecological and biodiversity value of the River Suir, the Glen River and the Lingaun River and the associated riparian zones as they run through the town. Ensure that any development proposals within or adjacent to the rivers are appropriately assessed to ensure the protection of water quality and river access.
LAP	7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.
LAP	7.5	Protect the designated natural heritage sites and sites of high ecological value within the plan area including the Alluvial Wet Woodland habitat on the Islands of the River Suir.
CDP	11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).
CDP	11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

The LAP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2). Potential effects arising from developments and activities include the fragmentation of habitat and or species through, for example, light pollution, habitat loss or removal of stepping stone habitats.

The LAP itself and the higher order CDP includes measures to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones, planting of native tree species, management of habitats such as woodlands and minimising inappropriate lighting (see Table 4-3; for example, 7.1, 7.2, 7.5, 7.10, 7A, 7B, 11-1, 11-2, 11-3, 11-4, 11-6, see also Section 5 for full list).



Further to the provisions referred to above, there are provisions related to non-designated sites (that the Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources) and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and hedgerows that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites.

Table 4-3: Policies and objectives in the LAP and the CDP relevant to Habitat or Species Fragmentation

Plan	Ref.	Objective/Policy
LAP	7.1	Protect and conserve the integrity, ecological and biodiversity value of the River Suir, the Glen River and the Lingaun River and the associated riparian zones as they run through the town. Ensure that any development proposals within or adjacent to the rivers are appropriately assessed to ensure the protection of water quality and river access.
LAP	7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.
LAP	7.5	Protect the designated natural heritage sites and sites of high ecological value within the plan area including the Alluvial Wet Woodland habitat on the Islands of the River Suir.
LAP	7A	Support and work with the local community, and other stakeholders in the development of blue and green infrastructure in the town, including the enhancement of the biodiversity and conservation value of the River Suir, Glen River and Lingaun River.
LAP	7B	Work in partnership with stakeholders and the local community in the delivery of projects for Carrick-on-Suir in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways (TCC, 2018) and the proposed Tipperary Greenway and Trail Strategy and seek funding opportunities as they arise.
CDP	11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).
CDP	11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.



Plan	Ref.	Objective/Policy
CDP	11-3	Ensure the conservation and protection of existing, and proposed NHAs, and to ensure that proposed developments within or in close proximity to an existing or proposed NHA would not have a significant adverse impact on the status of the site as described.
CDP	11-4	(a) Conserve, protect and enhance areas of local biodiversity value, habitats, ecosystems and ecological corridors, in both urban and rural areas, including rivers, lakes, streams and ponds, peatland and other wetland habitats, woodlands, hedgerows, tree lines, veteran trees, natural and semi-natural grasslands in accordance with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan (DCHG 2017) and any review thereof. (b) Safeguard, enhance and protect water bodies (rivers/canals/lakes) and river walks and to provide links, where possible, to wider green infrastructure networks as an essential part of the design process. (c) Require an 'Ecosystems Services' approach for new development to incorporate nature-based solutions to SUDS, in so far as practical, as part of water management systems, public realm design and landscaping, in line with best practice. (d) Where trees or hedgerows are of particular local value, the Council may seek their retention, or where retention is not feasible, their replacement and will seek a proactive focus on new tree-planting as part of new development.
CDP	11-6	Ensure the integration of river corridors with green infrastructure in settlements in line with the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020).

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

The LAP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors. Disturbance effects are caused by any activity or development that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of human activity/movement or noise pollution.

Noise and light will be managed through provisions such as CDP policies 11-18 and 11-19. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).

The LAP includes various provisions that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to add sources of effects; however, LAP policies/objectives such as 6.5 and 6B (see Section 5) will mitigate such effects. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the LAP and are also defined in the higher order; identified in Table 4-4 (further details see Section 5).



Table 4-4: Policies and objectives in the LAP and the CDP relevant to Disturbance to Key Species

Plan	Ref.	Objective/Policy
LAP	6.5	Preserve and safeguard the Route Corridor for the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme (Major National Road Project) and support and prioritise the implementation of the scheme - having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of this strategic infrastructural development.
LAP	6B	Work in partnership with TII and regional stakeholders to deliver the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme as part of the upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford - having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of this strategic infrastructural development.
CDP	11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).
CDP	11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.
CDP	11-18	Ensure that new development does not result in significant noise disturbance and to ensure that all new developments are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance in accordance with the provisions of the Noise Action Plan 2018 and relevant standards and guidance that refer to noise management.
CDP	11-19	Ensure that new development does not result in significant disturbance as a result of light pollution and to ensure that all new developments are designed and constructed to minimise the impact of light pollution on the visual, environmental and residential amenities of surrounding areas.



4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

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

The LAP includes provisions related to non-designated sites (that the LAP recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources) and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and hedgerows that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above. In addition to this, the LAP and the higher order CDP identify policies/objectives to protect and improve water quality interactions which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards. Further details in relation to the mitigation measures incorporated into the text of the LAP and in the CDP are provided in Section 5.

Table 4-5: Policies and objectives in the LAP and the CDP relevant to Reduction in Species Density

Plan	Ref.	Objective/Policy
LAP	7.1	Protect and conserve the integrity, ecological and biodiversity value of the River Suir, the Glen River and the Lingaun River and the associated riparian zones as they run through the town. Ensure that any development proposals within or adjacent to the rivers are appropriately assessed to ensure the protection of water quality and river access.
LAP	7A	Support and work with the local community, and other stakeholders in the development of blue and green infrastructure in the town, including the enhancement of the biodiversity and conservation value of the River Suir, Glen River and Lingaun River.
CDP	11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).
CDP	11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.



Plan	Ref.	Objective/Policy
CDP	11-4	(a) Conserve, protect and enhance areas of local biodiversity value, habitats, ecosystems and ecological corridors, in both urban and rural areas, including rivers, lakes, streams and ponds, peatland and other wetland habitats, woodlands, hedgerows, tree lines, veteran trees, natural and semi-natural grasslands in accordance with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan (DCHG 2017) and any review thereof. (b) Safeguard, enhance and protect water bodies (rivers/canals/lakes) and river walks and to provide links, where possible, to wider green infrastructure networks as an essential part of the design process. (c) Require an 'Ecosystems Services' approach for new development to incorporate nature-based solutions to SUDS, in so far as practical, as part of water management systems, public realm design and landscaping, in line with best practice. (d) Where trees or hedgerows are of particular local value, the Council may seek their retention, or where retention is not feasible, their replacement and will seek a proactive focus on new tree-planting as part of new development.
CDP	11-7	a) Ensure the protection of water quality in accordance with the EU WFD, and support the objectives and facilitate the implementation of the associated Programme of Measures of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any successor. This includes contributing towards the protection of Blue-Dot catchments and drinking water resources. Also, have cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD. b) Support an integrated and collaborative approach to catchment management in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any successor. c) 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.

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Indicators of conservation value are identified as key ecological resources such as water quality, air quality, habitat quality, population health of ecosystem engineers or 'keystone species' etc. The protection of these resources is a key focus of the Plan including provisions contained within Chapter 7 'Recognising Our Local Heritage'. Other chapters such as Chapter 8 'Infrastructure, Energy and Utilities' also contain provisions for ensuring future developments and forward planning is managed in a sustainable manner.

There is potential for interactions at local level between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities.

Emissions to air also have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European Sites. Various provisions have been integrated into the LAP and within the higher-order CDP with the objective of protecting air quality. Additionally, the policies provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; such as 7.1, 7.2, 11-5, 11-6.



Table 4-6: Policies and objectives in the LAP and the CDP relevant to Indicators of Conservation Value

Plan	Ref.	Objective/Policy
LAP	7.1	Protect and conserve the integrity, ecological and biodiversity value of the River Suir, the Glen River and the Lingaun River and the associated riparian zones as they run through the town. Ensure that any development proposals within or adjacent to the rivers are appropriately assessed to ensure the protection of water quality and river access.
LAP	7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.
CDP	11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).
CDP	11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.
CDP	11-5	Ensure that new developments proposed in or near 'Ground Water Protection Schemes' and 'Zones of Contribution' which contribute to public water supplies, do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these important assets.
CDP	11-6	Ensure the integration of river corridors with green infrastructure in settlements in line with the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020).



4.3.1.6 Climate Change

The LAP includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. Section 7 ‘Recognising Our Local Heritage’ of the LAP provides that ‘no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).’ Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

Table 4-7: Policies and objectives in the LAP and the CDP relevant to Climate Change

Plan	Ref.	Objective/Policy
LAP	2.3	Require new development to incorporate best practice in low-carbon and energy efficient planning and techniques as reflected by the policies and objectives of the TCDP and this LAP and in accordance with the Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (and any review thereof).
CDP	5-9	Require that climate change actions and measures be incorporated in new residential development of all scales to demonstrate how the development will minimise energy use, enhance accessibility, manage waste and support biodiversity.
CDP	11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).
CDP	11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, ‘Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities’, (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.



5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines measures that were incorporated into the LAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The LAP was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the LAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 below⁷.

The plan making process was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan making team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan making process. As necessary, environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LAP were developed and then integrated into the LAP. Much of the environmental mitigation was embedded in the plan early on in the process as a result of this. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximizing identified positive environmental effects of the LAP.

Mitigation measures have been proposed that maximize the co-benefits of positive environmental action for other environmental components such as local air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).

Environmental mitigation measures integrated into early iterations of the LAP to mitigate potential significant negative effects on European sites are presented in Table 5-1.

Environmental mitigation measures defined in the higher order Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (CDP) that mitigate potential significant negative effects on European sites are presented in Table 5-2.

Additional Environmental Mitigation Measures (additional policies/objectives) recommended to mitigate potential significant negative effects on European sites are presented in Table 5-3.

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to various previously defined objectives/policies in the Plan. Such recommendations that serve to mitigate potential significant negative effects on European site are presented in Table 5-4.

⁷ For a complete assessment of the Plan, against all environmental components (These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors), refer to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report of the Plan.



Table 5-1: Embedded Environmental Mitigation

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy
2.3	Require new development to incorporate best practice in low-carbon and energy efficient planning and techniques as reflected by the policies and objectives of the TCDP and this LAP and in accordance with the Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (and any review thereof).
7.1	Protect and conserve the integrity, ecological and biodiversity value of the River Suir, the Glen River and the Lingaun River and the associated riparian zones as they run through the town. Ensure that any development proposals within or adjacent to the rivers are appropriately assessed to ensure the protection of water quality and river access.
7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.
7.5	Protect the designated natural heritage sites and sites of high ecological value within the plan area including the Alluvial Wet Woodland habitat on the Islands of the River Suir.
7.7	Safeguard the setting and character of Ormond Castle, including the Castle Park, amenity lands and riverscape.
7A	Support and work with the local community, and other stakeholders in the development of blue and green infrastructure in the town, including the enhancement of the biodiversity and conservation value of the River Suir, Glen River and Lingaun River.
7B	Work in partnership with stakeholders and the local community in the delivery of projects for Carrick-on-Suir in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways (TCC, 2018) and the proposed Tipperary Greenway and Trail Strategy and seek funding opportunities as they arise.
8.2	Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water service; permit new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and waste water supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Eireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Eireann's Connections and Developer Service process.



Table 5-2: Environmental Mitigation defined in the CDP

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy
5-9	Require that climate change actions and measures be incorporated in new residential development of all scales to demonstrate how the development will minimise energy use, enhance accessibility, manage waste and support biodiversity.
11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).
11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.
11-3	Ensure the conservation and protection of existing, and proposed NHAs, and to ensure that proposed developments within or in close proximity to an existing or proposed NHA would not have a significant adverse impact on the status of the site as described.
11-4	(a) Conserve, protect and enhance areas of local biodiversity value, habitats, ecosystems and ecological corridors, in both urban and rural areas, including rivers, lakes, streams and ponds, peatland and other wetland habitats, woodlands, hedgerows, tree lines, veteran trees, natural and semi-natural grasslands in accordance with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan (DCHG 2017) and any review thereof. (b) Safeguard, enhance and protect water bodies (rivers/canals/lakes) and river walks and to provide links, where possible, to wider green infrastructure networks as an essential part of the design process. (c) Require an 'Ecosystems Services' approach for new development to incorporate nature-based solutions to SUDS, in so far as practical, as part of water management systems, public realm design and landscaping, in line with best practice. (d) Where trees or hedgerows are of particular local value, the Council may seek their retention, or where retention is not feasible, their replacement and will seek a proactive focus on new tree-planting as part of new development.
11-5	Ensure that new developments proposed in or near 'Ground Water Protection Schemes' and 'Zones of Contribution' which contribute to public water supplies, do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these important assets.
11-6	Ensure the integration of river corridors with green infrastructure in settlements in line with the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020).



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy
11-7	a) Ensure the protection of water quality in accordance with the EU WFD, and support the objectives and facilitate the implementation of the associated Programme of Measures of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any successor. This includes contributing towards the protection of Blue-Dot catchments and drinking water resources. Also, have cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD. b) Support an integrated and collaborative approach to catchment management in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any successor. c) 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.
11-13	Seek to control the spread of invasive plant and animal species, including consideration of potential pathways for invasive species spread, i.e. watercourses.
11-18	Ensure that new development does not result in significant noise disturbance and to ensure that all new developments are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance in accordance with the provisions of the Noise Action Plan 2018 and relevant standards and guidance that refer to noise management.
11-19	Ensure that new development does not result in significant disturbance as a result of light pollution and to ensure that all new developments are designed and constructed to minimise the impact of light pollution on the visual, environmental and residential amenities of surrounding areas.

Table 5-3: Additional Environmental Mitigation

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy
7.10	Protect and where possible enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including habitat that form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. Appropriate mitigation and/or compensation to conserve biodiversity and green infrastructure networks will be required where important habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.



Table 5-4: Amendments to Pre-existing Plan Objectives/Policies

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment
5.2	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamauck Road. A masterplan must provide 1) for a coordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; and 2) an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery. Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands.	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamauck Road. A masterplan must provide 1) for a coordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; 2) an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery. Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands. The masterplan must be informed and guided by all relevant environmental considerations, including the need to manage and mitigate (where necessary) the potential effects development in this area may have on the Lower River Suir SAC.
5I	Support access to public open space along the Glen River, at the Duck Pond and along the River Suir.	Support access to public open space along the Glen River, at the Duck Pond and along the River Suir, and promote passive recreational activities (subject to the sensitivity of riverside habitat), whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and stream corridors.
6.4	Support the sequential development of lands zoned for development, and to ensure that provision is made for the orderly expansion into areas that may be zoned in the future. In assessing new planning applications, and on a case-by-case basis, the Council may require the maintenance of a corridor to provide for future connectivity with adjoining un-zoned lands.	Support the sequential development of lands zoned for development, and to ensure that provision is made for the orderly expansion into areas that may be zoned in the future. In assessing new planning applications, and on a case-by-case basis, the Council may require the maintenance of a corridor to provide for future connectivity with adjoining un-zoned lands, having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of development.



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment
6.5	Preserve and safeguard the Route Corridor for the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme (Major National Road Project) and support and prioritise the implementation of the scheme.	Preserve and safeguard the Route Corridor for the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme (Major National Road Project) and support and prioritise the implementation of the scheme - having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of this strategic infrastructural development.
6.6	Support, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the development of a third river crossing to the west of town, subject to the identification of a need for such transport-related infrastructure.	Support, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the development of a third river crossing to the west of town, subject to the identification of a need for such transport-related infrastructure; whilst ensuring 1) environmental considerations are integrated into the design, planning and development of such a crossing (at the earliest stages possible); and 2) Robust environmental assessment processes guide and inform the development.
6B	Work in partnership with TII and regional stakeholders to deliver the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme as part of the upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford.	Work in partnership with TII and regional stakeholders to deliver the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme as part of the upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford - having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of this strategic infrastructural development.
7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental and assessment.	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental and assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.
8C	Integrate a Nature Based Approach to SUDS, with a focus on biodiversity as part of new public realm and public sector development in the town.	Integrate a Nature Based Approach to SUDS, with a focus on biodiversity and climate adaptation , as part of new public realm and public sector development in the town.



6. CONCLUSION

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan has been carried out. Implementation of the LAP has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of the Lower River Suir SAC, if unmitigated.

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Carrick-on-Suir LAP is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁸. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

The AA process is effectively concluded at adoption of the LAP.

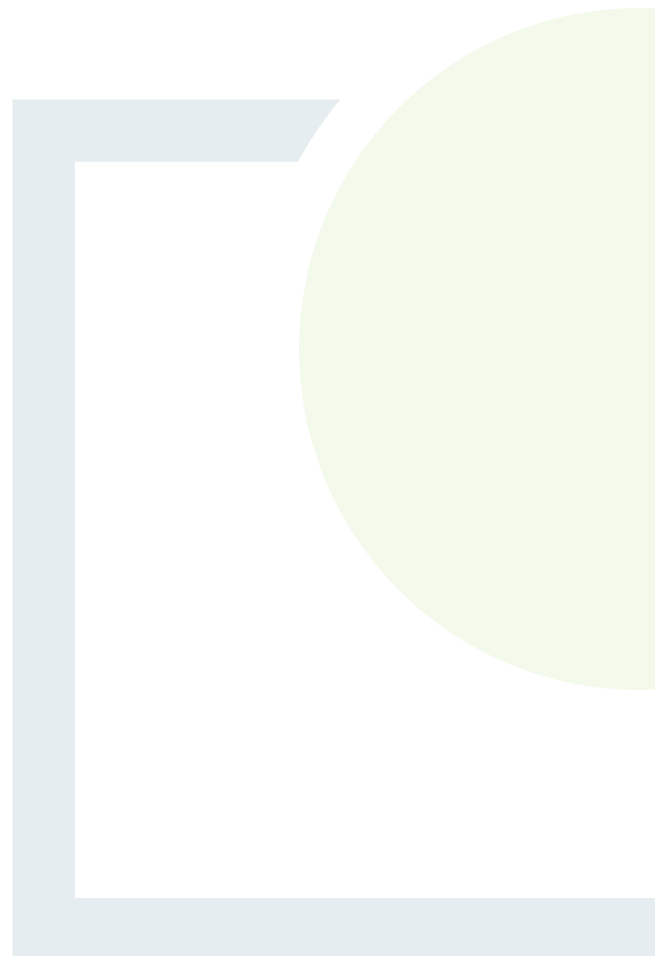
⁸ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
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APPENDIX 1

Background Information to
European sites



Appendix 1 - Table 1 Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in the assessment

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	This site contains a range of Annex I habitats including floating river vegetation, eutrophic tall herbs alluvial forest old oak woods yew woods and salt meadows. The site is very important for the presence of a number of scarce and specialised Annex II animal species with particularly important populations of the fish species <i>Salmo salar</i> and <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> . <i>Lutra lutra</i> is widespread on the system as is <i>Austroptamobius pallipes</i> . The site supports two Annex I priority and five non-priority Annex I habitats. There are four Annex I species of birds present within the site. The rare lichen <i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i> an ancient woodland indicator occurs at Portlaw Oak Woods within the site.	The Suir River system flows through the counties of Tipperary Kilkenny and Waterford. The site consists of all of the freshwater stretches of the Suir immediately south of Thurles the tidal stretches as far as the confluence with the Barrow/Nore immediately east of Cheekpoint in Co. Waterford and many of the tributaries including the Clodiagh the Lingaun Anner Nier Tar Aherlow and Multeen. Much of the system flows through Carboniferous limestone though towards Waterford the geology changes to Old Red Sandstone and Ordovician bedrocks. The site supports a diverse range of habitats including marsh reedbeds wet and dry grasslands broad-leaved semi-natural woodlands salt marshes tidal rivers and estuarine channels. Substantial areas of improved grassland and arable lands are included for water quality reasons.
000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	Woodlands show both primary and secondary successions in development towards an oak-dominated climax. Quality of woods diminished by regular grazing and regeneration is poor.	The site comprises a series of non-contiguous deciduous woodlands along the R. Nier and its tributaries. <i>Betula</i> spp. <i>Corylus avellana</i> and <i>Quercus</i> spp. are the main species with <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> . Parts of site are of heath and scrub. Dry grassland and wet grassland also occur. Good representation of Irish mammals and birds. Valley has amenity value and is a popular tourist destination.
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	This is the most south-easterly upland area in the country and supports a diverse range of upland habitats and species. Habitats of particular note are the oligotrophic lakes dry heaths and alpine heath. Many rare bryophytes are present including <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> . Three bird species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive breed within the site - <i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>Circus cyaneus</i> and <i>Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax</i> . The Red Data Book fish <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> occurs in the lakes.	A medium sized upland site with a diversity of habitats including various heath types of oligotrophic lakes in coums backed by extensive cliff faces upland grassland a variety of rocky habitats and rivers with well-developed aquatic flora. The blanket bog at this site is not considered a good example of the habitat. There is a small area of coniferous forestry present within the site. Roads have been developed near Mahon River for tourism purposes.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	The site supports an important example of alkaline fen vegetation and is considered one of the best sites in the south-east region. It has a diverse vegetation including some scarce plants such as <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i> . The site is in a fairly natural state and the quality is generally good. Some rare insects have been recorded, notably <i>Lestes dryas</i> and <i>Parhelophilus consimilis</i> . <i>Rana temporaria</i> is common at the site.	The site occupies a narrow low-lying basin on limestone glacial till overlying acid Old Red Sandstone. It comprises a relatively large wetland dominated by swamp and fen vegetation. The wetland has a small catchment and is partly fed by iron rich springs. The northern part of the site is dominated by <i>Phragmites</i> swamp but much of the remainder consists of species-rich fen partly developed on floating mats of <i>Carex diandra</i> with beds of <i>Typha latifolia</i> or <i>Phragmites</i> scattered throughout and especially adjacent to spring areas. Species-rich Junco-Molinion grassland occurs in drained areas at the southern and northern ends of the site and around the margins at the peat-mineral interface. Surrounding land is mainly improved grassland used for pasture.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	The site supports many Annexed habitats including the priority habitats of alluvial woodland and petrifying springs. The quality of habitat is generally good. The site also supports a number of Annex II animal species - <i>Salmo salar</i> <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> M.m. <i>durrovensis</i> <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> <i>Lutra lutra</i> <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and <i>L. planeri</i> . Annex I Bird species include <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> <i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> <i>Limosa lapponica</i> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Alcedo atthis</i> . A range of rare plants and invertebrates are found in the woods along these rivers and rare plants are also associated with the saltmarsh.	This site consists of most of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments. The Barrow is tidal as far upriver as Graiguenamanagh while the Nore is tidal as far upriver as Inishtioge. The site also includes the extreme lower reaches of the River Suir and all of the estuarine component of Waterford Harbour extending to Creadan Head. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr Fushoge Mountain Aughavaud Owenass Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow and the Delour Dinin Erkina Owveg Munster Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. They traverse limestone bedrock for a good proportion of their routes though the middle reaches of the Barrow and many of the eastern tributaries run through Leinster Granite.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	The site supports an internationally important population of breeding Chough, a Red Data Book species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive; 24 breeding pairs were recorded from the site in the 1992 survey and 20 pairs in the 2002/03 survey. In addition, five flocks totalling 59 birds were noted in the 1992 survey and a flock of 24 birds in the 2002/03 survey. Along this coast flocks occur between Annestown and Stradbally. The site supports a nationally important Peregrine population (10 pairs in 2002). The site also holds nationally important populations of Cormorant (79 pairs) and Herring Gull (147 pairs), as well as smaller populations of other breeding seabirds: Fulmar (246 pairs), Shag (14 pairs), Guillemot (27 pairs), Razorbill (4 pairs) and Black Guillemot (15 individuals) – all seabird data from 1999-2000. The Mid-Waterford Coast SPA is an important site for Chough and Peregrine, both species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. It also supports a range of breeding seabirds, including nationally important populations of Cormorant and Herring Gull.	The Mid-Waterford Coast SPA encompasses the areas of high coast and sea cliffs in Co. Waterford between Newtown Cove to the east and Ballyvoyle to the west. The site includes the sea cliffs and the land adjacent to the cliff edge. The high water mark forms the seaward boundary. The site is underlain by Devonian sandstones, siltstones, mudstones and conglomerates as well as a variety of volcanic rocks of Ordovician age. Sea cliffs are the predominant habitat of the site; these occur along its length and are generally well-vegetated by a suite of typical sea cliff species. Above the cliffs areas of heath, improved grassland, unimproved wet and dry grassland, and woodland occur.
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	Tramore Back Strand is an important site for wintering waterfowl, providing both feeding and roosting areas. Tramore Back Strand SPA is of high ornithological importance for wintering waterfowl, with one species occurring in internationally important numbers and a further seven species having populations of national importance. The regular occurrence of Little Egret, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit is of particular note as these three species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Tramore Back Strand is also a Ramsar Convention site.	Tramore Back Strand SPA is located approximately 2 km east of Tramore town in County Waterford. It comprises a medium-sized estuary sheltered from the open sea by a long shingle spit, with high dunes. The area known as the Back Strand empties almost completely at low tide; it is connected to the outer bay and sea by narrows at Rinnashark. The intertidal mud flats and sand flats are an important habitat and the macrofauna is well-developed, with Lugworm (<i>Arenicola marina</i>), Furrow Shell (<i>Scrobicularia plana</i>), Ragworm (<i>Hediste diversicolor</i>) and Common Cockle (<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>) occurring commonly, and with large patches of Common Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) and Edible Periwinkle (<i>Littorina littoralis</i>) also present.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004233	River Nore SPA	The River Nore SPA is of high ornithological importance as it supports a nationally important population of Kingfisher, a species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.	The River Nore SPA is a long, linear site that includes the following river sections: the River Nore from the bridge at Townparks, (north-west of Borris in Ossory) to Coolnamuck (approximately 3 km south of Inistioge) in Co. Kilkenny; the Delour River from its junction with the River Nore to Derrynaseera bridge (west of Castletown) in Co. Laois; the Erkina River from its junction with the River Nore at Durrow Mills to Boston Bridge in Co. Laois; a 1.5 km stretch of the River Goul upstream of its junction with the Erkina River; the Kings River from its junction with the River Nore to a bridge at Mill Island, Co. Kilkenny. The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation.

Appendix 1 - Table 2 Background data for European sites considered in the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and the known threats and pressures as recorded by the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230]	B02, A04, A08	Forest and Plantation management & use, Grazing, Fertilisation
000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	B, I01, A04, X	Sylviculture, forestry, Invasive non-native species, Grazing, No threats or pressures
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], European dry heaths [4030], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Slender green feather-moss (Hamatocaulis vernicosus) [6216], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	A04, B, I01, K01.01, E02, G01.02, D01.02, C01.03, J01, E06	Grazing, Sylviculture, forestry, Invasive non-native species, Erosion, Industrial or commercial areas, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Roads, motorways, Peat extraction, Fire and fire suppression, other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculon fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	A01, X, J02.01, A08, E03, D03.01, H01, E01, B, J02.12.02, J02.01.02, I01	Cultivation, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Fertilisation, Discharges, Port areas, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Urbanised areas, human habitation, Sylviculture, forestry, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Invasive non-native species
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], European dry heaths [4030], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculon fluitantis and Callitricho-	I01, F02.01.02, A02.01, A04.01.01, B05, H01, J02.12.02, D03.01, C01.03, J03.02.01, B07, M01, F02, B02.01.01, J02.06, C01.01.01, A10.01, J02.02.01, J02.05.02, E02,	Invasive non-native species, Netting, Agricultural intensification, Intensive cattle grazing, Use of fertilizers (forestry), Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Port areas, Peat extraction, Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Forestry activities not referred to above, Changes in abiotic conditions, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Forest replanting (native trees), Water abstractions from surface waters, Sand and gravel quarries, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Industrial or

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Batrachion vegetation [3260], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) [1990], Reefs [1170], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	B02, F01.01, J02, F02.03, K01.01	commercial areas, Forest and Plantation management & use, Intensive fish farming, intensification , Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Leisure fishing, Erosion
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	A04, G01.02, A08, H, I01, E01, E03	Grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation, Pollution, Invasive non-native species, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Discharges
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	A02, E05, E04.01, A04.03, A04	Modification of cultivation practices, Storage of materials, Agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Grazing
004233	River Nore SPA	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229]	D03.01, J02.01, X	Port areas, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, No threats or pressures

Appendix 1 - Table 3 Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)	[1016]	Abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock, Abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	[1029]	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, Drainage for use as agricultural land, Forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, Modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), Peat extraction, Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, Discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, Modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, Other modification of hydrological conditions for residential or recreational development, Abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	[1092]	Invasive alien species of Union concern, Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	[1095]	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, Application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, Drainage for use as agricultural land, Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, Increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	[1096]	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, Application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, Drainage for use as agricultural land, Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, Pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, Discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	[1099]	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, Application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, Drainage for use as agricultural land, Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging), Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, Increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>)	[1103]	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, Application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging), Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, Freshwater fish and shellfish harvesting (recreational), Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern), Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, Increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	[1106]	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, Forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, Discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water,	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
		Modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, Illegal harvesting, collecting and taking, Other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, Abstraction of water, flow diversion, dams and other modifications of hydrological conditions for freshwater aquaculture, Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern), Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), Physical alteration of water bodies, Interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	
Estuaries	[1130]	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, Marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern), Unknown pressure	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, Marine aquaculture generating marine pollution	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Reefs	[1170]	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	[1330]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), Agriculture activities not referred to above, Sports, tourism and leisure activities,	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
		Modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	[1355]	No pressures, No threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	[1410]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock, Modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), Agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)	[1421]	No pressures, No threats	Land use management and direct impacts.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	[3110]	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, Drainage for use as agricultural land, Forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, Modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), Peat extraction, Discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (<i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i>)	[3260]	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, Forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, Peat extraction, Pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, Discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, Plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, Abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, Modification of hydrological flow, Physical alteration of water bodies	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	[4010]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Burning for agriculture, Agricultural activities generating air pollution, Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, Abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
European dry heaths	[4030]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Burning for agriculture, Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Alpine and Boreal heaths	[4060]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Agricultural activities generating air pollution, Sports, tourism and leisure activities, Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Drainage for use as agricultural land, Invasive alien species of Union concern, Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	[7130]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Burning for agriculture, Agricultural activities generating air pollution, Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), Peat extraction, Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, Drainage, Abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	[7220]	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or of mowing), Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock, Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels), Sports, tourism and leisure activities, Other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (Dumping, accidental and deliberate	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
		disturbance of bat roosts (e.g. caving)), Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), Drainage, Modification of hydrological flow, Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or of mowing), Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), Abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, Drainage, Modification of hydrological flow, Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, Increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	[8110]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock, Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8210]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Agricultural activities generating air pollution, Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8220]	Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern), Problematic native species, Storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	[91J0]	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern), Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

Appendix 1 - Table 4 Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Protection Area as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A140	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A141	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A142	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A184	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications

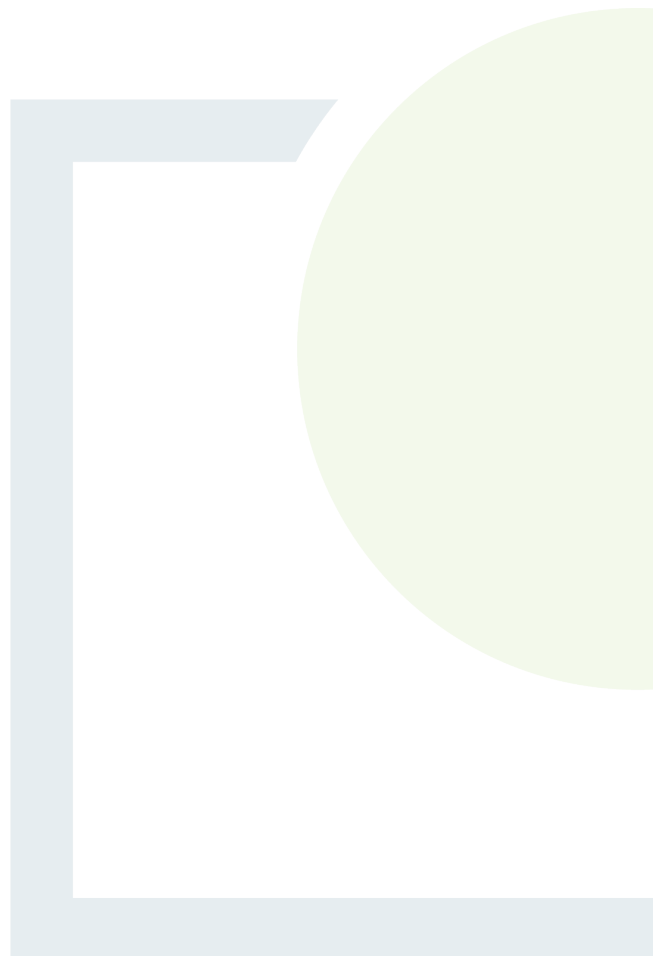
Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A229	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	A11, D01, G01, H01, I01, J02	Agriculture activities not referred to above, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A346	Red-Billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	A02, A04, E06, G01	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
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APPENDIX 2

Relationship with Other Plans
and Programmes



This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of inter-related Plans or Programmes, EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Plan or Programme, Directive or Regulation to become familiar with the full details of each.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.	This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: • To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and • To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: • mitigation • adaptation • technology • financing	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: - Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. - An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. - A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. - Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 2009/147/EC)	- Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. - Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. - The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	- Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. - Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). - Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. - Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	• Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. • A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.	• Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy)	This regulation introduces faster permitting processes for projects that have the highest potential for a quick roll-out of renewable energy and the least impact on the environment.	The regulation introduces urgent and targeted measures that address specific technologies and types of projects, which have the highest potential for quick deployment and the least impact on the environment.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended, latest Act No. 12 of 2024 and S.I. No. 242 of 2024)	The Act provides a definition of a "derelict site" and imposes a general duty upon the owner or occupier of any land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the land does not become or continue to be "a derelict site".	The Act provides that all local authorities shall compile and maintain a register of all derelict sites within their area. Local authorities are obliged to levy and collect a charge to be known as a "derelict sites levy" from the owner of all derelict sites within their area. The Act provides that this levy, and interest on it, shall be a charge on the land to which it relates.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	• The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. • The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: • reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations • tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics • a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach • measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups • measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption • harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water • measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
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EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	- Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. - Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.	- All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. - For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. - The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	• Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.	Four pieces of complimentary legislation: • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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EU Renewable Energy Directive 2023/2413 (recast)	This Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%.	• Building on the 2009 and 2018 directives, the revised directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. • Strong policy framework to facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging. • Permitting procedures will also be easier and faster both for renewable energy projects (including through shorter approval periods and the creation of 'Renewables acceleration areas') and for the necessary infrastructure projects.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	• The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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European Landscape Convention 2000	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.	- Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. - Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	- Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks - Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community	- Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment - Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. - Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. - Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	• Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	• Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. • Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	• Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. • Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. • Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. • Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	6. Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; 7. Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; 8. Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and 9. Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended	European legislation which aims to achieve Good Environment Status (GES) for all marine waters in Europe and protect the resource base for marine related economic and social activities.	The Directive provides various requirements, including: • Completion of an initial assessment of Irish marine waters; • Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators; • Establishment of a monitoring programme; • Establishment of a programme of measures; and • Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme. This was adopted on June 17th, 2008, establishing a framework for EU Community Action specifically regarding marine environmental policy. The MSFD is implemented in cycles of 6 years, with member state being obliged to report to the EU every 2 years. The third cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2023 – 2028) for Ireland is underway. The MSFD is implemented through a national Marine Strategy.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Nature Restoration Law	The regulation sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. It is also a key instrument to help the EU and its Member States meet international biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	The law aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas in order to • enable the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature • contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives • meet international commitments	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	- Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. - Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	- Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. - Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. - Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. - Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. - Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. - Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Soil monitoring law: EU on the pathway to healthy soils by 2050	According to the EU soil strategy, presented by the Commission in 2021, the lack of a dedicated EU legislation was singled out as a major cause for the alarming state of EU soils. To ensure the same level of protection to soil that exists for water, the marine environment and air in the EU, the Commission put forward the soil monitoring directive on 5 July 2023.	The general approach reached by the Council today aims to make soil health monitoring obligatory, provides guiding principles for sustainable soil management and addresses situations where soil contamination poses unacceptable health and environment risks.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	- Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention - Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention - Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention - Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner - To target additional POPs - Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	- The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). - Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. - Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. - Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. - The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	- Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. - Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. - Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. - Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. - Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. - Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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The Eighth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community	• Obligation for the Commission to present a monitoring framework, based on a limited number of headline indicators. • These should include, where available, systemic indicators that address interlinkages between environment-social and environmental-economic policy considerations, respectively.	The 8th EAP aims at accelerating the green transition in a just and inclusive way, with the 2050 long-term objective of 'Living well, within planetary boundaries', already established in the 7th programme (2014-2020).	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	• It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	- This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. - The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.	- Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. - Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. - Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	- Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. - Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. - Promote sustainable water usage. - The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: - The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive - Sampling Drinking Water Directive - Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive - Shellfish Directive - Freshwater Fish Directive - Groundwater Directive - Dangerous Substances Directive	- Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. - Achieve "good status" for all waters. - Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. - Involve the public and streamline legislation. - Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. - Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. - Recover costs for water services.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ag Climatise - A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality	This roadmap has been developed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) on foot of extensive engagement with industry, research, policy, farmer and environmental stakeholders. It is a roadmap designed to help all stakeholders to work together to tackle climate change and air pollution	The roadmap proposes 29 actions across two strands of activity: • Actions that can be implemented now: to ensure farmers act immediately on the changes necessary to address climate change. This is made up of three parts, the mitigation measures in the next section, the removals from the landscape measures, and the sustainable energy measures that follow. • The development of cross cutting enabling actions into the future: This will focus on a number of actions, including further research and innovation. Where appropriate, it will require the establishment of consultative groups to assist with the development and delivery of the actions	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agrivision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action Plan 2024	The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.	Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon CAP23 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	- Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. - This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. Aims to: - Build adaptive capacity within the sector - Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change - Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector.	The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are: - To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change - To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage - To conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations - To communicate and transfer knowledge - To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan (2022-2025)	The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan is a major public transport initiative developed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) with the aim of increasing connectivity, particularly for people living outside our major towns and cities. The plan aims to improve mobility in rural areas by providing frequent and affordable transport services that offer freedom to travel and sustainable transport connections.	The Plan focuses on: - Adding new high-frequency services; - Enhancing existing services; and - Providing improved connectivity to the wider transport network	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	- Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. - The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: - A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; - Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; - The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; - Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; - Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; - Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and - Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
DECC Statement of Strategy 2024-2025 (Le Chéile 25)	La Chéile 25 outlines a vision for a climate-neutral, sustainable, and digitally connected Ireland. The strategy emphasizes collaboration across government, industry, and the public to achieve its targets and build a better future for Ireland. Implementation will involve policy development, program implementation, and stakeholder engagement.	There are six strategic goals outlined under the strategy to achieve the vision: - Be a recognised leader in climate action - Transform our energy system for a secure and affordable net zero emissions future - Restore, protect and enhance our natural environment - Deliver world class connectivity and communications - Deliver improved cyber security defence and resilience across Government and Society - Develop our people, culture and organisation	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: - To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. - To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. - To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2018/2001: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009) (as amended)	• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Uisce Eireann in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.	• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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GRID25 Implementation Programme and associated Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 for the Electricity Transmission System in Ireland	Grid25 is a high-level strategy outlining how EirGrid intends to undertake the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short-, medium- and longer-terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply. This Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) is a practical strategic overview of how the early stages of Grid25 are intended to be implemented. The IP identifies the best current understanding of those parts of the transmission system that are envisaged as likely to be developed over the next five years. The IP identifies the issues, objectives and associated processes that will need to be adopted when making decisions about how and where developments will occur. This Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 supersedes the Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. It is focused on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023-2032.	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. • The EirGrid Shaping Our Electricity Future Version 1.1 (SOEF - published in June 2023) is a core context for grid development as part of this Plan. The SOEF addresses matters such as why EirGrid develops the electricity transmission network, Government policy context that underpins this, and the importance of an efficient and economical grid network. • The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023 also forms a core context for this Plan. The TDP lists the committed projects and projects under development for the enhancement of the Irish transmission network over the coming ten years.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Heritage related legislation and guidelines: • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and • The Heritage Act 2018. • Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Housing for All (2021)	Housing for All (2021) is the Government's housing plan to 2030. The overall aim of the housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life. The plan's vision is to have a steady supply of housing in the correct locations with economic, social, and environmental sustainability built into the system.	Housing for All provides four pathways to achieving its overarching objectives: • Supporting Homeownership and Increasing Affordability. • Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion. • Increasing New Housing Supply. • Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Planning Framework (First Revision) 2025	- The revised National Planning Framework (NPF) published in April 2025 replaced the National Planning Framework (2018) and now informs the wider Government Policy agenda, the actions of a broad range of public and private bodies, including homebuilders, the renewable energy sector, infrastructure agencies and domestic and international investors. - The focus of the revised NPF have been the following key drivers of change in Ireland: - Population growth and associated housing requirement - Infrastructure delivery - Climate and Environment - The revised NPF now provides the basis of review and updating of regional strategies and local authority development plans to reflect matters such as updated housing figures, projected jobs growth, renewable energy capacity allocations, including through the zoning of land for residential, employment and a range of other purposes. - The implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 will also be closely aligned with the implementation of the revised NPF, with updated regional strategies and new 10-year development plans required to reflect the revised NPF as they are prepared.	The revised NPF's ambition is expressed in a set of goals, termed National Strategic Outcomes: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. High-Quality International Connectivity 5. Sustainable Mobility 6. A Strong Economy 7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage 8. Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues: • Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity. • Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs. • Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People. • Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity. • Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050	This EPA report provides an assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions out to 2050 which includes an assessment of progress towards achieving its National ambitions under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and EU emission reduction targets for 2030 as set under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/842).	The focus of the assessment is out to 2030 given current national and EU 2030 climate targets. Extended projections out to 2050 are provided in the Appendix and as a separate download accompanying this report.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction 2024	This long-term strategy aims to build on the targets, policies, measures and actions that Ireland has committed to in the period to 2030 (as set out in success annual national Climate Action Plans and the EU National Energy and Climate Plans.	The Strategy sets out Ireland's 2050 climate action targets and describes sector-specific pathways to reaching those targets. These sectors include: • Electricity • Industry • Built Environment • Transport Agriculture, Forestry and Land-Use	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	• National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the • 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: • To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; • To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; • Greater partnerships for the Goals; • To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and • Strong reporting mechanisms	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended)	This act is designed to regulate the maritime area within Ireland. This regulation will be achieved by means of the National Marine Planning Framework. The Act provides the legislative framework for a new streamlined development consent process for activities in the maritime area including offshore renewable energy projects. The Bill will also establish a new body, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to undertake certain consenting and enforcement functions in the new regime. Enactment and implementation of the Bill will help Ireland to reach its climate action and renewable energy targets.	The key features of the plan are as follows: • Provision of Maritime Area Consents (MACs) for permission to occupy a maritime area over undefined or relatively long periods of time. • It is required that projects obtain a MAC as a pre-requisite before seeking planning permission for developments which fall under the Planning and Development Act 2000. • Provision of licenses for certain maritime usages which do not require planning permission or an EIA. • Establishment of a Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) which will grant MACs, licence specified maritime usages, ensure compliance with MACs, licences and offshore planning permissions.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, childcare facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport)	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	• Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. • Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. • Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. • Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2024	This framework specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of Ireland to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur. It sets out an extended suite of guiding principles that underscore the need for smarter, faster and transformative adaptation actions, which demand a pathway planning approach to account for a range of future warming and impact scenarios. It acts as a roadmap for governments, organisations, and communities to plan and implement adaptation strategies. The Framework helps coordinate efforts, allocate resources, and prioritise actions that reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. A robust framework not only enables more effective responses to immediate climate related challenges but also fosters long-term sustainability by ensuring that adaptation measures are integrated into policymaking, infrastructure development, and local planning.	Key actions under the framework: • Putting in place revised governance and reporting arrangements • Formalising the status of existing guidelines • Formalising long term operational support for key sectors • Facilitating the establishment of regional local authority climate action offices • Increasing awareness around climate adaptation and resilience • Integrating climate adaptation into key national plans and policies	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP)	The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) is a technical document which outlines the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with its commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive). The National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive) establishes emission ceilings for 2020 and 2030 for five specified pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO2), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). It also mandates the development of a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) for each Member State.	The programme includes: • An overview of sectors and national policy frameworks in Ireland that impact on emissions of the five NEC pollutants • An overview of the current outlook for compliance with NEC targets for each pollutant • Projections of relevant pollutant emissions to 2030 • Policy options, measures and actions across sectors but in particular in the residential, transport agricultural and energy sectors aimed at reducing emissions of the five specified air pollutants	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Aviation Policy 2015	Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are: • To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to • Ireland's economic growth and development.	The National Aviation Policy commits to: • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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National legislation transposing the Industrial Emissions Directive: • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing)Regulations 2013. Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013	The purpose of this Directive is to lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provisions of the Directive.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; • Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Mitigation Plan 2017	The National Mitigation Plan represents an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government Plan draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments, and reflects the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.	The Plan includes over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and began the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades. The Plan is structured across several key themes: • Climate Action Policy Framework • Decarbonising Electricity Generation • Decarbonising the Built Environment • Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	- This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. - By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. - This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non- infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: - Reduce overall travel demand - Maximise the efficiency of the transport network - Reduce reliance on fossil fuels - Reduce transport emissions - Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework. Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets - Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Ports Policy 2013	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Renewable Energy Action Plan	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The Action Plan will address and achieve the following sectoral targets: - Electricity: The government has set a target of 40% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020 - Transport: The government has set a target of 10% electric vehicles by 2020. - Heat: The government has set a target of 12% renewable heat by 2020. The government is additionally looking beyond 2020 in terms of significant opportunities to develop Ireland's abundant offshore renewable energy resources, including offshore wind, wave and tidal energy.	The CDP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Retrofit Plan	The National Retrofit Plan sets out how the Government will deliver on the Climate Action Plan targets of retrofitting the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a BER of B2/cost-optimal and installing 400,000 heat pumps in existing homes to replace older, less efficient heating systems by the end of 2030.	The Plan is designed to address barriers to retrofit across four key pillars: driving demand and activity; financing and funding; supply chain, skills and standards; and governance. For each pillar, barriers were identified and time-bound policies, measures and actions were put in place to address them. The initiatives in the Plan were guided by a number of key principles.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Roads 2040	NR2040 sets out TII's long-term strategy for the maintenance, development, and management of Ireland's National Roads network. NR2040 is fully aligned with NIFTI and Project Ireland 2040 and focuses on strategic issues for National Roads identified by TII.	The following objectives have been defined. • Safe and efficient transport network for people and goods • Environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable • Tailored for different customers in different places • Managed and improved as a key public asset	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Spatial Planning and National Roads: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)	These guidelines have been prepared in the context of the delivery of the National Spatial Strategy and the actions identified in Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020. The guidelines set out planning policy considerations relating to development affecting national roads (including motorways, national primary and national secondary roads) outside the 50/60 kmh speed limit zones for cities, towns and villages These guidelines have been developed by following a number of key principles and aim to facilitate a well-informed, integrated and consistent approach that affords maximum support for the goal of achieving and maintaining a safe and efficient network of national roads in the broader context of sustainable development strategies, thereby facilitating continued economic growth and development throughout the country.	The following key principles have guided the development of these guidelines: • Land-use and transportation policies are highly interdependent • Proper planning is central to ensuring road safety • Development should be plan-led • Development Management is key to Plan Implementation • Planning Authorities and the National roads Authority and other public transport bodies must work closely together	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030	Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy ('the CFP'), on the promotion of sustainable aquaculture, calls for the establishment of multiannual national strategic aquaculture plans. The NSPSA 2030 is the second such plan under the current CFP.	This Plan proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030. The purpose is as follows: • To align and mainstream the recently updated but non-binding guidance for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (2021 – 2030) with national aquaculture sector planning. • To help inform the investment priorities for aquaculture in Ireland's new Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027 (EMFAF). • To provide a framework so that strategic planning for the aquaculture sector in Ireland responds to the latest thinking in terms of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Irish aquaculture in order to promote the development of a sustainable and forward-looking sector.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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National Water Resources Plan (2021)	- The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. - The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: - Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions - Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry - Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources - Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events - Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water - Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies - Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025	The policy provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years.	The policy focuses on the following thematic objectives: - Optimising the opportunities for rural communities from high speed broadband. - Supporting improved quality employment and career opportunities in rural areas. - Assisting the regeneration, repopulation and development of rural towns and villages. - Enhancing the participation, leadership and resilience of rural communities. - Enhancing public services in rural areas - Supporting a Just Transition to a climate neutral economy. - Supporting the sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry. - Supporting the sustainability of our island and coastal communities. - Nurturing our culture and heritage	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 (PLUTO)	PLUTO's objective is to develop a transport investment framework which delivers a land transport network that meets the travel needs of the population in the coming decades and which supports the National Strategic Outcomes of Project Ireland 2040.	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: • Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; • Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, • Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	• Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. • Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF)	Under Action EL/23/2 of CAP23, the Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF) is currently being prepared. In effect, this will be the national policy for onshore renewable electricity and will inform and reshape the development and distribution of onshore renewables in order to enable the delivery of Ireland's renewable electricity targets, as set out in CAP23. The RESPF will promote a plan-led and evidence-based approach to the allocation of renewable electricity spatial and generation targets across the three Regional Assemblies, to facilitate the achievement of the national target of 80% RES-E by 2030.	The objective of this spatial policy framework is to effectively translate renewable electricity objectives, as those outlined in Climate Action Plan 2023, to the regional level and allocate regional spatial and renewable generation capacity targets.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023)	The vision of the Strategy is to ensure by 2050 that Ireland will be energy independent through using indigenous, clean, carbon-free renewable energy supported by, and supporting, communities across the country.	Priority actions for the Strategy include: • Use the Planning and Development Acts to instruct An Bord Pleanála to prioritise planning applications for renewable energy and associated grid infrastructure. • Delivery of grid is a necessary foundation for decarbonisation of the economy. Market designs must include system services, flexibility, and capacity markets and fully exploit demand side resources. • Simplify administrative & regulatory requirements for renewable heat, energy efficiency, flexible demand, and storage technologies • Encourage EVs, enhanced public mobility and cycling infrastructure while harnessing Ireland's strengths for the appropriate use of sustainable biofuels and green hydrogen. Bring together industry, Government and other key stakeholders to identify ways to cut the price of renewable energy in Ireland so that we can deliver clean energy at the lowest possible price for Irish consumers.	The CDP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The objectives of the Water Framework Directive are (i) to prevent the deterioration of water bodies and to protect, enhance and restore them with the aim of achieving at least good status and (ii) (ii) to achieve compliance with the water standards and objectives for designated protected areas.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.	• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
S.I. 79 of 2008 - Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, as amended (latest S.I. No. 163/2016)	• These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: • To improve health protection for bathers • To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and • To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.	• The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. • Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. • A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. • Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. • There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. • The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. • Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2024	The EPA produces state of the environment reports on a four-yearly cycle. These reports provide timely information and knowledge to the public, policymakers and key economic sectors in support of action to protect and manage the environment. The EPA will be publishing the next iteration of our State of the Environment Report later in 2024.	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	• The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. • It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	• A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; • Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism • to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, • domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; • Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; • Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and • Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) as transposed into Irish legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011 as amended)	The Directive sets air quality standards for European Union member states.	Limit values for air quality parameters are set in this Directive.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Services Act 2007, and amendments in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2022	- Provides the water services infrastructure. - Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. - Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. - Uisce Eireann was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: - Ensuring Uisce Eireann delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. - Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. - Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards - Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. - Promoting water conservation through Uisce Eireann's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. - Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. - Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. - Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	- Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems - Give statutory protection to NHAs - Enhances wildlife species and their habitats - Includes more species for protection	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Carrick on Suir Town Centre First Plan	- Provides a new vision for the town centre. - Scopes out a number of key projects for investment and delivery, in order to capitalise on the significant investment that has been secured for the town under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF).	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Carrick-on-Suir Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-28	This is a shared plan of action for Carrick-on-Suir community to build on recent progress and help increase biodiversity in the area. It aims to guide the local community and stakeholders in their efforts to protect and restore some of this natural heritage and maximise the benefits that nature can provide for the people of Carrick-on-Suir.	The plan has five Objectives each with specific targets and a list of actions. These targets and actions are considered guides for the community to achieve these Objectives. Their implementation is dependent on the resources available to the community of Carrick-on-Suir including volunteer time, funding, and external support.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Carrick-on-Suir Vision 2030	“Carrick-on-Suir Vision 2030” is a strategic plan for the town centre which comprises of some 15 projects is designed to ensure that Carrick-on-Suir is the best place for living, shopping, business and visiting.	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029	The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a tool for delivering actions from national and regional strategies at a local level. It is designed to integrate actions and initiatives related to economic and community development in Tipperary into a single unified strategy.	This LECP framework is built upon an evidence base that is translated into high-level goals and objectives that will guide the LECP for the duration of the plan (2024-2029). Ultimately, an initial two-year Implementation Plan will detail the actions to be implemented to achieve the objectives and High-Level Goals outlined in this Framework LECP.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other land use plans in adjacent areas and counties in Ireland	- Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). - Strategic frameworks for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. - Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the bordering and connected Local Authority areas.	- Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. - Protect and enhance amenities and environment. - Guides neighbouring planning authority in assessing proposals. - Aim to guide development in neighbouring areas - Aim to promote sustainable development in neighbouring and connected areas. - Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	- Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. - Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	- Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. - Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023–2027	- A roadmap for the tourism industry and all stakeholders involved in the region to navigate the current challenges and steer a course towards recovery and future success. - The ambition for this strategy is to drive recovery and growth of the visitor economy in Ireland's Ancient East to create sustainable, high-quality jobs in the sector to support and strengthen local communities while protecting our natural environment.	The Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy will achieve a new vision for tourism in the region through the following strategic objectives: Strategic Objective 1: Motivate the domestic and international consumer to visit Ireland's Ancient East. Strategic Objective 2: Provide the visitor with more reasons to stay, increasing the economic impact of tourism. Strategic Objective 3: Ensure the region is easy to access, navigate and consume for the visitor. Strategic Objective 4: Enable and assist the industry to grow its capacity and capability to ensure it can thrive over the period of this strategy and create sustainable jobs in local communities. Strategic Objective 5: Build committed stakeholder and industry partnerships to guide sustainable destination development across the region	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023–2027	This is a five- year strategic framework for the sustainable development of tourism in the Hidden Heartlands region. Its aim is to build greater capacity and capability into the industry and provide a clear strategy for attracting visitors that will stay longer and spend more in the region.	The Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy will achieve a new vision for tourism in the region by focusing on the following strategic objectives: Strategic Objective 1: Raise awareness and recognition of the region and brand among domestic and international visitors and increase the duration of visitor stays, particularly within the domestic market. Strategic Objective 2: Enhance the range and quality of our visitor experiences to underpin the Hidden Heartlands brand proposition, leveraging the natural and cultural assets of the region in a sustainable way with a focus on eco–tourism. Strategic Objective 3: Grow the economic impact of tourism and create jobs in local tourism by supporting the tourism industry (private, public and community sectors) to develop its capacity and capability while reducing its carbon footprint. Strategic Objective 4: Establish the region as one of the leading regenerative tourism destinations in Europe in which tourism results in net positive outcomes for communities and nature. Strategic Objective 5: Build a committed industry and stakeholder coalition to guide and co–ordinate the sustainable development of destinations across the region.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	• Produced by Local Authorities. • Outlines areas local flood risk. • Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	Not applicable.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Transport Plans and Strategies	Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	• To promote sustainable transport. • To promote integrated and proper transport planning. • To promote safe travel. • To promote active travel infrastructural development. • To encourage modal shift.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives	• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act (2021) required each local authority to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan to meet national climate targets and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change. The plans are consistent with the most recently approved National Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Framework. Tipperary County Council has prepared their Climate Action Plan for the period 2024 to 2029 to create a low carbon and climate resilient county, by delivering and promoting best practice in climate action in Co. Tipperary.	The plan demonstrates the ambition, focus and commitment of each local authority to reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of life for people living, working and studying in each county. The plan is built on a strong evidence base. To help inform the plans, Tipperary County Council developed a Climate Change Risk Assessment which sets out the likely risks in terms of climate change, such as increased rainfall or flooding. They also did a Baseline Emissions Inventory which calculates the emissions within the local authority area and sets out emission by sector such as transport, the built environment and agriculture. As part of its local authority climate action plan, Tipperary County Council is responsible for establishing a decarbonising zone within their local authority area. Decarbonising zones (DZs) are intended to be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and will help local authorities to identify projects which will contribute to the delivery of the national climate objective. The National Bio-Economy Campus has been designated as the decarbonizing zone.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024	This Corporate Plan has been prepared in compliance with the Local Government Act 2014 and also recognises and takes into account a range of existing National and European policies, strategies and plans in relation to programmes and activities which are central to the goals and objectives in this Corporate Plan. The purpose of the Corporate Plan is to outline our vision for County Tipperary, describe the main priorities for the Council during the next five years, and the benefits we will deliver for our communities.	The key priority themes of our Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024 include: • Growing our economy, facilitating development and attracting entrepreneurs; • Developing resilience to climate change and embracing biodiversity; • Creating functional living town centres; • Citizen safety; • Ensuring a fit for purpose organisation and identifying new ways of working; • Leading multi agency approaches and maximising the potential of shared services.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tipperary County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023	This third round Noise Action Plan has been prepared by Tipperary County Council to address environmental noise from major roads in the county carrying more than three million vehicles per annum.	The action planning area covers the following roads or qualifying sections of roads: • M8 Motorway as it passes through Tipperary (64.8kms); • M7 Motorway as it passes through Tipperary (57kms); • N24 National Primary Road as it passes through Tipperary (69.8kms); • N52 National Secondary Road , from M7 Interchange, (Junction26) to Ardcroney (13Kms); • N62 National Secondary Road, from M8 Interchange, (Junction 6) to Thurles (8Kms); • R688 (Cashel to Clonmel Road) for a distance of 1.3kms north from its junction with the N24 National Primary Road at the Cashel Road Roundabout, Clonmel; • R689 (Urlingford to Clonmel Road) for a distance of 1km north from its junction with the N24 National Primary Road at the Fethard Road Roundabout, Clonmel.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028	The Plan is a framework for how the local authority will deliver for all communities, through protecting the environment, reducing energy demands, maintaining the viability of towns, villages and rural communities and supporting job creation. • Guides sustainable physical, economic, and social development across Tipperary, whilst protecting the environment and guiding and supporting our move to a low-carbon society. • Identifies the social, economic and environmental character of Tipperary, provides guidance on the growth of towns, villages and rural areas, informs the nature of future investment, and protects our environment. • Informs decisions on public services, infrastructure and amenities, and will influence many facets of daily economic and social life, in terms of where we live, availability of services and our job opportunities.	The plan is informed by a set of 'Core Ambitions' integrating the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability: • Healthy Natural Environment, Working Landscapes, Supporting Infrastructure • Vibrant, Living Towns driving the Regional and Local Economy • Valued Built and Cultural Heritage • Strong Rural Economy with Diverse Connected Communities • Climate Resilient, Sustainable & Low-Carbon County	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021	The aim of this plan is to connect the citizens of Tipperary to their heritage, raise awareness and appreciation of this rich asset and ensure its protection for future generations. We aim to make it an integral part of everyday life at the core of our communities.	The plan is a five year plan with 35 actions and will form the basis of the work programme of the Heritage Office and the Heritage Forum.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tipperary Landscape Character Assessment	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	- Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. - Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary Local Development Strategy Action Plan 2023-2027	Tipperary Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is the Local Action Group (LAG) responsible for delivering the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 in County Tipperary. The LEADER Programme envisions improved quality of living and working in Co. Tipperary underpinned by sustainable environmental, social, economic, cultural and climate action development.	This Strategy has been developed in response and concentrates on the identified high-level priorities to ensure the optimum distribution of limited resources across the County.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tipperary Road Safety Strategy 2022-2030	The objective of the Tipperary Road Safety Strategy is to create a greater awareness of road safety through our stakeholders to reduce the number, severity and life-changing impact of road collisions in Tipperary by advancing Vision Zero in adherence with the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.	The aims of the Tipperary Road Safety Strategy are: • To create a safer road environment in Tipperary for all road users. • To improve co-operation between the agencies and groups represented on the Road Safety Working Together Group. • To improve road user behaviour by co-ordinating public education and awareness and to ensure compliance by the public with all relevant legislation.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary Transforming, Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030	The purpose of this Plan is to guide and assist the council and Tipperary Tourism in delivering its plan to significantly improve the visitor product experience in the county, increase capacity, dwell time, bed nights and the overall county tourism economy.	The Plan suggests ideas for creating exciting new tourism experiences and significantly enhancing existing ones. These will lead to building greater capacity among tourism providers and extending visitor length of stay in the county, whilst also building synergies and collaborations between tourism product offerings in order to deliver top-quality visitor experiences. There is a suite of innovative and creative potential projects included, along with a range of key targets, followed by an action plan plotting out the roadmap to be focused on for the decade.	The LAP shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other users and bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

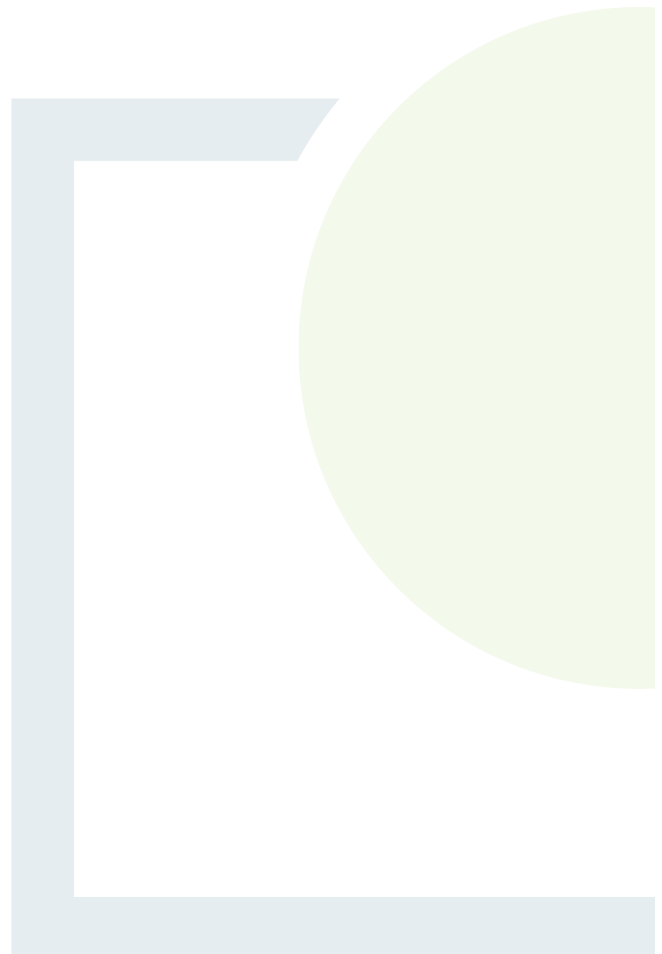
Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Quality Management Plans	• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve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



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 3

AA Screening for the
Proposed Material Alterations
to Draft Carrick-on-Suir &
Environs Local Area Plan



REPORT TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

**Report to Inform AA Screening of Material
Amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir &
Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031**

Prepared for:

Tipperary County Council



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REPORT TO INFORM AA SCREENING

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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1	Final	RD/NSC	RD	BG	25/02/2025

Client: Tipperary County Council

Keywords: Report to Inform AA Screening, Appropriate Assessment, AA, Local Area Plan, LAP, Tipperary County Council.

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Report to Inform AA Screening of the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 to Tipperary County Council.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Tipperary County Council (TCC) prepared the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 (herein referred to as the 'Draft Plan' or 'Draft LAP').

The Draft LAP outlines the local spatial planning framework for Carrick-on-Suir and defines planning policies and objectives unique to the town. Planning policies will inform private and public sector local development proposals, and planning objectives represent the key local objectives of the Council to be achieved over the lifetime of the LAP.

The Draft LAP was published for public consultation. A Chief Executive Report for the Draft LAP was subsequently prepared. Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft LAP were set out in this document. This is the Report to Inform AA Screening for the Material Amendments to the Draft LAP.

1.2 Plan-making Process To Date

A draft version of the LAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive¹ and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive² and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

A period of consultation has been undertaken in relation to the Draft LAP, the Draft SEA Environmental Report and the Draft NIR. Statutory environmental authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public were invited to make submissions in connection with the Draft LAP and the associated Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR.

All submissions made on this documentation have been reviewed by TCC. These submissions were taken into consideration. TCC have prepared a Chief Executive Report on the submissions received. This document details the submissions received, TCC responses to the submissions, and Proposed Material Amendments arising following consideration of the submissions.

An AA Screening Assessment has been completed for the Proposed Material Amendments. This report documents the assessment undertaken.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment



1.3 Purpose of the Assessment

AA Screening must be carried for the Proposed Material Amendments to the LAP. The purpose of this assessment is to identify whether the amendments will result in additional effects on European sites not previously considered and mitigated against in the AA process to date, and to inform whether or not a full AA is required for the amendments

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

1. The Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
2. The Draft NIR for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
3. The Draft SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
4. The Chief Executive Report for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
5. SEA Screening Report for the Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.

1.4 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project (or plan amendment in this instance) is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the 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."

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority must carry out a screening for appropriate assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed plan (or plan amendment in this instance), individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed plan (plan amendment), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, an appropriate assessment of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives must be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan (plan amendment) or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the plan amendments are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site.



1.5 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance principally:

- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C (2021) 6913 final;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2018). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

1.6 Assessment Process and Approach

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a proposed plan or project (plan amendment in this case) on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) –the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.

In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the proposed amendments that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)³ for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)⁴ for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

³ SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.

⁴ SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.



The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by a plan or project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the plan project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The potential for in-combination impacts with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the proposed plan amendment along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

The likelihood of significant effects on the European Sites within the Zol is examined having regard to the sensitivity of each European site with pathways for impacts associated with the proposed plan amendment on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000) the:

“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the plan (plan amendment) will be required under law to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.

1.7 Assessment of Plan Amendments

The following has been considered when carrying out the AA Screening Assessment of Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Plan.

- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan (as already assessed)
- The potential for likely significant effects on the environment due to the amendments.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 5 of the Draft NIR for the Draft Plan.

The amendments are therefore considered in relation to the environmental assessment undertaken for the Draft Plan and environmental mitigation already defined and integrated into the Plan.



2. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

2.1 Introduction to Screening

This section of the report examines if the Proposed Material Amendments are likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The screening phase is progressed in the following stages. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

- Whether the amendments introduce any sources of environmental or ecological impact.
- Whether the amendments can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.
- Whether the amendments will have a likely significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential effects.

Plans are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no sources of environmental impact associated with a plan or project.
- Where there are no pathways such as hydrological links between a plan or project area, and relevant European sites
- Where a European site is located at a distance from the plan or project area such that effects are not foreseen;
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a European site cannot be linked to potential effects that may arise from a plan or project.

2.2 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Plan on the receiving environment

Having regard to the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note, the potential impacts of the Proposed Material Amendments on the receiving environment at source are assessed in Table 2-1 considering on the following criteria:

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species.



An assessment as to whether any potential sources of impact associated with the amendment have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites, or whether additional mitigation and AA is required for the amendments, is also presented in Table 2-1.



Table 2-1: Evaluation of Potential Sources of Impact from the Plan Amendments

Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Policy 2.1	Amend Policy 2.1 as follows: Require the retrofitting of existing structures on brownfield sites, unless it is demonstrated that retrofitting is unfeasible, or redevelopment of the site would provide positive carbon impact through the re-design, construction and use stages of a new building, compared with retrofitting - having due regard to the need to conserve protected structures, archaeological monuments , historic fabric generally, and protected species of biodiversity value.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the policy. It does not materially change the policy. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Policy 3.6	Amend Policy 3.6 as follows: Support new development which enhances the setting of Carrick-on-Suir town centre, including its architectural, archaeological and historical heritage and character, and facilitates compact growth, high quality urban design, connectivity and active travel as opportunities arise.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the policy. It does not materially change the policy. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 3H	Add Objective to Section 3.7 as follows: Objective 3H Encourage and facilitate the reuse and regeneration of derelict buildings in the town centre for retail, commercial, residential, and other mixed uses and other strategic purposes, including car parking, and where necessary through appropriate legislative mechanisms /instruments and / or by supporting the progression and delivery of projects funded by the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and other appropriate funds.	This objective clarifies approaches to be used to promote regeneration. The environmental effects of policies/objectives supporting regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the AA already. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Objective 3G	Amend Objective 3G in Section 3.7 as follows: Identify suitable locations for car, campervan and coach parking to support businesses and grow tourism within the town, including on lands close to the Primary Care Centre and Ormond Castle with access off the existing road network.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning and scope of the objective. It does not materially change the objective. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Also, to examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays - having due regard to the Sustainable Transport Plan and safety, along with the needs of businesses and traders in the town.				
Objective 4F	Amend Objective 4F as follows: Work with project partners, including the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Fáilte Ireland and the OPW to develop the Ormond Castle Quarter, new visitor accommodation, cultural activities and events to support the tourism industry in the town. Any works to Ormond Castle shall be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments).	This amendment clarifies project partners and the intended meaning of the objective (i.e. the carrying out of cultural activities, including events). It clarifies the legal requirement for works to Ormond Castle to be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments). The aim, focus, and scope of the objective has not materially changes. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 4H	Amend Objective 4H as follows: Support and facilitate the development of a greenway connection between the Suir Blueway Tipperary and the Waterford Greenway, including improved or additional cycle and pedestrian links over the River Suir.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the objective. A variety of policies/objectives already considered and assessed support the development of active travel infrastructure and a crossing at the River Suir (e.g., 6.6, 7.2). A strong level of mitigatory policy has been integrated into the Plan to ensure the protection of the River Suir, including the River Suir Special Area of Conservation. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 4K	Add Objective 4K Objective 4K Increase the tourist accommodation capacity of Carrick-on-Suir by supporting and facilitating the development of a diversity of tourist accommodation, and particularly hotel accommodation in the town centre.	This objective clarifies the approach toward promoting tourism accommodation in the town. Policy 9-1 of the LAP already supports such tourism development, including accommodation. The effects of policy supportive of tourism development/accommodation, and associated tourism activity that may result in the town, have been fully assessed and mitigated against already under the AA for the Draft Plan and the higher-order CDP) (See Objective 4G and CDP Policies 9-2, 9.-3). A robust framework for sustainable tourism development has been established in the Plan The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 4L	Amend Objective 4I as follows: Build synergies between Carrick-on-Suir and the tourism assets of the Munster Vales, the Butler Trail, Thoroughbred County and Irelands Ancient East and promote and expand physical and cultural tourism linkages with neighbouring areas and towns including the 'Irish Walled Town Network'.	This is a minor edit that clarifies the scope of objective and the name of the Irish Walled Town Network. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Policy 5.2	Amend Policy 5.2 as follows: Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road. A masterplan must: 1) provide for a co-ordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability;	The amendment includes minor wording changes and clarifies the intended meaning of the Policy. It does not materially change the policy/ The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	2) provide an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery; and Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands. The masterplan must be informed and guided by all relevant environmental considerations, including the need the manage and mitigate (where necessary) the potential effects development in this area may have on the Lower River Suir SAC.				



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 5H	Seek the development of additional recreational and amenity spaces and associated car parking in Carrickbeg and on lands between Ormond Castle and adjacent to the River Suir , having due regard to environmental constraints and sensitivities in this area.	This amendment clarifies the scope of the amendment. Carrickbeg is situated adjacent to the River Suir. The effects of recreation development and associated ancillary development (and other forms of the development) occurring adjacent to the River Suir have been fully assessed and mitigated against under the AA already. Environmental mitigation has been integrated into the plan to ensure the appropriate protection of the River Suir, including the River Suir SAC (e.g., 5H, 7.1, 7.5 etc.) The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 5J	Add Objective 5J to Section 5.6 as follows: Seek to provide appropriate amenity spaces or playgrounds in the Clairin and Green Hill Village areas.	The development of new amenity spaces or playground at these locations is unlikely to introduce any likely, significant effects, given the minor extent and scale of this development and the location of such development within residential estates. Such development will take place on low value amenity grassland.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
6.9	Amend Policy 6.9 of the Draft LAP as follows: Policy 6.8 Safeguard the N24 and require new development proposals on or affecting national roads within the Plan area to have regard to national, regional and local policies and guidelines as set out in Section 6.5, and Policy 12 – 4 of the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028.	This amendment clarifies higher-order policy in the County Development Plan that must be considered when assessing development proposal effects on the N24. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 6G	Amend Objective 6G of the Draft LAP as follows: Seek opportunities to improve permeability in existing developed areas in accordance with NTA's Permeability Best Practice Guide, and where the opportunity exists, require that new development incorporates pedestrian and cycle routes to increase permeability for walking and cycling within the neighbourhoods identified in Figure 8 and the wider area, and as outlined in Map 1 within Appendix 2 of this Plan.	This amendment clarifies the scope of the objective. It does change the scope of objective, however. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Objective 6K	Add the following: Objective 6K: Investigate the feasibility of delivery a new vehicular street to the south of the Ormond Castle linking the Pill Road to the Town Centre.	This objectives supports the carrying out of a feasibility study. Such a study will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Policy 7.13	Amend Section 7.3 to add Policy 7.13 as follows: Seek to Preserve and protect trees and tree groupings as identified in Section 7.1.4 that are considered significant landscape features within the Plan area.	This Policy supports tree protection in the Plan area in accordance with higher-order plans and policy. It does not have the potential to result in any negative likely significant effects on the environment or European sites. The principle of protecting trees of amenity value and woodland has already been established under Policy 7.3.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Objective 7G	Amend Section 7.3 to add Objective 7G as follows: Review and update as appropriate the Record of Protected Structures for Carrick-on-Suir, and amalgamate the RPS for Carrick-on-Suir into the Record of Protected Structures for the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028.	This objective supports updating the Record of Protected Structures for Carrick-on-Suir. This will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 8E	Amend Objective 8E as follows: Support and work in co-operation with the Office of Public Works in the design, development, implementation and delivery of upgrades to the Suir River/ Carrick-on-Suir Flood Relief Scheme.	This amendment clarifies the intention of the objective. It does not materially change the aim and scope of the objective. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Policy 8.2	Amend Policy 8.2, as follows: Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water service; permit new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and waste water supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Éireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Éireann's Connections and Developer Service process.	This amendment clarifies the need to secure water and wastewater connections from Uisce Eireann. This will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	New connection applications to the public water and wastewater infrastructure should be submitted directly to Uisce Éireann.				
Policy 8.4(d)	Amend Policy 8.4(d), as follows: Require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A & B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works. These Flood Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events. The minimum design level requirements for fluvial flooding set out in Table 6.4 of the accompanying SFRA shall be employed.	This amendment clarifies the need to ensure adherence to the minimum design level requirements for fluvial flooding set out in Table 6.4. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	The Flood Risk Assessments shall apply the precautionary approach recommended in the Guidelines and shall be informed by the advice on the expected impacts of climate change and the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management provided in the OPW's (2019) Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein.				
Appendix 3: Regeneration Sites	Addition of the following planning criteria to Site 1, Goldcrop; Site 2, Tirlan; Site 3, North Quay Site/ Strand Lane; and Site 5 North Quay / Strand Land. The capacity of the site should be maximised, and residential development of the site should accord with the residential densities set out in Section 3.3.3 of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities.	These additions support maximizing capacity at each of these development sites. The effects of compact growth and maximal regeneration at these sites have already been fully assessed and mitigated against under the AA. A variety of mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan to ensure such development does not have adverse effects on the environment or European sites (e.g., 3E).	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			
Appendix 7: Town Centre First Plan	To include the Carrick-on-Suir Town Centre First Plan in its entirety, as indicated in the Draft Plan. The TCF Plan is appended to this document as Appendix A as a separate attachment in full.	The environmental effects of policies/objectives supporting regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the AA already. The Town Centre First Plan is an extension to these policies/objectives, but it does not introduce any additional potential sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Appendix 10: SFRA – Section 6.7	Amend Section 6.7, as follows: It is noted that updates to the above documents and / or new published documents during the lifetime of the SFRA are to be implemented as part of Development Management where appropriate.	This amendment serves to reference the SuDS principles that are to be followed as part of any future development within Carrick-on-Suir.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	The following sections outline SuDS principles that are to be followed as part of any future development within Carrick-on-Suir. Regional SuDS (i.e. catchment-wide rather than site-specific) could be considered through a Rainwater Management Plan for the settlement in line with the DHLGH guidance listed above which requires settlements / urban areas to undertake RMPs within a specified timeline.	It clarifies the possibility of using of regional SuDS (as per DHLGH guidance) The environmental effects of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the AA already (see Policy 8.4). The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			
Appendix 10: SFRA – Section 2.6	Amend Section 2.6, by adding a note following Table 2.3 as follows: Note on Land Use Zoning Objectives and Matrix per Tipperary County Council: The limitation described in this note applies to a relatively small number of instances where Flood Risk Zones A and B overlap with certain Land Use Zoning objectives.	This amendment consists of the addition of a note clarifying the primacy of flood risk zones. The environmental effects of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the AA already (see Policy 8.4). The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Uses under all Land Use Zoning Objectives (apart from where the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Plan has been passed) shall be limited to water compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B (as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines), and detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas. This limitation shall take primacy over any other provision relating to these land use zoning objectives.				
Appendix 10: SFRA – Justification Tests	The Justification tests in Appendix F of the SFRA to be updated. See amended justification tests appended to this document as Appendix B.	This amendment proposes updating the justification tests in the SFRA. The environmental effects of the adoption of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the AA already (see Policy 8.4).	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		The policy is centered around requiring development proposals to comply with the principles and requirements contained within Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines and has the potential to create positive effects. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			
Land Use Zoning Map	Amend the zoning on the site of the new Gaelscoil development from 'Urban Core' to 'Community Services and Infrastructure'.	This amendment assigns an appropriate zoning objective for the new Gaelscoil development. It will not have any significant land use implications.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		This amendment does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already.			
	Amend the zoning at a location in Carrickbeg on the R680 Waterford Road, to change the zoning objective of a parcel of land to the south East of the site. Zoning objective changes from New Residential to Town Environs	This amendment constitutes a minor zoning change. The principle of significant development taking place at this location has been established and assessed in the AA already. It does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Amend the zoning of land at the park to the South East of Dillon Bridge from 'Community Services and Infrastructure' to 'Open Space and Recreation'.	This amendment is minor in nature and does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already. It will minimize the extent of development taking place at this location.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



2.3 Summary of the Assessment

The Proposed Material Amendments are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The changes made are consistent and harmonious with, and align with the intended effect of, existing Draft Plan Strategic Vision and Aims, inter-related policies and objectives that sit within the Draft Plan, and Strategic Environment Objectives (SEOs defined for the Draft Plan, including the following SEOs:

- B2: Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species.
- B3: Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species.
- B4: Avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species.

The amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already, such as:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements;
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

The amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already, which could result in or contribute to the following types of likely significant effects on a European site:

- Reduction of habitat area, habitat degradation or fragmentation
- Disturbance to species, reduction in species population and density
- Changes in ecological functions and/or features that are essential for the ecological requirements of habitats and species (e.g. water quality and quantity)
- Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site.

The amendments will not result in any sources of negative environmental impact that may combine with environmental effects occurring due to other plans or projects to create an 'in-combination' likely significant effects on a European site.



The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that a Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. In this instance, the amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already. The amendment will not create any impact or zone of influence as such.



3. CONCLUSION

This report presents an examination of whether the Proposed Material Amendments to the LAP are likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have any significant effect on European sites.

The principal reasons for this are as follows:

- The amendments are either clerical in nature or only intended to clarify the intended meaning of land use policies and objectives previously defined in the Draft LAP, which were considered, assessed and mitigated against under the AA of the Draft LAP.
- The amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA of the Draft LAP.



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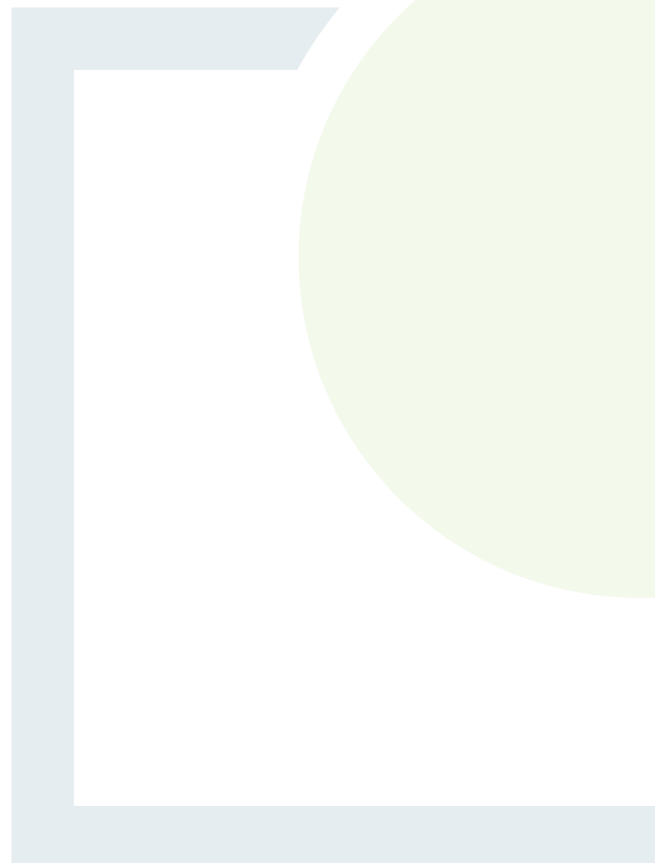




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APPENDIX 4

AA Screening for Further
Amendments to the Proposed
Material Alterations to the
Draft Carrick-on-Suir &
Environs Local Area Plan



REPORT TO INFORM AA SCREENING OF FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS TO THE DRAFT CARRICK-ON-SUIR & ENVIRONS LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2041

Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Screening

Prepared for:
Tipperary County Council



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

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Report to Inform AA Screening of the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Client: Tipperary County Council

Keywords: Report to Inform AA Screening, Appropriate Assessment, AA, Local Area Plan, LAP, Tipperary County Council

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Report to Inform AA Screening of the Further Amendments to the Material Alterations to Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 to Tipperary County Council.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Tipperary County Council (TCC) prepared the Draft Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 (herein referred to as the 'Draft Plan' or 'Draft LAP').

The Draft LAP outlines the local spatial planning framework for Carrick-on-Suir and defines planning policies and objectives unique to the town. Planning policies will inform private and public sector local development proposals, and planning objectives represent the key local objectives of the Council to be achieved over the lifetime of the LAP.

The Draft LAP was published for public consultation. A Chief Executive Report for the Draft LAP was subsequently prepared and published, which was informed by the SEA and AA Screenings for the Material Alterations to the Draft LAP. This was followed by consultations on the Proposed Material Alterations, which have been further amended.

These proposed Further Amendments to the Material Alterations of the Draft LAP have been set out in this document. This is the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the Draft LAP.

1.2 Plan-making Process To Date

A draft version of the LAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive¹ and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive² and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

A period of consultation has been undertaken in relation to the Draft LAP, the Draft SEA Environmental Report and the Draft NIR. Statutory environmental authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public were invited to make submissions in connection with the Draft LAP and the associated Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR. Submissions made on this document were reviewed by TCC and the issues raised were taken into consideration. TCC then prepared a Chief Executive Report on the submissions received, which detailed the submissions received, TCC's responses to these submissions, and the Proposed Material Alterations arising following consideration of these submissions. SEA Screening and AA Assessments were completed for the Proposed Material Alterations.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment



In consideration of the substantive consultation submissions received, TCC have considered Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations previously recommended. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan were published on 28th February 2025 and consultations were undertaken up until 31st March 2025. A second Chief Executive Report was subsequently published detailing the consultation submissions received on the Proposed Material Alterations and providing a consideration of the response and recommendations.

An AA Screening Assessment has been completed for the Further Amendments to the PMAs. This report documents the assessment undertaken.

1.3 Purpose of the Assessment

AA Screening must be carried out for the Further Amendments to the Material Alterations to the Draft LAP. The purpose of this assessment is to identify whether the amendments will result in additional effects on European sites not previously considered and mitigated against in the AA process to date, and to inform whether or not a full AA is required for the amendments

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

1. The Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
2. The Draft NIR for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
3. The Draft SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
4. The Chief Executive Report for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
5. SEA Screening Report and Report to Inform AA Screening for the Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
6. The Chief Executive Report for Proposed Material Alterations of the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031
7. SEA Screening Report for Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations of the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031

1.4 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project (or plan amendment in this instance) is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the 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."



These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority must carry out a screening for appropriate assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed plan (or plan amendment in this instance), individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed plan (plan amendment), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, an appropriate assessment of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives must be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan (plan amendment) or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the plan amendments are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site.

1.5 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance principally:

- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C (2021) 6913 final;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2018). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

1.6 Assessment Process and Approach

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a proposed plan or project (plan amendment in this case) on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) –the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.



In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the proposed amendments that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)³ for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)⁴ for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by a plan or project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the plan project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The potential for in-combination impacts with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the proposed plan amendment along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

The likelihood of significant effects on the European Sites within the ZoI is examined having regard to the sensitivity of each European site with pathways for impacts associated with the proposed plan amendment on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000) the:

“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the plan (plan amendment) will be required under law to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.

³ SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.

⁴ SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.



1.7 Assessment of Plan Amendments

The following has been considered when carrying out the AA Screening Assessment of Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan.

- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan (as already assessed)
- The potential for likely significant effects on the environment due to the amendments.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 5 of the Draft NIR for the Draft Plan.

The amendments are therefore considered in relation to the environmental assessment undertaken for the Draft Plan and environmental mitigation already defined and integrated into the Plan.



2. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

2.1 Introduction to Screening

This section of the report examines if the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations are likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The screening phase is progressed in the following stages. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

- Whether the amendments introduce any sources of environmental or ecological impact.
- Whether the amendments can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.
- Whether the amendments will have a likely significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential effects.

Plans are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no sources of environmental impact associated with a plan or project.
- Where there are no pathways such as hydrological links between a plan or project area, and relevant European sites
- Where a European site is located at a distance from the plan or project area such that effects are not foreseen;
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a European site cannot be linked to potential effects that may arise from a plan or project.

2.2 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Plan on the receiving environment

Having regard to the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note, the potential impacts of the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations on the receiving environment at source are assessed in Table 2-1 considering on the following criteria:

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species.



An assessment as to whether any potential sources of impact associated with the amendment have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites, or whether additional mitigation and AA is required for the amendments, is also presented in Table 2-1.



Table Key:

'Crossed out'	Text to be deleted
'Normal text'	Text to remain as is
'Text in red'	Text added to the Draft Plan through Proposed Material Alteration (PMA)
'Cross out in red'	Text included as PMA but now proposed to be removed
'Text in green'	Further changes to be added
'PMA'	Proposed Material Alteration (as proposed to the Draft Plan over the Material Alterations Stage of the Plan-Making process)



Table 2-1: Evaluation of Potential Sources of Impact from the Plan Amendments

Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Non-Technical Summary	~~Public participation is important to the process of plan preparation. After the public consultation period for the Draft LAP has ended, the Council will consider all submissions received. At this time, the Council may either adopt the Draft LAP in February 2025 or make recommendations for changes to the Proposed LAP. If proposed changes are materially different to the Draft LAP, a further round of public consultation may take place, specifically on those changes proposed. Any further submissions received at this stage would again be considered by the Council and the LAP would, in this case take effect in Spring 2024.~~	The further amendment relates to changes in the text of the Non-Technical Summary of the Draft Plan. These changes detail the Plan-Making process with key dates and the evolution of the Draft Plan. In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating positive or negative environmental effects. Therefore, the proposed further amendment will not result in any likely significant effects on any European Sites.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Public participation is important to the process of plan preparation. 23 submissions were received on the Draft LAP and following consideration of same a number of recommended changes to the Draft LAP are proposed were agreed at the Council meeting on 10 February 2025. A further round of public consultation on the proposed amendments was undertaken from 28 February 2025 to 31 March 2025, during which time 14 submissions were received. A number of further changes are recommended on foot of these submissions. is required and any further submissions received would These recommendations will be considered by the Council and at Council meeting on 12 May and the final Local Area Plan would take effect in Summer 2025, if the Plan is made.				
Section 3.7	Amend Objective 3G as follows: Identify suitable locations for car, campervan and coach parking to support businesses and grow tourism, including for tourism purposes, within the town, including on lands close to the Primary Care Centre and Ormond	The amendment has been made to clarify the intended meaning and scope of the original objective and subsequent PMA. This was formerly assessed and concluded to not materially change	No.	No	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	~~Castle with access off the existing road network.~~ Also, to and examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays - having due regard to the Sustainable Transport Plan and safety, ~~along with the needs of businesses and traders in the town.~~	the scope of the original objective as contained within the Draft Plan. The further amendment has been made to revert to the original objective. This amendment will therefore not introduce any new likely, significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			
Section 3.7	Amend Objective 3H as follows: Objective 3H Encourage and facilitate the reuse and regeneration of derelict buildings in the town centre for retail, commercial, residential, mixed uses and other strategic purposes, ~~including car parking,~~ and where necessary through appropriate legislative mechanisms/instruments and / or by supporting the progression and delivery of projects funded by the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and other appropriate funds.	The further amendment to the PMA has excluded car parking as an acceptable use for derelict buildings in the town centre on the recommendation of the NTA, therefore defining the scope of proposed regeneration within the Plan Area. The environmental effects of policies and objectives supporting regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the AA already. This amendment will therefore not introduce any new likely, significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Section 4.2.2	Amend Section 4.2.2 as follows: There is a significant landbank in this location zoned for 'Employment' use, and it is considered appropriate to zone land in this location for this purpose to preserve the strategic nature of the land and ensure other inappropriate and piecemeal development in this location does not hamper the future employment use of the lands. ~~The lands, however, must be developed in a~~ To ensure these lands are developed in a phased, cohesive and sequential manner, to avoid leapfrogging development, the following principles will apply to the development of these lands: Lands must be developed in a sequential manner, and leapfrogging will not be permitted; New development proposals will be required to examine the existing landscape and character context, and demonstrate how new development proposals will be consistent with this context in	The amendment has been made in consideration of the recommendations put forward by the NTA regarding the omission of the caveat 'wherever possible'. The amendment further clarifies the approaches to be utilised for development of lands zoned for 'Employment' use. The amendment will not introduce any likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	terms of use, scale, mass, architecture and landscaping; New development proposals should ~~wherever possible~~, provide suitable active travel infrastructure and link into existing active travel routes.				
Section 4.4	Amend Objective 4F as follows: Work with project partners, including the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Fáilte Ireland and the OPW to develop the Ormond Castle Quarter, - accommodation, cultural activities and events to support the tourism industry in the town. Any works in proximity to Ormond Castle shall be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments).	The further amendment to the PMA clarifies the legal requirement for works occurring at or near Ormond Castle (in proximity thereof) to be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments). The aim, focus, and scope of the objective has not materially changed. The amendment will not introduce any likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Section 5.1.1	Amend the text as it relates to '2. Carrickbeg' as follows: The lands at Coolnamuck Road represent a significant landbank within Carrickbeg for new residential development.	The further amendment relates to a revision in the text relating to lands at Carrickbeg within the Plan Area. The additional text (in green) serves to clarify the purpose of a proposed Masterplan for the Carrickbeg lands,	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	The lands are well-located, in close proximity to the town centre. However, given the constraints associated with the medieval layout of Carrickbeg, the development and delivery of the entire landholding is likely to require additional transport-related infrastructure. The redevelopment of these lands must be supported by a comprehensive masterplan for the lands, identifying a sustainable approach to the phasing and infrastructure delivery requirements for the lands. The proposed Masterplan for the site must set out: ~~• That vehicular access to the site from the Coolnamuck Road will be provided for at the western end of the Coolnamuck Road;~~ • The provision of an active travel route onto Rack Hill towards Carrickbeg; ~~• The provision of an active travel bridge, linking into the Suir Blueway on the northern side of the Suir, subject to feasibility and funding;~~ • The provision of public amenity and recreation space and a playground on southern banks	which will incorporate the provision of active travel infrastructure and recreational and public spaces. The environmental effects from the development of recreational and public spaces in Carrickbeg have been assessed and mitigated against in the AA (Objective 5H). The environmental implications of the preparation of a Masterplan for the lands at Coolnamuck has been assessed and mitigated against under the AA for the Draft Plan (Objective 5.2). Environmental effects arising from the development of active travel have been strategically addressed and mitigated against through a suite of policies and objectives embedded, amended or added within the Draft LAP (7.1, 7D, 7E, & 10, 7.12), as well as the higher-order CDP (13-1, 13-4). The amendment will not introduce any likely significant effects not			



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	of the River Suir, as well as water-based and water compatible community recreation infrastructure, subject to feasibility.	previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			
Section 5.6	Amend Policy 5.2 as follows: Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road. A masterplan must provide: 1) provide for a co-ordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; and 2) provide an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery; and	The further amendment to the PMA comprises of a minor change that serves to ensure consistency with the principles set out in Section 5.1 of the Draft LAP, which relates to sustainable residential development. This amendment does not materially change the policy, and will not introduce any new likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	3) be consistent with the principles set out in Section 5.1 of this LAP Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands. The masterplan must be informed and guided by all relevant environmental considerations, including the need the manage and mitigate (where necessary) the potential effects development in this area may have on the Lower River Suir SAC.”				
Section 5.6	Amend Objective 5H as follows: Seek the development of additional recreational and amenity spaces ~~and associated car parking~~ in Carrickbeg and on lands between Ormond Castle and adjacent to the River Suir, having due regard to environmental constraints and sensitivities in this area.	The further amendment comprising the omission of car parking has been made on the recommendation of the NTA to promote sustainable travel within the Plan Area. Environmental mitigation to ensure protection to the River Suir and the River Suir SAC has been integrated into the Plan (e.g., 5H, 7.1, 7.5 etc.).	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		This amendment will not introduce any likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			
Section 6.6	Omit Objective 6K added as a Proposed Material Alteration: ~~Investigate the feasibility of delivery a new vehicular street to the south of the Ormond Castle linking the Pill Road to the Town Centre.~~	The further amendment comprising of the removal of Objective 6K has been made on the recommendation of the NTA. The PMA pertained to the carrying out of a feasibility study, which was devoid of any environmental implications in and of itself. The removal of this PMA, therefore, similarly will not result in any environmental interactions resulting in positive or negative environmental effects.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Section 8.2.1	Amend Section 8.2.1, as follows: Uisce Éireann publishes Water Supply Capacity Registers annually for each county. The latest capacity register for the county was published in ~~June 2023~~ December 2024 and indicates that the Carrick-on-Suir Water Resource Zone (WRZ) has potential spare capacity available. Connection applications will be assessed on an individual basis	The further amendment pertains to a correction in text relating to the publication date of Uisce Éireann's Water Supply Capacity Registers. Additional text provides context to the publication's purpose, which is to indicate to available water supply in the Plan Area, and the frequency to which the registers are updated.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	considering their specific load requirements. Uisce Éireann's Water Supply Capacity Register provides an indication of available water supply in County Tipperary. Capacity registers are updated on an annual basis and are subject to change throughout the year.	In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating positive or negative environmental effects. The proposed further amendment, therefore, will not result in any likely significant effects on any European Site.			
Section 8.2.2	Amend Section 8.2.2, as follows: Uisce Éireann is responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of public wastewater. Uisce Éireann publishes ~~Water Supply~~ Wastewater Treatment Capacity Registers annually for each county. The latest capacity register for the county was published in ~~June 2023~~ December 2024 and indicates that the Carrick-on-Suir Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) currently has capacity to cater for growth. Local network upgrades may be required in some areas to provide capacity to individual sites. These will be customer driven/funded in accordance with the requirements of the Uisce Éireann's Connections Charging Policy.	The further amendment pertains to the correction of text relating to the publication date Uisce Éireann's Water Supply Capacity Registers. Additional text provides context to the publication's purpose, which is to indicate to available water supply in the Plan Area, and the frequency to which the registers are updated. In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating any positive or negative environmental effects. The proposed further amendment, therefore, will not result in any likely significant effects on any European Site.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Ongoing improvement works are required in the town to ensure adequate separation of foul and surface water, and to service of lands identified for development over the lifetime of this LAP. Uisce Éireann's Wastewater Treatment Capacity Register provides an indication of available capacity at Wastewater Treatment Plants in County Tipperary. Capacity registers are updated on an annual basis and are subject to change throughout the year.				
Section 8.6	Amend Policy 8.2, as follows: Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water services; ~~permit~~ support new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and ~~waste water~~ wastewater supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water wastewater network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Éireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Éireann's Connections	The further amendment to the PMA is clerical in nature, serving to clarify the intended meaning of the original objective and the proposed material alteration thereof. In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating any positive or negative environmental effects. The proposed further amendment, therefore, will not result in any likely significant effects on any European Site.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	and Developer Service process. New connection applications to the public water and wastewater infrastructure should be submitted directly to Uisce Éireann.				
Section 8.6	Amend Policy 8.4(d), as follows: Require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A & B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works. These Flood Risk Assessments should follow the general guidance provided in Section 6 of the SFRA and shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events.	The further amendment to the Policy have been made on the recommendation of the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) in consideration of the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 and Circular 2014/4. The amendment focuses the scope of Flood Risk Assessments (to be undertaken on lands identified to be at risk of flooding) to align with guidance provided in the SFRA, to address climate change scenarios and potential mitigation required, and the application of the sequential approach. The environmental effects of the adoption of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the SEA;	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	The FRA should address climate change scenarios in relation to finished floor levels and potential mitigation measures. The minimum design level requirements for fluvial flooding set out in Table 6.4 of the accompanying SFRA shall be employed. The Flood Risk Assessments shall apply the precautionary approach recommended in the Guidelines and shall be informed by the advice on the expected impacts of climate change and the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management provided in the OPW's (2019) Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein. The sequential approach should be applied and highly vulnerable infill and redevelopment shall not be permitted in Flood Zones A and B apart from where the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Guidelines has been passed.	See Policy 8.4. This policy centres around the requirement for development proposals to comply with the principles and requirements contained within the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines, which has the potential to create positive effects. This amendment will not introduce any new likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Further Amendments to Appendix 7 of the Draft LAP: Town Centre First Plan					
Appendix 7 (Town Centre First Plan)	Update the Town Centre First Plan as attached.	The further amendment relates to the inclusion of an updated Carrick-on-Suir Town Centre First Plan, in entirety, as indicated in the Draft Plan. The environmental effects of policies and objectives supporting e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the SEA already. The Town Centre First Plan is an extension to these policies/objectives, but it does not introduce any additional potential sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Further Amendments to the Appendix 10 of the Draft LAP: SFRA					
Section 2.6 of the SFRA	Amend Section 2.6, by adding a note following Table 2.3 as follows: Note on Land Use Zoning Objectives and Matrix per Tipperary County Council: The limitation described in this note applies to a relatively small number of instances where Flood Risk	The further amendment is clerical in nature and serves to correctly cite the Flood Risk Management Plan Guidelines in the PMA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Zones A and B overlap with certain Land Use Zoning objectives. Uses under all Land Use Zoning Objectives (apart from where the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Plan Guidelines has been passed) shall be limited to water-compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B (as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines), and detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas. This limitation shall take primacy over any other provision relating to these land use zoning objectives.	In and of itself, this amendment will not result in any environmental interactions generating any positive or negative environmental effects. The proposed further amendment, therefore, will not result in any likely significant effects on any European Site.			
Appendix F of SFRA – Justification Tests	Amend Part 3) of justification test Ref JT-15 as follows: ~~The LAP is subject to the policies, objectives and requirements of the TCDP that relate to flood risk and climate change and the LAP contains a number of specific policies and objectives in this regard. Furthermore, much of these lands are protected by the Carrick-on-Suir Flood Relief Scheme that provides for a 2% Annual Exceedance Probability Standard of~~	The further amendment to the PMA proposes updating the justification tests in the SFRA to include specific policies on the recommendation of the OPR and the Office of Public Works (OPW). These policies have been included with the express purpose of achieving consistency with the Criteria of Plan-Making Justification Tests.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	~~Protection. Benefitting areas are mapped in this SFRA. Criteria for redevelopment of the regeneration sites are set out in Appendix 3.~~ Specific policies are to be applied to this site: - Finished Floor levels to the northern area of the site are raised to a minimum level of 4.27m OD, which is 0.5m above the 1 in 1000-year flood level in both watercourses adjacent to the site. - Flood Storage compensation shall be provided to account for flood waters that may be displaced as a result of raising the ground levels in the northern area of the site above the 1 in 1000-year flood level. - An evacuation plan be put in place and shall be implemented by the facility operator to comply with the appropriate standards and regulations	The environmental effects of the adoption of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the SEA; See Policy 8.4. This policy centres around the requirement for development proposals to comply with the principles and requirements contained within the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines, which has the potential to create positive effects. This amendment will not introduce any new likely significant effects not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			



2.3 Summary of the Assessment

The Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft LAP are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The changes made are consistent and harmonious with, and align with the intended effect of, existing Draft Plan Strategic Vision and Aims, inter-related policies and objectives that sit within the Draft Plan, and Strategic Environment Objectives (SEOs) defined for the Draft Plan, including the following SEOs:

- B2: Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species.
- B3: Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species.
- B4: Avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species.

The amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already, such as:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements;
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

The amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already, which could result in or contribute to the following types of likely significant effects on a European site:

- Reduction of habitat area, habitat degradation or fragmentation
- Disturbance to species, reduction in species population and density
- Changes in ecological functions and/or features that are essential for the ecological requirements of habitats and species (e.g. water quality and quantity)
- Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site.

The amendments will not result in any sources of negative environmental impact that may combine with environmental effects occurring due to other plans or projects to create an 'in-combination' likely significant effects on a European site.



The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that a Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. In this instance, the amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already. The amendments will not create any impact or zone of influence as such.



3. CONCLUSION

This report presents an examination of whether the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the LAP are likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have any significant effect on European sites.

The principal reasons for this are as follows:

- The amendments are either clerical in nature or only intended to clarify the intended meaning of land use policies and objectives previously defined in the Draft LAP, which were considered, assessed and mitigated against under the AA of the Draft LAP.
- The amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA of the Draft LAP.



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CARRICK-ON-SUIR LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025 - 2031

Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement

Prepared for:

Tipperary County Council



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

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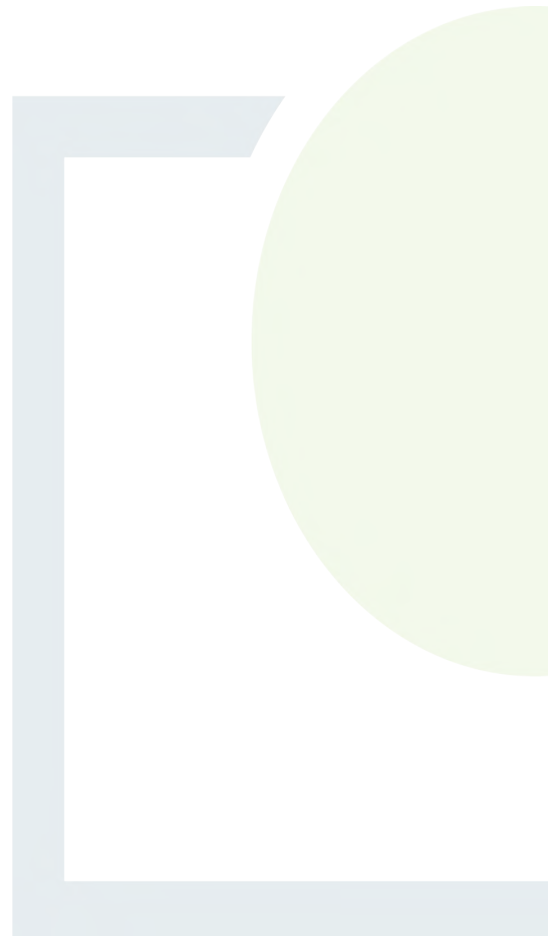
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Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement for the Carrick-On-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement for the Carrick-On-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Conclusion Statement for the Carrick-On-Suir Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 (the Plan). AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act (as amended). Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act (as amended) requires that a statement is produced summarised, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme subject to AA.

AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of any European Site in view of its conservation objectives.

AA was undertaken for the Plan. This AA Conclusion Statement documents the AA process applied during the preparation of the Plan and should be read in conjunction with the Plan and associated documents including the Natura Impact Report (NIR) for the Plan.

1.2 Requirements in relation to AA Conclusion Statements

Guidelines entitled 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities' (2009) published by the then named Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government recommend that plan-making competent authorities include a clear and discrete AA Conclusion Statement as a distinct section in the written statement of the plan separate to the SEA Statement. These guidelines recommend that the following information is included in an AA Conclusion Statement:

- Summary of how the findings of the AA were factored into the plan (provided in Section 2 of this document).
- Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives and impacts on European Sites considered as part of the AA process (provided in Section 3 of this document).
- A declaration that the plan as adopted will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site or sites (provided in Section 4 of this document).
- Copy of NIR (the NIR has been published alongside the AA Conclusion Statement and is available for review).



2. HOW THE FINDINGS OF THE AA WERE INTEGRATED INTO THE PLAN

2.1 Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Approach

The environmental assessment for the Plan undertaken was carried out in accordance with an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment based methodology in accordance with EPA's guidance document entitled 'Final Report: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance.' (2012).

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

2.2 Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the Plan

The plan making process was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan making team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan making process. As necessary, environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LAP were developed and then integrated into the LAP. Much of the environmental mitigation was embedded in the plan early on in the process as a result of this. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximizing identified positive environmental effects of the LAP.

Mitigation measures have been proposed that maximize the co-benefits of positive environmental action for other environmental components such as local air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).

Environmental mitigation measures integrated into early iterations of the LAP to mitigate potential significant negative effects on European sites are presented in Table 2-1.

Environmental mitigation measures defined in the higher order Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (CDP) that mitigate potential significant negative effects on European sites are presented in Table 2-2.

Additional Environmental Mitigation Measures (additional policies/objectives) recommended to mitigate potential significant negative effects on European sites are presented in Table 2-3

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to various previously defined objectives/policies in the Plan. Such recommendations that serve to mitigate potential significant negative effects on European site are presented in Table 2-4.



Table 2-1: Embedded Environmental Mitigation

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy
2.3	Require new development to incorporate best practice in low-carbon and energy efficient planning and techniques as reflected by the policies and objectives of the TCDP and this LAP and in accordance with the Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (and any review thereof).
7.1	Protect and conserve the integrity, ecological and biodiversity value of the River Suir, the Glen River and the Lingaun River and the associated riparian zones as they run through the town. Ensure that any development proposals within or adjacent to the rivers are appropriately assessed to ensure the protection of water quality and river access.
7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.
7.5	Protect the designated natural heritage sites and sites of high ecological value within the plan area including the Alluvial Wet Woodland habitat on the Islands of the River Suir.
7.7	Safeguard the setting and character of Ormond Castle, including the Castle Park, amenity lands and riverscape.
7A	Support and work with the local community, and other stakeholders in the development of blue and green infrastructure in the town, including the enhancement of the biodiversity and conservation value of the River Suir, Glen River and Lingaun River.
7B	Work in partnership with stakeholders and the local community in the delivery of projects for Carrick-on-Suir in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Masterplan Roadmap for Tipperary Waterways (TCC, 2018) and the proposed Tipperary Greenway and Trail Strategy and seek funding opportunities as they arise.
8.2	Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water service; permit new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and waste water supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Eireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Eireann's Connections and Developer Service process.



Table 2-2: Environmental Mitigation defined in the CDP

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy
5-9	Require that climate change actions and measures be incorporated in new residential development of all scales to demonstrate how the development will minimise energy use, enhance accessibility, manage waste and support biodiversity.
11-1	In assessing proposals for new development to balance the need for new development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and human health. In line with the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).
11-2	Ensure the protection, integrity and conservation of European Sites and Annex I and II species listed in EU Directives. Where it is determined that a development may individually, or cumulatively, impact on the integrity of European sites, the Council will require planning applications to be accompanied by a NIS in accordance with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations, 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', (DEHLG 2009) or any amendment thereof and relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Commission guidance documents.
11-3	Ensure the conservation and protection of existing, and proposed NHAs, and to ensure that proposed developments within or in close proximity to an existing or proposed NHA would not have a significant adverse impact on the status of the site as described.
11-4	(a) Conserve, protect and enhance areas of local biodiversity value, habitats, ecosystems and ecological corridors, in both urban and rural areas, including rivers, lakes, streams and ponds, peatland and other wetland habitats, woodlands, hedgerows, tree lines, veteran trees, natural and semi-natural grasslands in accordance with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan (DCHG 2017) and any review thereof. (b) Safeguard, enhance and protect water bodies (rivers/canals/lakes) and river walks and to provide links, where possible, to wider green infrastructure networks as an essential part of the design process. (c) Require an 'Ecosystems Services' approach for new development to incorporate nature-based solutions to SUDS, in so far as practical, as part of water management systems, public realm design and landscaping, in line with best practice. (d) Where trees or hedgerows are of particular local value, the Council may seek their retention, or where retention is not feasible, their replacement and will seek a proactive focus on new tree-planting as part of new development.
11-5	Ensure that new developments proposed in or near 'Ground Water Protection Schemes' and 'Zones of Contribution' which contribute to public water supplies, do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these important assets.
11-6	Ensure the integration of river corridors with green infrastructure in settlements in line with the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020).
11-7	a) Ensure the protection of water quality in accordance with the EU WFD, and support the objectives and facilitate the implementation of the associated Programme of Measures of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any successor. This includes contributing towards the protection of Blue-Dot catchments and drinking water resources. Also, have cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD. b) Support an integrated and collaborative approach to catchment management in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any successor. c) 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.
11-13	Seek to control the spread of invasive plant and animal species, including consideration of potential pathways for invasive species spread, i.e. watercourses.



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy
11-18	Ensure that new development does not result in significant noise disturbance and to ensure that all new developments are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance in accordance with the provisions of the Noise Action Plan 2018 and relevant standards and guidance that refer to noise management.
11-19	Ensure that new development does not result in significant disturbance as a result of light pollution and to ensure that all new developments are designed and constructed to minimise the impact of light pollution on the visual, environmental and residential amenities of surrounding areas.

Table 2-3: Additional Environmental Mitigation

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy
7.10	Protect and where possible enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including habitat that form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. Appropriate mitigation and/or compensation to conserve biodiversity and green infrastructure networks will be required where important habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.

Table 2-4: Amendments to Pre-existing Plan Objectives/Policies

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment
5.2	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamauck Road. A masterplan must provide 1) for a coordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; and 2) an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery. Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands.	Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamauck Road. A masterplan must provide 1) for a coordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability; 2) an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery. Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands. The masterplan must be informed and guided by all relevant environmental considerations, including the need to manage and mitigate (where necessary) the potential effects development in this area may have on the Lower River Suir SAC.
5I	Support access to public open space along the Glen River, at the Duck Pond and along the River Suir.	Support access to public open space along the Glen River, at the Duck Pond and along the River Suir, and promote passive recreational activities (subject to the sensitivity of riverside habitat), whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and stream corridors.



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment
6.4	Support the sequential development of lands zoned for development, and to ensure that provision is made for the orderly expansion into areas that may be zoned in the future. In assessing new planning applications, and on a case-by-case basis, the Council may require the maintenance of a corridor to provide for future connectivity with adjoining un-zoned lands.	Support the sequential development of lands zoned for development, and to ensure that provision is made for the orderly expansion into areas that may be zoned in the future. In assessing new planning applications, and on a case-by-case basis, the Council may require the maintenance of a corridor to provide for future connectivity with adjoining un-zoned lands, having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of development.
6.5	Preserve and safeguard the Route Corridor for the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme (Major National Road Project) and support and prioritise the implementation of the scheme.	Preserve and safeguard the Route Corridor for the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme (Major National Road Project) and support and prioritise the implementation of the scheme - having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of this strategic infrastructural development.
6.6	Support, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the development of a third river crossing to the west of town, subject to the identification of a need for such transport-related infrastructure.	Support, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the development of a third river crossing to the west of town, subject to the identification of a need for such transport-related infrastructure; whilst ensuring 1) environmental considerations are integrated into the design, planning and development of such a crossing (at the earliest stages possible); and 2) Robust environmental assessment processes guide and inform the development.
6B	Work in partnership with TII and regional stakeholders to deliver the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme as part of the upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford.	Work in partnership with TII and regional stakeholders to deliver the proposed N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme as part of the upgrade of the N24 National Route linking Limerick and Waterford - having due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites and local population, from potential negative effects of this strategic infrastructural development.
7.2	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental and assessment.	Support the extension of the Suir Blueway Tipperary along the River Suir, subject to planning and environmental and assessment - whilst protecting and enhancing the natural character and ecological value of the river and associated important habitat, including riparian zones.
8C	Integrate a Nature Based Approach to SUDS, with a focus on biodiversity as part of new public realm and public sector development in the town.	Integrate a Nature Based Approach to SUDS, with a focus on biodiversity and climate adaptation , as part of new public realm and public sector development in the town.



3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of reasonable Plan alternatives considered during the plan-making processes. The environmental effects of reasonable alternative, including effects on biodiversity and European sites, were considered when choosing the preferred Plan.

3.2 Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the Plan were considered during the Plan-development process. The approach for identifying reasonable alternatives to the Plan is defined below:

1. Iterative communication was held between the Plan-development and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the Strategic Aim and Objectives of the Plan.
2. Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative was practical/functional, reasonable and implementable took place. This evaluation considered the following factors:
 - The strategic aim and objectives of the Plan.
 - The geographic scope of the Plan.
 - The actual powers and functions of the Local Authority.
 - The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the Plan aims and objectives.
 - The technical feasibility of the alternative.
 - The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the Plan within the required timeframe.
 - The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the Plan by higher-level policy.
 - The legislative context and the parameters placed around the Plan by climate action and environmental related legislation.

The toolkit contained in the EPA's guidelines entitled 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance' (2015) was utilized when identifying reasonable alternatives. The 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model defined in the guidelines were used when framing reasonable alternatives, as shown in Figure 3.1.

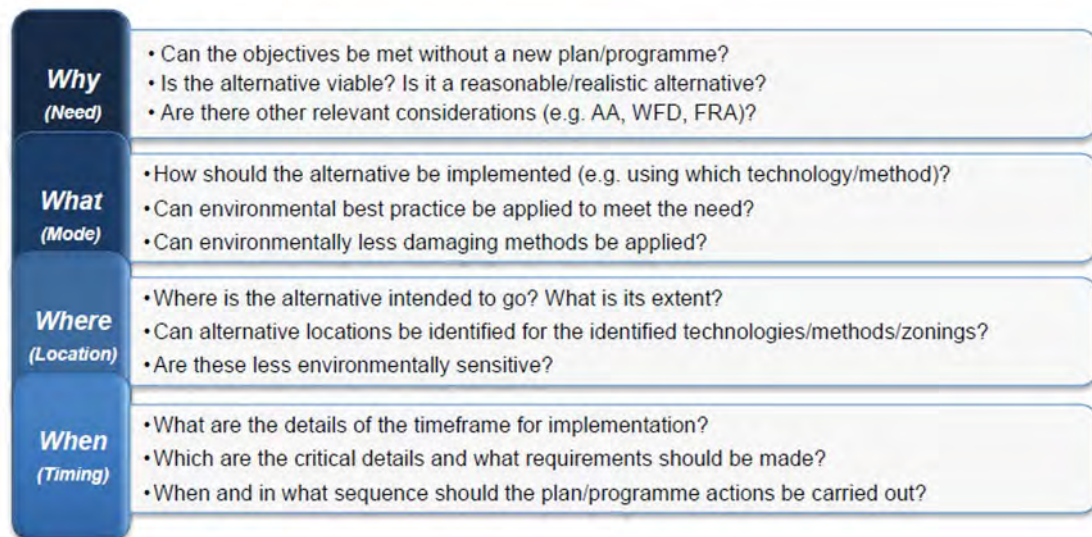


Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).

3.3 Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives to the Plan were identified. A description of these reasonable alternatives and the reasons for selecting these reasonable alternatives are presented in Tables 3-1 and 3-2.

A 'Do Nothing' or 'Do Minimum' alternative was not a reasonable alternative in this instance as the preparation a Plan is a statutory requirement in this instance under Section 19(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).



Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LAP

Theme	Description of Reasonable Alternatives
Planning for development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.
	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.
Approach to the protection of the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation.	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP.
	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP.
Consolidation of Open Space Amenity in Established Residential Areas.	Alternative 1: Retain the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area.
	Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning.



3.4 Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives and Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Plan

An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. This evaluation is documented in the SEA Environmental Report for the Plan. AA considerations were taken into account during this evaluation process. A summary of this evaluation and the reason for choosing the preferred Plan is presented in Table 3-2.



Table 3-2: Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives

Theme	Reasonable Alternatives	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives	Preferred Alternative
Planning for development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.	Alternative 1: Using the Local Area Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.	The landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of Coolnamuck Road is of strategic importance in the context of the Plan. It is predicted significant levels of development will be carried out in this area over the lifetime of the Plan. Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road has greater potential to ensure positive environmental outcomes across a number of environmental components including population and human health, biodiversity, landscape and visual amenity, land use, air quality and noise, water, and material assets.	Alternative 2
	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the LAP, to provide for and control planning and development at the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road.		
Approach to the protection of the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation.	Alternative 1: Rely on environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP.	Focused mitigation measures would ensure a stronger, more robust level of protection for the SAC in the context of the Plan and would better safeguard the conservation objectives and qualifying interests of the SAC. This had greater potential to ensure positive environmental outcomes across a number of environmental components, including biodiversity, land use, water, climate change and material assets. It was determined that it would be more beneficial to integrate more focused environmental mitigation for the protection of this SAC into the Plan as the Plan supports more specific development proposals and measures that have the potential to result in direct, adverse effects on the Lower River Suir SAC specifically.	Alternative 2
	Alternative 2: Rely on both 1) Environmental protection related policies and objectives for European sites defined in the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, and; 2) Focused, and more specific environmental protection related policies and objectives defined in the Local Area Plan for the Lower River Suir SAC specifically, to avoid, prevent and minimize effects on the Lower River Suir SAC due to the carrying out of development supported by the LAP.		



Theme	Reasonable Alternatives	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives	Preferred Alternative
Consolidation of Open Space Amenity in Established Residential Areas.	Alternative 1: Retain the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area. Alternative 2: Change the 'Existing Residential' zoning for open space amenity areas present in established residential areas in the Plan area to 'Amenity' zoning.	It was decided that retaining the 'Existing Residential' zoning in open spaces would reduce the level of clear support provided under the Plan for the preservation of these spaces. Such open spaces contribute for the livability of urban settlements and housing and contribute positively to community building and public health. The loss of such spaces can result in a range of negative environmental effects, including effects on residential amenity, visual amenity, and biodiversity. This alternative provided clear, express, and unambiguous support for the preservation of these open space amenity areas in existing neighbourhoods. This had greater potential to ensure positive environmental outcomes across a number of environmental components, including population and human health, biodiversity, landscape and visual amenity, land use, material assets, and tourism and recreation.	Alternative 2



4. AA CONCLUSION

A report to inform AA Screening was completed for the LAP. The purpose of this report was to identify whether the implementation of the LAP has the potential to have likely, significant effects on the integrity of European sites, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

It was concluded that the Plan was likely to have significant effects on 2 European sites forming part of the Natura 2000 network (in the absence of mitigation), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. These European sites are as follows:

- Lower River Suir SAC (Site Code: 002137); and,
- River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site Code: 002162).

The LAP provides a land use planning framework for the Plan Area and supports various types of development, including housing and transport development. The implementation of LAP policies and objectives, which are supportive of various forms of development, have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites from the following: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change.

TCC therefore determined that AA of the LAP is required and that a Natura impact Report should be prepared for the LAP.

Material Alterations to the Draft LAP were made following a review of the issues raised during a period of prescribed public consultation period for the Draft LAP. Further Amendments to the these Material Alterations were made following the review of the issues raised during a further the period of prescribed public consultation on the Material Alterations. Reports to Inform AA Screening were completed for these amendments to the Plan and it was concluded that these Amendments would not be likely to have any significant effect on European sites.

A consolidated NIR was produced for the LAP. This consolidated NIR concluded the following:

- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of adverse effects in the first place and mitigate adverse effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the LAP will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.
- In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the plan are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the LAP either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.
- Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the plan will not adversely effect the integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.



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Screening Determination under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC

for the

Tipperary County Council Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Tipperary County Council is preparing Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan (Draft LAP). The prospective Carrick-on-Suir LAP will provide a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of Carrick-on-Suir. This Plan, in conjunction with the Tipperary County Development Plan (CDP) 2022 - 2028, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

A Screening Determination for the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been made by Tipperary County Council in respect of amendments to the Draft LAP in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) and particularly Articles 3(3), 3(4) & 3(5) which relate to 'screening' for the requirement for SEA.

A screening assessment was carried out using the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects as set out in the Directive and transposing national legislation (Schedule 2A of S.I. 436/2004, as amended). Following assessment of the criteria and having regard to the nature of the Further Amendments to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan and the potential for likely significant environmental effects due to the proposed amendments, Tipperary County Council has determined that the amendments will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment and SEA of the amendments is not required.

The principal reasons the amendments to the Draft LAP do not require an SEA are as follows:

- The amendments are either clerical in nature or only intended to clarify the intended meaning of land use policies and objectives previously defined in the Draft LAP, which were considered, assessed and mitigated against under the SEA of the Draft LAP.
- The amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects, not previously considered and mitigated against under the SEA of the Draft LAP.

Signed by

Dave Carroll

Date

9/05/25



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Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan 2025-2031 (Tipperary County Council)

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination under the EU's Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination is being made on the potential for the Tipperary County Council's (TCC) Carrick-on-Suir and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2025-2031 to have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed by Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires that a final determination is made as to whether a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

A Report to inform AA Screening was previously completed for the LAP. The purpose of this report was to identify whether the implementation of the LAP has the potential to have likely, significant effects on the integrity of European Sites, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

It was concluded that the Plan was likely to have significant effects on 2 European sites forming part of the Natura 2000 network (in the absence of mitigation), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. These European sites are as follows:

- Lower River Suir SAC (Site Code: 002137); and,
- River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site Code: 002162).

The LAP provides a land use planning framework for the Plan Area and supports various types of development, including housing and transport development. The implementation of LAP policies and objectives, which are supportive of various forms of development, have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites from the following: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change.

TCC therefore determined that AA of the LAP is required and that a Natura impact Report should be prepared for the LAP.

An NIR was produced for the Draft LAP. The NIR considered the potential for the Draft LAP to adversely affect the integrity of European sites, with regard to their Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests. The Draft LAP was informed by the AA and the NIR. Mitigation measures were integrated into the Draft LAP that mitigate its potential effects on any European site. The NIR

concluded that the Draft LAP would not give rise to any adverse effects on European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Material Alterations to the Draft LAP were made following a review of the issues raised during a period of prescribed public consultation for the Draft LAP. Further Amendments to these Material Alterations were made following the review of the issues raised during a further period of prescribed public consultation on the Material Alterations. Reports to Inform AA Screening were completed for these amendments to the Plan, and it was concluded that these Amendments would result in any likely, significant effect on European sites.

A consolidated NIR was produced for the LAP. This consolidated NIR concluded the following:

- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of adverse effects in the first place and mitigate adverse effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Draft LAP will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.
- In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects were considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the plan are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the Draft LAP, either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.
- Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

In light of the above, Tipperary County Council, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed by Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, determines that the adoption and implementation of the LAP will not individually or in combination with any other plan or project adversely affect the integrity of any European site.

Signed by:



Date: 12th May '25