ARUP

Kildare County Council

Proposed Variation No.6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Reference: 312816-03_21.04.2026_AA Screening

| 21 April 2026

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report has been prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd (Arup) on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC) in connection with the Proposed 6th Variation of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Variation No. 6).

KCC proposes the introduction of the Sallins Settlement Plan as the Proposed 6th Variation to the CDP. The purpose of the Proposed 6th Variation, the subject of this AA Screening, is to incorporate a land use plan for the town of Sallins into Volume 2: Settlement Plans of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). This will ensure that a planning framework is in place for Sallins, in the form of a 'Settlement Plan.'

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that any plan or project, which is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, should be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

1.2 Report Aim

This AA Screening Report has been prepared to provide information for the 'competent authority' in this case KCC regarding the potential for 'Likely Significant Effects' (LSE) of the proposed Variation, on European sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed Variation.

1.3 Background to the Proposed Variation

KCC published the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 in January 2023 which is the key strategy document which structures the proper planning and sustainable development of land-use across County Kildare over the six-year statutory time period of the plan. The CDP (as varied) consists of two volumes:

- Volume 1 Written Statement - The Written Statement constitutes the main body of the document which comprises the Vision, Core Strategy, development management standards and the overarching policies and draft objectives of the Plan.
- Volume 2 Settlement Plans provides a coherent planning framework for settlements of various sizes across the county.

The Sallins Settlement Plan is being prepared by way of statutory Variation No. 6 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) under Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) and in accordance with Objective CS 09. It will replace the Sallins Local Area Plan 2016-2022, as there is no longer a legislative provision for local area plans under the Planning and Development Act 2024, which was signed into law on 17 October 2024.

The Proposed Variation No. 6 sets out an overarching strategy to guide and manage the proper planning and sustainable development of Sallins over the remaining period of the County Development Plan (CDP).

1.4 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) (the 'Habitats Directive' provides the legal protection for habitats and species, with Articles 3 to 9 providing legislation protection to the EU wide network of sites known as the Natura 2000 site network. Natura 2000 is a network of protected sites which comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (referred to as European sites within this report). SACs are protected sites designated under the Habitats Directive. They are high quality sites that contribute significantly to the conservation of a large range of habitats and species.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA whilst Article 6(4) sets out the Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and compensatory measures where Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European sites cannot be excluded.

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) (as amended), and Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

1.5 Relationship with the SEA Directive

In the preparation of this AA Screening report, the approach has been conducted in parallel with the requirements of the SEA process (2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law). Article 3.2(b) of the SEA Directive expressly links to AA. The SEA process requires that an environmental report is prepared to accompany the proposed Variation for public consultation. Following the consultation period, the proposed Variation may be finalised in its issue form. To facilitate an informed assessment under both processes, it is necessary to consider both the draft and final versions of the plan.

1.6 Report Structure

The report is structured below:

- Section 2 provides an overview of the Proposed Variation;
- Section 3 outlines the AA process, provides important definitions, guidance, data and methodology used to inform the assessment;
- Section 4 sets out the screening assessment using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model and details the assessment for effects and screening;
- Section 5 provides a summary and conclusion.

2. The Proposed Variation

2.1 Overview

As outlined in Section 1.3, the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 (as varied) consists of two volumes, the second Volume 2: Settlement Plans provides a coherent planning framework for settlements of various sizes across the county.

In order to develop thriving areas where people want to live, the overall objective of Volume 2: Settlement Plans is to;

1. Support the sustainable growth of our towns, villages and settlements.
2. Support appropriate local employment opportunities and economic activity.
3. Build on each areas unique character and natural assets.

Sallins is designated as a Small Town in Volume 2 of the CDP. The other towns with this designation include: Castledermot, Derrinturn, Kilcullen, Kill, Prosperous, and Rathangan. The Sallins Local Area Plan 2016-2022 is the most recent spatial framework for development locations and land use in Sallins.

2.2 Proposed Variation draft Objectives

The objectives described within the Proposed Variation are categorised under the following sections including Compliance with Core Strategy Objectives, Social Infrastructure Objectives, Town Centre Regeneration and Delivering Place Quality Objectives, Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Objectives, Built Heritage and Archaeology Objectives, Movement and Active Travel Objectives and Infrastructure and Environmental Services Objectives. Table 1 provides a high-level summary of each of the objectives within the draft Variation.

Table 1 Summary of the draft Variation objectives

Objective Sectors	Summary of draft Variation Objectives
Compliance with Core Strategy	Draft objectives aim to support compact and sequential growth in Sallins through consolidation of the existing urban footprint, managed residential phasing, and the delivery of key strategic development areas, while safeguarding strategic reserve lands for the long-term orderly expansion of the settlement.
Compliance with Social Infrastructure	Draft objectives seek to ensure the timely provision of social infrastructure in tandem with population growth, including education, childcare, healthcare, community facilities, recreation, and age-friendly services, with a focus on accessibility, phased delivery, and long-term community needs.
Compliance with Town Centre Regeneration and Delivering Place Quality	Draft objectives aim to strengthen the town centre as the primary focus for commercial, civic, social, cultural and tourism activity through regeneration, reuse of underutilised sites, enhancement of the public realm, protection of character, and the delivery of key town centre development and renewal initiatives.
Compliance with Economic Development	Draft objectives seek to promote sustainable economic growth and employment creation by revitalising the town centre and waterways, supporting mixed-use development, encouraging small business and remote working opportunities, strengthening tourism infrastructure, and facilitating appropriate industrial and employment development.
Compliance with Green Blue Infrastructure	Draft objectives aim to protect, enhance and integrate green and blue infrastructure within Sallins by safeguarding ecological networks, avoiding fragmentation, promoting hedgerow and tree retention and restoration, and embedding green infrastructure and nature-based solutions into development and placemaking.
Compliance with Built Heritage and Archaeology	Draft objectives seek to protect and enhance the built heritage and archaeological assets of Sallins by resisting inappropriate demolition, promoting sensitive reuse and restoration, reducing visual clutter, and ensuring that new development responds positively to the historic character and cultural significance of the town.

Objective Sectors	Summary of draft Variation Objectives
Compliance with Movement and Active Travel	Draft objectives aim to prioritise sustainable transport and active travel by improving walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure, enhancing permeability and accessibility, supporting universal design, and delivering a connected, safe and low-carbon movement network integrated with future growth.
Compliance with Infrastructure and Environmental Services	Draft objectives seek to ensure that essential infrastructure and environmental services, including water, wastewater, electricity, waste management and flood risk measures, are delivered in a coordinated and sustainable manner, with nature-based solutions incorporated to support climate resilience and future development.

The full list of the Variation No. 6 objectives can be found in Appendix A of the report.

2.3 Geographic Area

The Proposed Variation No. 6 covers the area of Sallins settlement boundary. Sallins is located in the 'Core Region' of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly area, which includes commuter counties surrounding the Dublin Metropolitan Area. The settlement boundary to Sallins is provided below in Figure 1.

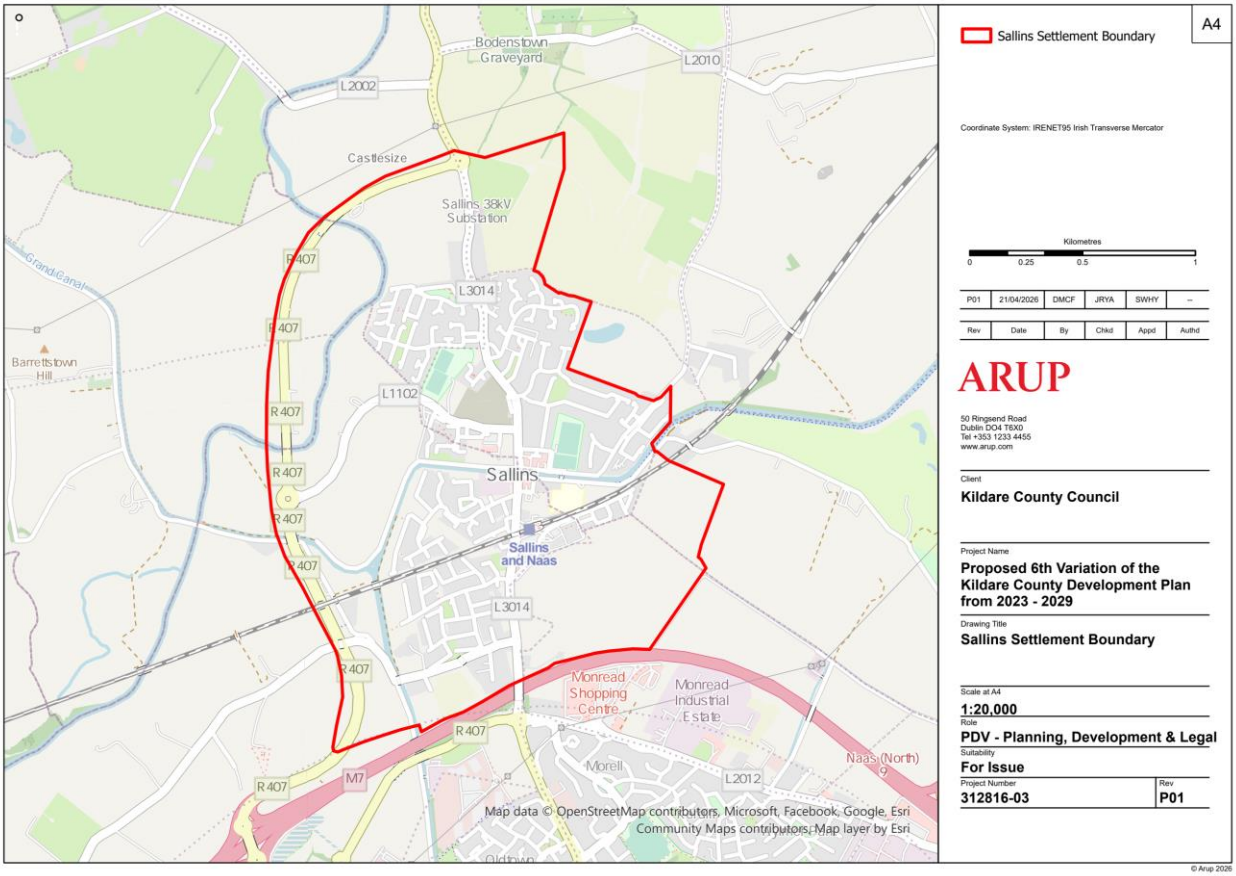

Figure 1 Sallins Settlement Boundary

2.4 Embedded Protective Policies and Draft objectives as included in the Kildare CDP (as varied)

Kildare CDP (as varied) was subject to Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 Natura Impact Report (NIR) in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. The NIR recommended a suite of mitigation measures following the assessment of the draft CDP. These were built into the published Kildare CDP (as

varied) as a suite of embedded protective policies and objectives to avoid the potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on the integrity of European sites within the scope of the Kildare CDP (as varied).

As the Proposed Variation No. 6 constitutes a variation of the Kildare CDP (as varied), accordingly, the embedded protective policies arising from the AA of the CDP are applicable in this context and are treated as such for the purposes of assessing the Proposed Variation No. 6. While the Proposed Variation No. 6 is independently assessed for the potential for LSE, any embedded protective policies that apply are considered part of the baseline policy framework and not as mitigation measures specific to the Proposed Variation No. 6.

The following embedded protective policies and objectives are considered to be of particular importance with regards to European sites and are applicable to the Proposed Variation:

- AH O5: *'Avoid development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site located within and immediately adjacent to the county and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive, to support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.'; and*
- AH O6: *'Ensure an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to determine the likelihood of the plan or project having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects and to ensure that projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.'*

3. Guidance, Methodology and Data Sources

3.1 Appropriate Assessment Stages

The AA process involves a number of steps and tests that need to be applied in sequential order.

An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. First of all, a plan or project must be screened to identify whether the potential for likely significant effects on a European site(s) exists. If that possibility cannot be excluded, an Appropriate Assessment is to be undertaken prior to any consent being granted. Consent shall not be granted if it cannot be concluded that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site. Article 6(4) allows for consent to be granted in particular and exceptional circumstances, even if adverse effects may arise.

3.2 Definitions

3.2.1 European Sites

European sites, as defined under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011) (as amended) are part of the Natura 2000 network and include those designated as SACs, candidate SACs (cSACs), SPAs or proposed SPAs (pSPAs). These are sometimes referred to as Natura 2000 sites.

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I[1] habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II[2] species (other than birds).

SPAs are selected for the conservation of Annex I birds and all migratory birds and their habitats.

The Annex habitats and species, for which each site is selected, are termed the Qualifying Interests (QI) for SACs and termed Special Conservation Interests (SCI) for SPAs of each site.

3.2.2 Conservation Objective

Conservation Objectives (COs) for the European sites are defined for the relevant QIs and SCIs. In its most general sense, a CO is the specification of the overall target for the species and/or habitat types for which a site is designated in order for it to contribute to maintaining or reaching favourable conservation status[3].

3.2.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

The Source-Pathway-Receptor model is used to assess where a potential effect may result by examining the source, its pathway and the receptor. As per guidance from the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)[4] these can be defined as follows:

- **Source**: The origin of a potential effect which may include characteristics of a plan or project that have the potential to result in effects e.g. direct impacts such as loss of habitat;
- **Pathway**: How the potential effect may occur on the source. These are identifiable through linkages that may occur through the plan or project and European sites e.g. direct pathways such as physical proximity, hydrological connections or indirect pathways such as disturbance to migrating species; and
- **Receptor**: The European site network and respective QIs/SCIs, their ecological condition and sensitivities e.g. freshwater pearl mussel is sensitive to siltation in water.

[1] Annex I habitats are habitats shoes conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation
[2] Annex II species are animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation
[3] Commission Note on Setting Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites (November 2012) European Commission, Doc. Hab.12-04/06. Accessed at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission_note/commission_note2_EN.pdf
[4] OPR (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01

3.2.4 Zone of Influence

A Zone of Influence (ZoI) within any assessment of projects and/or plans considers the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed plan/project and associated activities.

3.3 Guidance

The following guidance was used in carrying out the assessment:

- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 Sites: Methodical guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 20214);
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000);
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2007);
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2019);
- Office of the Planning Regulator Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021); and
- Strict Protection of Animal Species Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public authority (NPWS 2021);
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive; Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) 1/10 and PSSP 2/10;

The requirements for Screening for AA, for European sites, are set out Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 with numerous relevant rulings and opinions issues in both Irish and EU courts. AA is a process required under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive as transposed by the Planning & Development Act as stated within Section **Error! Reference source not found.**.

3.4 Data Sources

The ecological data reviewed to inform this report included:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Map Viewer[5];
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives Series[6];
- NPWS (2023) SAC and SPA Datasheets[7];
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Designations web viewer[8];
- NPWS Protected Sites in Ireland[9];

[5] EPA Map Viewer accessed at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ accessed November 2023

[6] NPWS Conservation objectives accessed at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives accessed November 2023

[7] NPWS SAC and SPA Datasheets accessed at https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data/sac-and-spa-datasheets-downloads accessed November 2023

[8] NPWS Designations web viewer accessed at https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba accessed November 2023

[9] NPWS Protected sites accessed at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites accessed November 2023

- NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland Web Viewer[10];
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. Unpublished NPWS report [11]. NPWS (2025);
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report[12]. Edited by: Domhnall Finch, Aoife Delany, Fionnuala O' Neill and Deirdre Lynn. NPWS (2025); and
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report[13] (2015). Edited by: Domhnall Finch, Aoife Delany, Fionnuala O'Neill and Deirdre Lynn. (2025).

3.5 Methodology

In line with the relevant guidance and case law, this report consists of the below steps:

1. **Impact Prediction:** Identify the aspects of the Proposed Variation No. 6 likely to affect the COs of European sites. The more general classification of impacts can include direct and indirect effects; short and long-term effects; construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and isolated, interactive and cumulative effects. A Source-Pathway-Receptor model has been used to identify the zone of influence. This also includes transboundary considerations.
2. **Assessment of Effects:** The actions of the Proposed Variation are assessed as to whether they are likely to result in significant effects on the integrity of European sites. This requires understanding of relevant QIs/SCIs and associated COs.

3.5.1 Impact Prediction: Identifying the Zone of Influence

The ZoI is established using the source-pathway-receptor framework and takes into consideration the scale of the Proposed Variation No. 6. There is no recommended ZoI, and guidance from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recommends that the distance should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the plan/project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects (cumulative).

For an effect to occur there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. construction works at a proposed development site), a 'receptor' (e.g. QI or SCI of a European site), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse which connects a plan area to an SAC, ex situ foraging habitat for SCI birds). The principle for establishing ZoI, as outlined in the 2021 OPR Practice Note PN01applies equally to a plan level AA and so the SPR method has been used in this report.

The identification of the European sites within the ZoI has been carried out by utilising GIS datasets from NPWS including that of the European site network. The sites have been determined through the identification of the potential sources of the impacts of the proposed Variation and their pathways for effect to European sites.

3.5.2 Assessment of Effects

Where a plan or project has the potential to undermine the COs, it must be considered as a likely significant effect upon that EU site. The assessment of effects stages determines whether the potential impacts identified using the SPR could result in a likely significant effect.

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[10] NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland web viewer accessed at https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1a721520030d404f899d658d5b6e159a accessed November 2023

[11] The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Volume 1 Summary Overview accessed at https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_Article17.pdf September 2023

[12]The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol2_Habitats_Article17.pdf September 2023

[13] The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report accessed at https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol3_Species_Article17.pdf September 2023

From establishing the ZoI using the SPR method, focusing on the relevant QIs and SCIs of European sites which may be at risk of likely significant effects arising from the proposed Variation. The potential impacts of the Proposed Variation No. 6 are assessed against the COs of the relevant QIs and SCIs to determine if a likely significant effect may occur as a result of implementation. Within this assessment, factors such as type, extent, duration, intensity, timing, probability and in-combination effects of the potential impact, as well as the vulnerability of the QIs and/or SCIs concerned[4].Where the potential for significant effects is determined, the corresponding elements of the Proposed Variation No. 6 are considered as adverse effects upon the integrity of European site(s). These are assessed against the COs of the relevant QIs and SCIs.

4. Screening Assessment

4.1 Overview

The scope of the Proposed Variation No. 6 has a scale of application across Sallins Town. COs of relevant European sites can be accessed on www.npws.ie and have been considered as part of the screening process, but for the purposes of brevity, these have not been reproduced.

4.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor

Potential connectivity between the implementation of the Proposed Variation No. 6 and European sites and their respective QIs/SCIs is identified via the S-P-R model which highlights the potential impact pathways such as land, air, hydrological pathways etc which may support direct or indirect connectivity. Where connectivity exists between the Proposed Variation and receptors, these receptors are taken forward to the assessment of likely significant effects.

European sites have been identified and are presented in Table 2 below. The SPR method is utilised to assess whether the potential for likely significant effects upon these European sites exists. The SPR method establishes the ZoI for the proposed scheme and focuses the assessment to identify those relevant QIs/SCIs which are at risk of likely significant effects.

4.3 Identification of Potential Sources of Impacts

In identifying the potential sources of impacts of the implementation of the Proposed Variation No. 6, it is important to note that this risk is an estimation based on scientific evidence and best practice. It does not constitute that an impact will occur or that it will result in ecological or environmental damage resulting in significant effects on European sites within the ZoI. The significance of the effect is dependent upon factors such as duration, magnitude and intensity of the project/plan in question and the existence of a credible SPR link. It is also determined by the extent of the exposure to the risk and the characteristics of the receptor.

By establishing a credible source and pathway, the receptors i.e. the QI habitats and QI/SCI species are only considered where links are identified to be credible. Factors including distance between receptors and sources and the means by which the pathway through air, water, ground etc., occurs.

All objectives of the Proposed Variation No. 6 have been reviewed for potential impacts. In instances where objectives have been determined to potentially give rise to construction level activities or impacts arising from the operation of sectors (recreation, water treatment etc.,) a variety of potential impacts have been identified. Future infrastructure development, related construction works and the operation of services will likely occur within the Proposed Variation No. 6 period however, as the Proposed Variation No. 6 is designed to guide the development of the plan area through a series of projects, exact details regarding construction and operation are yet undecided.

After examining all the objectives that could potentially result in an impact, each objective was categorised under the corresponding impacts. The list of activities which could result in impacts and that are discussed in this report scenarios considered likely; however the development of individual projects will result in more construction, operation and decommissioning detail that can be assessed on an individual case basis.

The objectives below anticipated to give rise to construction are found in the Table 2 below.

Public realm works are generally undertaken in existing urban settings and are considered minor construction activities whereas major construction works such as the facilitation of residential areas, the development of a new community centre, the restoration and refurbishment of existing structures such as the old Post Office and Home Farm House will be subject to planning permission requirements at their respective project level stages. This would include the examination of any potential for any likely significant effects at project level stage.

Table 2 Summary of the draft Objectives anticipating construction activities and potential impacts

Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential Impact
CSO 2.3	Support and facilitate the phased delivery of the Willows Key Development Area during of the lifetime of the Plan and beyond. New residential development will be required to be phased and delivered in tandem with the social infrastructure provision identified on the lands zoned 'F: Open Space and Amenity'. The phasing of the residential units shall be in accordance with the residential phasing set out under Section 10.1.4 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the planning authority	The implementation of the objective has the potential to incur construction related activities which could potentially give rise to: Changes in water quality, hydrology to waterbodies as a result of construction activities Potential habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation as a result of construction activities Potential disturbance to species as a result of construction activities
SIO 3.10	Require the delivery of social infrastructure particularly a new Community Centre in addition to the refurbishment and extension of the existing Sallins Community Centre, through the application of a Special Development Contribution on Key Development Areas (Home Farm House Key Development Area, Link Road Key Development Area, West Link Road Key Development Area) where specific exceptional costs are not covered by the Council's Development Contribution Scheme or through developer led provision and in tandem with housing delivery	
TCO 4.3	Facilitate the implementation of Home Farm House Key Development Area in the town centre outlined in Section 10.1.1 including the following: • Public Realm Improvements • The regeneration of the Old Post Office Square as a Civic Space • Sensitive restoration of Home Farm House (RPS No. B19-33, NIAH Ref.11811025)	

4.4 Identification of Potential Pathways

Establishing the potential pathways that may exist between the source of impact and receptors of European sites was carried out in consideration of the proposed Variation elements and the viability of direct and indirect pathways on site. This incorporates considering the geographical and topographical elements of the plan area in addition to any in-situ features which may act as a barrier between the potential sources of impact and potential receptor European sites.

4.4.1 Characteristics of Sallins Town

Sallins is a small town, approximately 29 km from Dublin City (with a road distance of c.33 km), and it sits within a lowland, transport-influenced setting between the Grand Canal and the River Liffey, with the M7 Motorway immediately to the south and Naas nearby as a larger urban centre. The nearest European sites to Sallins include Ballynafagh Bog SAC (7km north-west) and Ballynafagh Lake SAC (8 km north-west), with Mounds Bog SAC located 8km to the west, while the wider receiving environment includes Red Bog SAC (9km south-east) and Wicklow Mountains SAC (25 km south). The nearest SPAs to the town include Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (12 km south-east) and Wicklow Mountains SPA(18 km south-east), while the downstream coastal European sites hydrologically linked to the River Liffey are South Dublin Bay SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and North Bull Island SPA, all approximately 47 km downstream in-channel from Sallins. Within and around the town boundary, habitats are dominated by improved and semi-improved grasslands, arable crops, scrub, hedgerows and trees. Small woodland patches are present but are largely confined to linear stretches along the River Liffey and a corridor linking the Liffey to the Grand Canal.

4.4.1.1 Hydrological Connectivity

Hydrologically, there are two main watercourses within or immediately adjacent to the town boundary. These are the River Liffey, which flows through the north-western part of the Sallins Settlement Plan area, and the Grand Canal, which runs west to east through the settlement. The River Liffey rises in the Wicklow Mountains and flows downstream past Sallins before discharging to Dublin Bay, adjacent to Dublin Port and the North Bull Island. The Grand Canal crosses the River Liffey via the Liffey Bridge to the west of Sallins

and continues westwards towards Monasterevin. At Monasterevin, it passes over the River Barrow via an aqueduct. However, the canal does not provide a direct hydrological connection to other watercourses in the manner of a natural river network. The River Liffey does not present a viable pathway for effects to the relevant European sites due to the considerable distance (approximately 57km) between these sites and the boundary of the Proposed Variation. The hydrological connection is therefore weak and indirect. Moreover, the assimilative capacity of the River Liffey is such that any potential inputs would be diluted and dispersed, further reducing the potential for significant effects downstream.

4.4.1.2 Hydrogeological Connectivity

The Proposed Variation area is underlain by the Sallins Groundwater Body, which is a small, discrete sand and gravel groundwater body of local extent. The nearest European sites are located within separate and distinct groundwater bodies, with no shared groundwater unit between the plan area and any SAC.

Given the limited spatial extent of the Sallins Groundwater Body and the distances involved, there is no meaningful hydrogeological continuity between the proposed Variation area and nearby European sites. Any groundwater flow from the settlement is localised and does not provide a plausible pathway to SACs located in other groundwater bodies.

On this basis, groundwater is considered to represent a very weak and non-viable pathway for the transmission of effects from the plan area to any European site.

4.4.1.3 Functionally linked land

Functionally linked land is defined as areas of land or sea occurring outside a designated site which is considered to be critical to or necessary for the ecological, behavioural functions in a relevant season or a qualifying feature of which SACs or SPAs have been designated. These habitats are frequently used by the QIs or SCIs of the respective sites to support their functionality and integrity of the designated sites for these features.

The nearest SAC from the Proposed Variation No. 6 boundary for which an Annex II species is designated is Ballynafagh Lake SAC (approx. 8km northwest) and is designated for the Annex II species Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*) and marsh fritillary (Euphydryas aurinia). Both species have limited dispersal ability and are strongly associated with specific semi-natural wetland and grassland habitats, including calcareous fens, wet grasslands and boggy habitats. Such habitats are not present within the Proposed Variation No. 6 area, which is urbanised in character, and therefore the site is not functionally linked to Ballynafagh Lake SAC via suitable habitat corridors.

In addition, the Proposed Variation area is located within the discrete Sallins Groundwater Body, while Ballynafagh Lake SAC is located within a separate groundwater body. There is no shared groundwater unit or meaningful hydrogeological continuity between the two areas. As a result, groundwater does not represent a plausible pathway for the transmission of effects. Given the distance separating the sites, the absence of suitable habitat, the very limited mobility of the qualifying species, and the lack of hydrological or hydrogeological connectivity, no functional ecological pathway exists between the Proposed Variation area and Ballynafagh Lake SAC.

Otter records occur within the wider ZoI of the proposed Variation area, reflecting the presence of two watercourses within or adjacent to the settlement. Otter is a mobile species associated with riverine and wetland habitats and may use watercourses within and around the plan area for local foraging or commuting. Otter is the sole qualifying interest species for Wicklow Mountains SAC, which is located approximately 20 km to the east of the plan area. While otter records occur along the River Liffey within the ZoI, these records are considered to relate to local otter use of the catchment rather than to the designated population associated with the Wicklow Mountains SAC. Although otters are capable of long-distance movement, the distance between the proposed Variation area and Wicklow Mountains SAC, together with the presence of extensive rural land, urban areas and major infrastructure corridors between the two locations, substantially reduces the likelihood of functional connectivity between these areas. On this basis, while otter may occur locally within the ZoI, the proposed Variation area is not considered to represent functionally linked land for the otter population for which Wicklow Mountains SAC is designated, and no viable ecological pathway for likely significant effects has been identified.

SCI species for nearby sites Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (approximately 16km east) and Wicklow Mountains SPA (approximately 20km east) are not anticipated to depend on the proposed Variation area. In Poulaphouca reservoir SPA, greylag goose (*Anser anser)* and lesser black backed gull (*Larus fuscus)* are typically found in habitats such as lakes, reservoirs, farmland, wetland and grassland (greylag geese) and along rocky and sandy shores, estuaries and reservoirs (lesser black backed gulls). The SCI of Wicklow Mountains SPA merlin (*Falco columbaris)* depend on upland habitats such as blanket bog and conifer plantations (merlin) whereas peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus)* can be found in a variety of habitats including urbanised areas. However, given the availability of prey in the uplands of the Wicklow Mountains SPA and the nearer the coastline of Wicklow it is not anticipated that peregrine falcon would be likely to depend upon the proposed Variation area for prey availability.

4.4.1.4 Aerial Connectivity

Ballynafagh Bog SAC and Ballynafagh Lake SAC are located approximately 7 km and 8 km north-west of the Proposed Variation boundary, respectively. Prevailing wind conditions in the Sallins area are generally from the south and west, blowing towards the north and east. As a result, any emissions arising from projects associated with the Proposed Variation, including dust, that could potentially be transported via aerial pathways would be expected to disperse in these directions.

It is anticipated that any such material would be diluted and dispersed over a wide area of the surrounding landscape and deposited in very small quantities, such that it would not give rise to harmful effects at these distant European sites. Given the separation distances involved, airborne pathways to Ballynafagh Bog SAC and Ballynafagh Lake SAC are considered to be weak and unlikely to result in any measurable effect.

4.5 Identification of Potential Receptors

The Proposed Variation has been examined in the context of the existing plan framework and the potential sources of impact identified in Section 4.3. The assessment has considered whether the Proposed Variation would introduce any new activities, spatial extents, intensities or processes that could give rise to effects on European sites.

This review confirms that, while theoretical sources of impact can be identified, the Proposed Variation does not introduce any viable pathways for effect when considered in light of the receiving environment, ecological and hydrological connectivity, or the nature and scale of the changes proposed. Accordingly, no credible source–pathway linkages exist by which the Proposed Variation could affect the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of any European site. In the absence of viable pathways for effect, the identification of potential receptors is not required.

4.6 Assessment of In-Combination Effects with other Plans and Projects

The Proposed Variation has been assessed for the potential to result in effects on European sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. As outlined in Sections 4.3 and 4.5, while theoretical sources of impact can be identified, no credible or viable pathways for effect exist by which the pProposed Variation could give rise to effects on the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of any European site. In the absence of a viable pathway for effect, there is no mechanism by which in-combination effects could arise. Accordingly, an in-combination assessment is not required.

4.7 Summary

The assessment has identified a number of theoretical sources of impact associated with the Proposed Variation No. 6. However, no credible or viable pathways for effect have been identified by which these sources could result in effects on European sites. In the absence of viable pathways, there is no requirement to identify potential receptors. Furthermore, as no mechanism for effects exists, the Proposed Variation cannot give rise to effects either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Accordingly, an in-combination assessment is not required for the purposes of Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment screening.

5. Summary and Conclusion

5.1 Summary

The Proposed Variation No. 6 applies across Sallins Town and is intended to guide future development over the lifetime of the plan through a series of objectives relating to residential delivery, social and community infrastructure, public realm improvements and the regeneration and restoration of key town centre sites. The Proposed Variation is strategic in nature and does not consent or prescribe specific projects, locations or construction methodologies, with detailed proposals to be brought forward and assessed at project level as required.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken using a source–pathway–receptor methodology to identify whether the Proposed Variation could give rise to likely significant effects on European sites. A range of theoretical sources of impact were identified, primarily associated with future construction activities, public realm works, infrastructure provision and the operation of services that may arise during implementation of the plan objectives.

Potential pathways for effect were examined in detail, including hydrological, hydrogeological, aerial and ecological pathways, as well as the potential for functional ecological linkages. This assessment took account of the characteristics of the receiving environment, distances to European sites, catchment relationships, groundwater bodies, prevailing wind directions, habitat availability and the ecological requirements and mobility of relevant qualifying interest and special conservation interest species.

The analysis demonstrated that no viable pathways for effect exist between the Proposed Variation area and any European site. Hydrological and hydrogeological connectivity was found to be weak, indirect or absent, functional ecological linkages were not identified due to distance, habitat constraints and species ecology, and aerial pathways were considered unlikely to give rise to effects due to dispersion and dilution. As a result, no credible source–pathway linkages were identified, no potential receptors were required to be taken forward, and no mechanism for effects arising either alone or in combination with other plans or projects was identified.

5.2 Conclusion

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the best available information, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant effects on any European sites, whether arising from the Proposed Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) alone or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded, for the reasons set out in Section 4 above. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the plan and its potential relationship with all European sites within the ZoI, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that this plan does not require an AA.

A.1 List of draft Objectives from the proposed Variation

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of the Proposed 6th Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as amended)
CSO 2.1	Support and facilitate compact growth development in Sallins through the application of the 10-minute settlement concept, the consolidation of the existing urban form and the sequential approach to land use development.
CSO 2.2	Monitor the level of residential development within Sallins during the lifetime of the Plan and apply appropriate development management prioritisation measures to ensure the delivery of strategic plan-led and coordinated balanced development within the town.
CSO 2.3	Support and facilitate the phased delivery of the Willows Key Development Area during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond. New residential development will be required to be phased and delivered in tandem with the social infrastructure provision identified on the lands zoned 'F: Open Space and Amenity'. The phasing of the residential units shall be in accordance with the residential phasing set out under Section 10.1.4 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the planning authority.
CSO 2.4	Protect the lands identified as 'Strategic Reserve' on Map V2B-10.1 Land Use Zoning Objectives from inappropriate forms of development, thereby managing and controlling the risk of piecemeal and haphazard development on these lands to safeguard their strategic value in accommodating the orderly sequential expansion of the urban settlement of Sallins beyond the lifetime of the Plan.
SIO 3.1	Support and facilitate improvements and expansion of the existing primary school facilities, including special needs education and the provision of new schools and further educational opportunities which may arise, at appropriate locations.
SIO 3.2	Continue to engage with the Department of Education and Youth in respect of the phased delivery of the following: • 'E1: Community and Education' zoned lands for the future expansion of St. Laurence's National School. • 'E2: Community and Education' zoned lands for post-primary school. • 'E3: Community and Education' zoned lands for an additional primary school.
SIO 3.3	Support the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities to resolve the current capacity issues and to meet the pro-rata childcare needs of housing development during the plan period.
SIO 3.4	Support and liaise with operators of public and private healthcare facilities by encouraging the provision of facilities in appropriate locations in Sallins in order to address the current deficit provision and to meet future needs during the lifetime of the Plan.

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of the Proposed 6th Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as amended)
SIO 3.5	Support the development of age-friendly housing in Sallins, particularly on lands located within town centre or on lands proximate to the town centre, subject to appropriate siting and design considerations.
SIO 3.6	Support the provision of residential care facilities and services for older people, subject to appropriate siting and universal design considerations, including the development of individual housing units and/or a nursing home facility to provide for the needs of the elderly.
SIO 3.7	Prioritise the delivery of the Sallins Amenity Park on lands zoned 'F(1) Open Space and Amenity'.
SIO 3.8	Actively seek funding from relevant agencies and government sources including the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) or other funding sources to secure financial support to develop sports and recreation facilities in Sallins.
SIO 3.9	Actively support the development of universally accessible community centres/halls that supports a wide range of uses for groups and clubs on appropriately zoned land.
SIO 3.10	Require the delivery of social infrastructure particularly a new Community Centre in addition to the refurbishment and extension of the existing Sallins Community Centre, through the application of a Special Development Contribution on Key Development Areas (Home Farm House Key Development Area, Link Road Key Development Area, West Link Road Key Development Area) where specific exceptional costs are not covered by the Councils Development Contribution Scheme or through developer led provision and in tandem with housing delivery.
TCO 4.1	Promote the town centre as the primary focus for commercial, civic, social, cultural and tourism activity, including opportunities at the corner of Chapel Lane and Main Street, by supporting the reuse and renewal of existing buildings, upper floors, backland areas, derelict sites and brownfield lands, ensuring high quality urban design and strong integration and linkages that reinforce compact growth and the vibrancy of the urban core.
TCO 4.2	Protect the vibrancy, ambience, quality and vitality of the town centre by: i. Promoting an appropriate mix of day and night-time uses. ii. Encouraging the re-use of vacant units for alternative functions and uses such as live-work units, residential units, remote working hubs, enterprise incubation, tourist spin-off enterprises, tourist accommodation, niche retail including food or craft enterprises.
TCO 4.3	Facilitate the implementation of Home Farm House Key Development Area in the town centre outlined in Section 10.1.1 including the following: • Public Realm Improvements • The regeneration of The Old Post Office Square as a Civic Space. • Sensitive restoration of Home Farm House (RPS No. B19-33, NIAH Ref. 11811025)
TCO 4.4	Protect the inherent character of the town centre and ensure that new development responds positively and sensitively to its established built form, fine urban grain, and are optimised for people to access and navigate through to sustain and improve its attraction for living, working, visiting and investment.

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of the Proposed 6th Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as amended)
TCO 4.5	Require that all new development enhances the quality of the public realm by facilitating a connected network of streets and spaces which prioritise pedestrians and cyclists and provides for the possibility of connections to future development on adjacent lands.
TCO 4.6	Support the implementation of a Town Renewal Masterplan for Sallins, incorporating a Health Check and seek relevant funding sources on a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.
EDO 5.1	Incentivise employment creation on lands zoned 'A: Town Centre' and 'MU: Mixed Use' through the development of infill sites and the redevelopment/renewal of underutilised sites and buildings as a key driver of regeneration, through the application of the Commercial Inventive Grant Scheme (2025) and the Shopfront Improvement, Universal Accessibility and Age Friendly Grant Scheme or any successors to the same.
EDO 5.2	Promote the economic renewal and revitalisation of the Waterways and the Sallins Town Centre developments as a dynamic and sustainable employment cluster into a vibrant mixed-use quarter with a distinct spatial identity.
EDO 5.3	Support and facilitate Waterways Ireland in the restoration, regeneration and provision of facilities along the Canal.
EDO 5.4	Support and encourage 'living over the shop' initiatives, and the provision of ground floor live-work units and/or co-working spaces as part of a mixed-use and residential development in the town centre and mixed-use areas, as a means of enlivening streets and to provide flexible accommodation for small businesses and remote working opportunities.
EDO 5.5	Facilitate the development of appropriate signage and/or mapping of tourism experiences at gateways such as Sallins Railway Station, along the Canal and at nodal spaces such as Main Street and the new development areas within the town.
EDO 5.6	Promote employment development on lands zoned as 'H: Industry and Warehousing' on the Clane Road supported by the connectivity links detailed on Maps V2B-10.1 and V2B-8.1. The development of the lands requires a detailed design statement which also provides for a clearly defined access arrangement and a sustainable transport network which provides accessibility and permeability by active travel and public transport to be developed in consultation with the National Transport Authority and the Traffic Infrastructure Ireland (where appropriate). Any development proposal shall have regard to the Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines (or any subsequent Guidelines) and be subject to a Traffic and Transport Assessment to ensure there are no negative impacts on the local and national road network.
EDO 5.7	Co-operate with relevant stakeholders and agencies in promoting tourism and securing tourist-based enterprises and facilities in Sallins.
GBIO 6.1	Protect and enhance identified key Green and Blue Infrastructure Map Ref: V2B-6.1 (Green and Blue Infrastructure) and prohibit developments that would fragment or otherwise degrade the Green and Blue Infrastructure network within the Plan area. New developments shall appropriately utilise existing and new green infrastructure as an essential urban design and placemaking tool to integrate built form into their surrounding contexts. Site specific ecology surveys should be carried out to inform, assess and mitigate potential ecological impacts of any proposed development and its construction.
GBO 6.2	Avoid, in the first instance, the removal of hedgerows to facilitate development. Where their removal is unavoidable, there shall be a requirement for mitigation planting comprising a hedge of similar length, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking to existing adjacent hedges. Ideally, native plants should be used for such planting. Removal of hedgerows and trees prior to submitting a planning application will be viewed negatively by the planning authority.

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of the Proposed 6th Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as amended)
BHO 7.1	Strongly resist the demolition of any structure (or parts of any structure) that is registered on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) unless, on the basis of expert evidence provided as part of any planning application, the planning authority is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist.
BHO 7.2	Support the sensitive and appropriate development of Home Farm House, as an important community, tourism and heritage asset for the town in accordance with the Urban Design Framework for the Home Farm House Key Development Area outlined in Section 10.1.1
BHO 7.3	Reduce, prevent and encourage the removal of visual and urban clutter within the town centre including: • Excessive traffic management structures and related signage. • Utility structures and signage. • Commercial related signage (including signs protruding from the façade) at ground and upper floor levels. • Obsolete/unnecessary lighting, electrics, cables, ducts. • External roller shutters and shutter boxes. • Internally affixed stickers and internally illuminated signage, where planning permission is required.
BHO 7.4	Support the sensitive incorporation of public amenity and open spaces around monuments, where appropriate, in a manner compatible with the protection, conservation and proper management of the monuments..
MATO 8.1	Support and promote the use of sustainable transport modes in Sallins through the implementation of the measures detailed in Table 8.2 and illustrated on Map V2B-8.1 (Transportation Measures) in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders such as the National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Irish Rail and by actively seeking funding for the measures from relevant agencies and government sources. The indicative measures will form the basis for individual projects, which will be subject to a detailed design process, including environmental and/or ecological assessment, where applicable. All measures shall incorporate nature-based solutions to surface water management. Projects comprising of measures impacting the national road network shall have regard to the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012) (or any successor of same) and TII Publications requirements, where relevant.
MATO 8.2	Adopt a 'whole journey approach' to delivering transport infrastructure in Sallins, to ensure universal accessibility is integrated into all stages of a person's journey from starting point to destination. This includes making all footpaths, tactile paving, cycle paths, roads, pedestrian crossing points, greenways and bus stops / shelters fully accessible to older people, people with disabilities and people with young children.
MATO 8.3	Ensure that all developments allow for universally accessible connectivity for active travel modes to adjacent lands, in accordance with Reimagining Permeability in Kildare – Reconnecting our Communities: Permeability Guidelines April (2024), or any updated version of same, and accords with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS).

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of the Proposed 6th Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as amended)
MATO 8.4	Actively engage and co-operate with the Department of Transport, the National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Irish Rail, Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport in Sallins, including lobbying for an upgraded Sallins Train Station, the delivery of a third rail platform, and the delivery of a local bus service with associated bus stops.
MATO 8.5	Investigate the feasibility of appropriate, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities at appropriate locations in Sallins, including at Sallins Train Station and to investigate the development of a shared cycle scheme for Sallins, to enhance safe, accessible, and low-carbon "last-mile" connectivity for all users.
MATO 8.6	Support the ongoing operation of St. Laurence's National School Community-Led 'Park & Stride' Initiative and encourage safe and controlled permeability into the school grounds during school hours, through the implementation of the indicative location of the measure W 4 as illustrated on Map V2B-8.1 (Transportation Measures).
MATO 8.7	Encourage increased permeability through larger land parcels and create linkages to existing routes and civic spaces within Sallins.
MATO 8.8	Ensure that the vehicular access for any future development of the 'MU: Mixed Use' lands immediately south of the train station are accessed from The Waterways development.
MATO 8.9	Investigate the feasibility of providing an active travel link (walking and cycling) between Sallins and Kerdiffstown Park through The Willows Key Development Area as outlined in Section 10.1.4.
IEO 9.1	Work in conjunction with ESB Ireland to prioritise and facilitate the provision of adequate electricity in a manner that will support the demand of existing and future population growth in Sallins.
IEO 9.2	Maintain existing recycling facilities and secure the provision of additional universally accessible facilities, in conjunction with new development as required.
IEO 9.3	Support the development of dedicated green waste composting areas in Sallins integrated into the public open space provision of existing and future residential developments, where appropriate, for the purposes of composting the grass cuttings and other organic material generated within public open space areas.
IEO 9.4	Work in conjunction with Uisce Éireann to prioritise and facilitate the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure in Sallins to ensure that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with new development in accordance with the Implementation and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (Section 10.2 refers).
IEO 9.5	Ensure areas indicated as Surface Water Management Areas on Map V2B-9.1 (Infrastructure and Environmental Services – Surface Water Management Strategy) are reserved free from development and integrated into design proposals for nature-based surface water drainage purposes.
IEO 9.6	Incorporate Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) as part of all plans and projects in the plan area. Proposals for new development shall align with the Map V2B-9.1 (Infrastructure and Environmental Services – Surface Water Management Strategy) and the Kildare County Council Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document 2024.
IEO 9.7	Ensure all development proposals are the subject of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).

Appendix B

Source Pathway Receptor Analysis

B.1 Source-Pathway-Receptor Analysis

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
South Dublin Bay SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Approximately 45km north-west via the River Liffey	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE. Source of impact: Water degradation Pathway: Hydrological connectivity but can be described as due to the expansive distance between the proposed Variation area and the SAC. Receptor: No receptor identified	N
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141] Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143] Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162] Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179] Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Approximately 45km north-west via the River Liffey	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE. Source of impact: Water degradation and species disturbance/displacement Pathway: Hydrological connectivity can be described as weak due to the expansive distance between the proposed Variation area and the SPA. No functionally linked land pathway due to separation of distance, habitat suitability, lack of species records and the availability of habitat within the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. Receptor: None identified Sensitive receptors include all mobile SCI with a decrease in water quality may have on prey/food availability. Construction noise may also disturb SCIs. However, given the lack of viable pathway, no receptors are identified with potential for LSE.	N

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) [91E0] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*) [1016] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) [1029] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)[1092] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)[1095] Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)[1096] River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)[1099]	Approximately 24km south-west of the boundary of the proposed Variation (in a direct line)	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE. Source of impact identified: water quality degradation and disturbance/displacement; Pathway: There is no hydrological connectivity between the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and the proposed Variation area. Due to this lack of pathway there are no QI species belonging to the SAC utilising the proposed Variation area as functionally linked land Receptor: Sensitive receptors identified include mobile QIs species recorded within proximity to the proposed Variation area including Otter and White clawed crayfish but as no pathway for effect exists there are no receptors identified with the potential for LSE.	N

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
	Twaite Shad (*Alosa fallax fallax*) [1103] Salmon (*Salmo salar*)[1106] Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355] Killarney Fern (*Vandenboschia speciosa*) [6985]			
Wicklow Mountains SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae* [6130] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] 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] Old *sessile* oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0] Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355]	Approximately 15.4km south-east of the boundary of the proposed Variation (in a direct line) Approximately 52km upstream of the proposed Variation area (south east direction)	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE. Source of impact identified: water quality degradation and disturbance/displacement Pathway: There is a hydrological connectivity between the Wicklow Mountains SAC and the proposed Variation area However as the direction of flow is upstream there is not a viable pathway for water quality degradation to impact receptors. Receptor: No QI species belonging to a QI population of the SAC are utilising the proposed Variation area as functionally linked land due to distances outside of receptor ranges; Sensitive receptor such as Otter have been recorded within proximity to the proposed Variation area but no pathway for effect exists there are no receptors identified with the potential for LSE.	N

Proposed Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied)

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination in accordance with the EU's Habitats Directive Article 6(3) and Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended).

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening determination has been made by Kildare County Council regarding the Proposed Variation No. 6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied).

Having regard to the contents of the Variation No. 6 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied), following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the best available information, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant effects on any European sites, whether arising from the Variation No. 6 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied) alone or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of Variation No. 6 and its potential relationship with all European sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI), and their Conservation Objectives, have been fully considered.

This decision has been informed by an analysis prepared by Arup, in addition to the Variation No. 6 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied) documents provided by Kildare County Council and other material pertinent to the European Sites held by the Council.

In conclusion, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), taking into account all matters relevant, it has been determined that Variation No. 6 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied) individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have likely significant effects on a European site and an appropriate assessment is not required.

Signed: Alan Dunney

Director of Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development

Signatory (Approved Officer):

Date: 22/4/2026

ARUP

Kildare County Council

Proposed Material Amendments to Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)

Appropriate Assessment Screening Addendum

Reference: 312816-00

Issue | 31 July 2026

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 312816-00

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1. Introduction

Kildare County Council (KCC) published the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 in January 2023. The CDP is the key strategy document which structures the proper planning and sustainable development of land-use across County Kildare over the six-year statutory time period of the plan. The CDP consists of two volumes:

- Volume 1 Written Statement - The Written Statement constitutes the main body of the document which comprises the Vision, Core Strategy, development management standards and the overarching policies and objectives of the Plan.
- Volume 2: Settlement Plans provides a coherent planning framework for settlements of various sizes across the county, including land use zoning maps and specific objectives which are underpinned by the strategic vision and the overarching guiding principles of the Kildare CDP. Including land use zoning maps and specific objectives which are underpinned by the strategic vision and the overarching guiding principles of the Kildare CDP.

Arup was commissioned by KCC to prepare a report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening with regards to the proposed Variation No. 6. AA Screening is the process for determining the potential adverse effects of a plan or project (in combination with other plans or projects) on Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. These sites are protected by National and European Law and are called 'Natura 2000 Sites'. The AA Screening undertaken on the proposed Variation No. 6 likewise determined that no AA is required in relation to the proposed Variation No. 6.

Pursuant to Planning & Development Act 2024 (as amended), Part 6 Chapter 2 Appropriate Assessment of Plans, KCC has prepared Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the proposed Variation No. 6. Thus, further consideration is required to determine whether any of the Proposed Material Alterations are likely to give rise to Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on Natura 2000 sites.

The assessment of the PMAs is set out in this Addendum to the AA Screening Report. This Addendum should be read in conjunction with the SEA Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) of the Kildare County Development Plan, as well as the SEA and AA Screening of the Proposed Variation No. 6. All mitigation measures proposed as part of the SEA Environmental Report and NIS of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) will be applied to all PMAs, to minimise any potential for environmental impacts.

2. AA Screening of the Proposed Material Alterations

The PMAs to the Proposed Variation No.6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) provides new objectives, text amendments and text removal in addition to amendments to maps contained within the proposed Variation No. 6. The PMAs have been assessed below in **Table 2.1** in line with the methodologies applied in the Screening for AA submitted on the Proposed Variation No. 6. The PMAs have been reviewed for sources of impact and pathways for effect.

Table 2.1 AA Screening of PMAs

Alteration No.	Objective	New / Amended Objective as it appears in the Plan	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE (Likely Significant Effects)?
4	CSO 2.3	Support and facilitate the phased delivery of the Willows Key Development Area during of the lifetime of the Plan and beyond. New residential development within The Willows will be required to be phased and delivered in tandem with ~~the~~ social infrastructure provision identified *in the urban design framework for this plan period*, on the lands zoned 'F: Open Space and Amenity'. The phasing of the residential units *and social infrastructure* shall be *agreed in writing through the statutory planning application process for the subject lands.* ~~in accordance with the residential phasing set out under Section 10.1.4 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the planning authority.~~	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
5	SIO 3.3	*Support and facilitate the Department of Education and Youth in the provision of school accommodation for children and young people with special educational needs on appropriately zoned land in Sallins.*	No – no potential sources of impacts are anticipated from the new objective SIO 3.3 as it only reinforces supporting and facilitating the Department of Education in the provision of school accommodation on zoned lands.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.

6	SIO 3.8	Actively seek funding from relevant agencies and government sources including the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) or other funding sources to secure financial support to develop sports and recreation facilities, *particularly the Sallins Amenity Lands,* in Sallins.	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
7	SIO 3.10	Require the delivery of social infrastructure particularly a new Community Centre *(within the Link Road KDA), a Community and Sports Hall Building (within the Sallins Amenity Lands)* in addition to the refurbishment and extension of the existing Sallins Community Centre, through the application of a Special Development Contribution on Key Development Areas (Home Farm House Key Development Area, Link Road Key Development Area, West Link Road Key Development Area) where specific exceptional costs are not covered by the Council's Development Contribution Scheme or through developer led provision and in tandem with housing delivery.	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
8	SIO 3.X	*Support, promote and facilitate the development of cultural, arts and performance spaces in Sallins.*	No - new objective SIO 3.X does not relate to new development, it only reinforces supporting, promoting and facilitating development on zoned lands. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
9	SIO 3.X	*Support the undertaking of a feasibility study to identify and assess suitable lands for the provision of a cemetery in Sallins.*	No - new objective SIO 3.X does not relate to new development, it only commits to undertaking a feasibility study to identify suitable lands. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.

10	SIO 3.3	*Liaise with the Kildare County Childcare Committee to* support the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities, to resolve the current capacity issues and to meet the pro-rata childcare needs of housing development during the plan period.	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
11	SIO 3.3	Support the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities *(including community childcare facilities)* to resolve the current capacity issues and to meet the pro-rata childcare needs of housing development during the plan period.	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
12	SIO 3.X	*Support the development of sports pitch ancillary facilities, including changing rooms, toilets, storage facilities, parking and associated supporting infrastructure to serve the proposed GAA pitches at the Willows KDA lands in tandem with the delivery of pitches.*	No - new objective SIO 3.X does not relate to new development, it only supports the provision of ancillary facilities on zoned lands. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
13	TCO 4.6	Support the implementation of a ~~Town~~ *Village* Renewal Masterplan for Sallins, which incorporates a Health Check, and *actively* pursue *coordinate and secure funding sources and investment opportunities from* relevant funding sources on a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.

15	EDO 5.3	Support and facilitate Waterways Ireland in the continued sensitive restoration, regeneration and provision of facilities along the Canal*, to ensure Sallins develops as a greenway destination town.*	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
16	EDO 5.X	*Encourage and support the development of new or existing tourism activities/facilities in Sallins in particular those relating to the Grand Canal, the Grand Canal Greenway and the River Liffey, supporting high-quality visitor experiences, local enterprise, and active recreation while protecting the area's natural and built heritage.*	No - new objective EDO 5.X does not relate to new development, it only supports the provision of tourism activities on zoned lands in Sallins. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
17	EDO 5.7	Co-operate with relevant stakeholders and agencies in promoting tourism and securing tourist-based enterprises, ~~and facilities~~*, and supporting infrastructure, (such as parking and accessible public toilets)* in Sallins.	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
18	EDO 5.X	*Support tourism initiatives including Fáilte Ireland's 'Ireland's Ancient East' tourism marketing platform or any public campaign by Into Kildare which promotes Sallins as a visitor destination.*	No - new objective EDO 5.X does not relate to new development, it only supports tourism initiatives. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
23	GBIO 6.3	*Recognise, protect and enhance the role of the River Liffey, the Grand Canal, the Dry Canal and the railway line corridors as key ecological routes through the Plan area to support biodiversity and to improve the mobility of species.*	No - new objective EDO 5.X does not relate to new development, it only recognises, protects and enhances key ecological routes through the Plan area. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.

23	GBIO 6.4	*Ensure that new development proposals adjoining the Grand Canal in the town centre provide an appropriate design response including a setback subject to site-specific assessment and consultation with Waterways Ireland, to protect the operational, heritage, ecological and recreational functions of the canal corridor, maintain access for Waterways Ireland, safeguard the amenity of the towpath, and facilitate the enhancement of the canal-side public realm.*	No – new objective GBIO 6.4 does not relate to new development, it only ensures that new development is appropriately designed. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
26	MATO 8.1	Support and promote the use of sustainable transport modes in Sallins through the implementation of the measures detailed in Table 8.2 and illustrated on Map V2B-8.1 (Transportation Measures) in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders such as the National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Irish Rail and by actively seeking funding for the measures from relevant agencies and government sources. The indicative measures will form the basis for individual projects, which will be subject to a detailed design process, including environmental and/or ecological assessment, where applicable. All measures shall incorporate nature-based solutions to surface water management. Projects comprising of measures impacting the national road network shall have regard to the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012) ~~(or any successor of same)~~ and *demonstrate compliance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Publications requirements*, where relevant.	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
27	MATO 8.9	Investigate the feasibility of providing an active travel link (walking and cycling) *to be designed in accordance with DMURS and in compliance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Publications, as appropriate* between Sallins and Kerdiffstown Park through The Willows Key Development Area as outlined in Section 10.1.4.	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.

28	MATO 8.X	*Facilitate the reallocation of road space in the town centre, pending the reclassification of the R704 Sallins Road as a local road.*	No - new objective MATO 8.X does not relate to new development, it only ensures that existing road space is reallocated. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
29	MATO 8.X	*Investigate the feasibility of implementing Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) restrictions, following the re-classification of the R704 Sallins Road to a local road.*	No - new objective MATO 8.X does not relate to new development, it only investigates the feasibility of introducing HGV restrictions. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
30	MATO 8.X	*Investigate the feasibility of the implementation of School Safe Zones in line with the National Transport Authority's Safe Routes to School Programme.*	No - new objective MATO 8.X does not relate to new development, it only investigates the feasibility of implementing School Safe Zones. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
31	MATO X.X	*Support and facilitate, in co-operation with Irish Rail and the National Transport Authority the delivery of a second railway station, sited to the west of Sallins, including a park and ride facility (1,000 spaces) and the delivery of electrified rail service in Sallins.*	No - new objective MATO X.X aligns with objective TM O54 in the CDP. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
32	MATO X.X	*Require the submission of a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA), prepared by a suitably qualified professional, with planning applications for developments that are likely to generate significant traffic movements or impact the surrounding transport network.*	No - new objective MATO X.X does not relate to new development, it only ensures that new development is appropriately assessed for potential traffic impacts. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
33	MATO X.X	*Investigate the feasibility of the provision of an extension to the proposed Grand Canal Greenway (Measure P16) from Sallins Pier / Wharf along Mill Harbour to the R407 Sallins Road.*	No - new objective MATO X.X does not relate to new development, it only investigates the feasibility of the extension to the Grand Canal Greenway. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.

35	IEO 9.7	*(a)* Ensure all development proposals are the subject of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014). *(b) Ensure all developments on lands affected by climate change flood extents on Map V2B-9.3 Flood Risk – Climate Change Mid-Range Future Scenario and Map V2B-9.4 Flood Risk – Climate Change High-End Future Scenario are subject to a Stage 3 Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment at development management stage.*	No - this PMA relates to modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
36	IEO 9.1	Work in conjunction with ESB ~~Ireland~~ *Networks* to prioritise and facilitate the provision of adequate electricity in a manner that will support the demand of existing and future population growth in Sallins.	No - this PMA relates to minor modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
37	IEO 9.8	*Require that residential schemes in close proximity to heavily trafficked roads such as the M7 Motorway or the rail line are designed and constructed to minimise adverse impacts in particular noise disturbance. A suitably qualified acoustic specialist shall be engaged in the development design process, paying particular attention to the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (or any subsequent plan), Chapter 3 of the Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012), the EPA 'Environment and Wellbeing' Maps as outlined under Figure 9.1 Noise Mapping (Rail and Road). An Acoustic Design Statement, including proposals for post-construction noise monitoring, clearly demonstrating that significant adverse noise*	No - new objective IEO 9.8 does not relate to new development, it only ensures that new development is appropriately assessed for inward noise impacts. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.

		impacts will be avoided shall be submitted with development applications.				
38	IEO 9.X	*Consult with ESB Networks and Uisce Éireann prior to the implementation of any significant Public Realm Works or Movement and Active Travel Measures in Sallins to avoid and/or mitigate impacts on existing or planned electricity, water or wastewater infrastructure.*	No - new objective IEO 9.X does not relate to new development, it only ensures that appropriate consultation is completed in advance of significant works. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
63	MATO 8.8	Ensure that the vehicular access for any future development of the 'MU*: Mixed Use' lands immediately south of the train station are accessed from The Waterways development.	No - this PMA relates to minor modifications made to a proposed objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated (as required) by the existing CDP and associated AA.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.
69	GBIO X.X	*Protect and enhance the lands zoned 'F: Open Space and Amenity' adjoining the 'C: New Residential' lands at Oldbridge Park by requiring the provision of a natural buffer with a minimum setback of 40 metre from the western boundary of the site. The buffer shall be maintained as a natural amenity space, free from vehicular access, roads, or built development, in order to create a high-quality green interface between existing and proposed land uses.*	No - new objective GBIO X.X does not relate to new development, it only ensures the provision of a natural buffer between existing zoned lands. No new sources of impacts arise.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA.

3. Conclusion

A series of PMAs has been put forward to the Proposed Variation No.6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) of Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). A screening for AA has been carried out in line with Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) in line with the methodology carried out in the Screening for AA of the Proposed Variation No 6. It is recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the Screening for AA of the Proposed Variation No.6. Following review of the PMAs it has been determined the potential for likely significant effects on European sites arising from the implementation of the PMAs, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would not arise.

In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the proposed PMAs and their potential relationship with all European sites within the ZoI, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered. Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the PMAs to the Proposed Variation No.6 of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) do not require an Appropriate Assessment.

Proposed Material Alterations to
Proposed Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) of the
Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination in accordance with the EU's Habitats Directive Article 6(3) and Section 58(13) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended).

At a Special Meeting of Kildare County Council on Monday 27th July 2026, it was resolved to modify Proposed Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied) and these modifications constitute material alterations to Proposed Variation No. 6.

Section 58(13)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) requires the planning authority to make a determination, in accordance with Part 6 'Environmental Assessments' of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) if an appropriate assessment is or is not required to be carried out in respect of the modifications that constitutes proposed material alterations of the proposed variation.

Following a detailed examination, analysis and evaluation of the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) provided in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (that accompanies and has informed this determination), and having due regard to the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant effects on any European sites, whether arising from the Proposed Material Alterations alone or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the Proposed Material Alterations to Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) and its potential relationship with all European sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI), and their Conservation Objectives, have been fully considered.

This determination has been informed by an analysis prepared by ARUP in the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Addendum Report, in addition to the Proposed Material Alterations Report to Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan).

In conclusion, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Section 58(13) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) taking into account all matters relevant, it has been determined that the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied), individually or in combination with other plans and projects will not give rise to likely significant effects and therefore, an appropriate assessment is not required.

Signed: Alan Dunney
Director of Service - Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development

Signatory (Approved Officer): _____
Date: 31st July 2026