

**Kildare County Council (KCC)**

## Variation (No. 2) to the Kildare County Development Plan - Settlement Plan for Newbridge

Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report

Reference:

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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 report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening has been prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd (Arup) on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC) with respect to the Newbridge Settlement Plan which constitutes Draft Variation No. 2 of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Proposed Variation’).

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 Appropriate Assessment (AA).

## 1.2 Report Aim

This AA Screening Report has been prepared to provide information for the ‘competent authority’<sup>1</sup> 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 Part 1: Small Towns and Environs Plans and Part 2: Villages Plans and Rural Settlements** provides a coherent planning framework for the small towns, environs of Ladytown and Blessington, villages, and rural settlements across the county. The Strategy includes land use zoning maps and specific draft objectives which are underpinned by the strategic vision and the overarching guiding principles of the Kildare CDP (as varied).

It is an objective (CS O9) of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) to ensure that up-to-date settlement plans (specifically to be determined through the CDP review/variation) are in place for those County Kildare settlements in the Settlement Hierarchy in accordance with the obligations of the planning legislation, relevant Ministerial Guidelines, regional planning draft objectives, and the CDP (as varied). In this regard a Settlement Plan is being prepared for Newbridge.

It is important to note that preparation had originally begun for a replacement Local Area Plan (LAP) to the Newbridge LAP 2023-2019 (as amended and extended to 2021). However as there is no legislative provision for LAPs under the Planning and Development Act (2024), the Newbridge Settlement Plan is being prepared by way of a Variation to the CDP in accordance with objective CS O9 and under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

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<sup>1</sup> Per the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the competent authority is defined as “A competent authority, in performing the functions conferred on it by or under this Part, shall take appropriate steps to avoid in a European site the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as the disturbance of the species for which the site has been designated, insofar as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the draft objectives of the Habitats Directive”

## 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 whilst SPAs are protected sites designated under the Birds 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 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 by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). In the context of the Proposed Variation, the governing legislation is principally Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

## 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.

## 1.6 Statement of Competency

The statements of competencies for the contributing authors to this Screening for AA report are provided below:

Sinead Whyte holds a BSc and MSc from UCD. She has over 25 years’ experience in the field of environmental assessment. She is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Water and Environmental Management for 20 years.

Hannah Sheridan has a BSc (Hons) in Marine Science, a MSc. (Hons) in Marine Planning for Sustainable Development and is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM. Hannah is an ecologist with over 4 years’ experience in the public and private sector. Hannah provides environmental and ecological survey and assessment support to a wide range of infrastructure projects and conservation projects. Previous to Arup, Hannah worked at National Parks and Wildlife Service at Gleneveagh National Park.

Daire Byrne holds a First-Class Honours BSc in Environmental Management. Daire has three and half years’ experience working at Arup. Since joining Arup, Daire has worked across a range of project work including SEA, AA, Industrial Emission Licensing, Circular Economy Research Studies, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and ecology surveying.

## 1.7 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 and outlines the 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 the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) consists of two volumes, the second of which provides a coherent planning framework for the small towns, the environs of Ladytown and Blessington, villages, and rural settlements across the county. In order to develop thriving areas where people want to live and work, the overall objective of Volume 2 is to;

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

Newbridge is designated as a self-sustaining growth town in Volume 1 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). The other towns with this designation include: Athy, Kildare Town, and Leixlip. The Newbridge Local Area Plan (LAP) 2013-2019 (amended and extended) is the most recent spatial framework for development locations and land use in Newbridge.

In 2024, KCC commenced the process of preparing a draft Newbridge LAP 2025-2031, however, following commencement, the Planning and Development Act 2024 was published. The Planning and Development Act 2024, enacted on October 17, 2024, significantly reforms Ireland's planning system.<sup>2</sup> It introduces a plan-led approach, aiming for greater consistency and clarity in planning at all levels. Key changes include longer-term Development Plans, the introduction of Urban and Priority Area Plans, and the establishment of Urban Development Zones. Consequently, the Planning and Development Act 2024 no longer makes provisions for the development of LAPs.

As there is no longer a legislative provision for LAPs under the Planning and Development Act 2024, the planning framework for Newbridge will be upheld by way of a Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP (as varied) 2023 – 2029. Thus, the variation aims to incorporate Newbridge into Volume 2 of the CDP in the form of a ‘Settlement Plan’.

### 2.2 Proposed Variation Draft objectives

There are twenty-nine sectors for which draft objectives have been set within the Proposed Variation. The full list of draft objectives can be found in within the Proposed Variation. The twenty-nine sectors are provided in Table 1 below with a summary of the draft objectives adjoining it.

**Table 1 Summary of the draft Newbridge Settlement Plan Draft objectives**

Objective Sectors	Summary of draft objectives
Compliance with the Core Strategy	Draft objectives aim to ensure that appropriate land zonings are facilitated to accommodate housing growth in Newbridge, to support and facilitate compact growth development, to provide adequate physical and social infrastructure in line with housing growth, to prioritise the consolidation of the town centre and finally, to prioritise new high-tech manufacturing and logistics enterprises into a designated Strategic Employment Area.
Consolidation and Renewal of Central Newbridge - Vibrant Town Centre	Draft objectives aim to consolidate and renew the town centre, promoting it as a priority location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development and facilitating the renewal of derelict sites and brownfield land across the town. Draft objectives also aim to encourage and facilitate the full use of existing buildings and sites, and protect the vibrancy, ambience, quality and vitality of the town centre.

<sup>2</sup> **Note:** The new Planning and Development Act (2024) was signed into law on the 17th of October 2024; however, the Act is currently being commenced on a phased basis to facilitate the transition from the arrangements under the current Act to those under the new Act. At the time of writing this report, certain provisions of the Act (2024) are yet to be commenced, including those relevant to AA. According to the Planning and Development Act (2024) Implementation Plan, it is envisaged that provisions related to AA will be commenced under Proposed Block B in mid-2025. As the relevant provisions to AA have not yet been commenced in the new Planning and Development Act 2024, this report references the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended for the purposes of AA.

Objective Sectors	Summary of draft objectives
Retailing in Newbridge Town Centre	Draft objectives aim to encourage retention of the retail function of ground floor uses within the Core Retail Area, to protect and support the continued operation of the Whitewater Shopping Centre and major retailers in the town centre, to support and facilitate the development of a diverse retail offering and finally, to encourage the upkeep and improvement of retail properties through grant schemes.
Town Centre Consolidation and Renewal	Draft objectives aim to protect the character of the town centre and ensure that new development responds positively to surroundings. Draft objectives aim to ensure all new development enhances the quality of the public realm, to engage with the community, landowners, developers and other agencies to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration and secure resources for the purposes of an outdoor civic hub. Draft objectives also aim to prepare a Public Realm Strategy as part of, or as an action of the Town Renewal Plan and to facilitate the implementation of urban renewal projects throughout the town centre, in areas such as, Newbridge Cultural Quarter, Athgarvan Road and Environs and Eyre Street and Laneways. Furthermore, draft objectives aim to develop and renovate/upgrade the quality of civic facilities in the town centre, support the Town Team and the Town Regeneration Officers duties and finally, to support the 'Safer Newbridge Project' on Eyre Street.
Settlement Consolidation Site	Objective aim to support and facilitate the regeneration of the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site for town centre uses and compact growth development.
Economic Development	Draft objectives aim to facilitate sustainable economic development and employment growth in Newbridge, to support relevant landholders in the development of the Littleconnell Strategic Employment Area, to incentivise employment creation on lands zoned 'A: Town Centre' and the reuse of vacant commercial premises, to promote the economic renewal and revitalisation of Cill Dara Industrial Estate, to encourage the development of employment areas using existing infrastructure and also ensuring they are designed to the highest architectural and landscaping standards. Finally, draft objectives aim to encourage 'living over the shop' initiatives, and the provision of ground floor live-work units and/or co-working spaces.
Tourism	Draft objectives aim to encourage the development of new or the upgrading / extension of tourism activities/facilities including supporting infrastructure, to facilitate the provision of additional overnight tourist accommodation in appropriately zoned locations and support the re-use of vacant building stock for appropriate tourism related activities. Draft objectives also aim to promote the inclusion of cafés and eateries and to promote eco-tourism facilities in Newbridge.
Residential Density, Mix and Design	Draft objectives aim to promote new residential development in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure, to encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for a mix of uses within the Built-Up Footprint (BUF), require consideration of higher density developments in Newbridge Town Centre, require high standards of urban design to be integrated into the layout and design of all new residential development in Newbridge and finally to support the development of age-friendly housing in Newbridge.
Education and Training	Draft objectives aim to support and facilitate new schools and improvements/expansion of existing educational facilities, to continue to engage with the Department of Education in respect of the identification and phased delivery of a new classroom and a post primary school in Newbridge at Cornelscourt.  Furthermore, draft objectives aim to facilitate the projected population growth during this Plan and reserve the appropriate quantum of land for envisaged growth beyond the life of the Plan.
Childcare Draft objectives	Draft objectives aim to encourage the integration and co-location of childcare facilities and to support the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities.
Healthcare	Draft objectives aim to liaise with operators of public and private healthcare facilities by encouraging the provision of facilities in appropriate locations in Newbridge, to support the delivery of a new primary care centre, to support the provision of GP practices within the town centre and to require that planning applications for new Neighbourhood Centre developments must be accompanied by a feasibility study for a GP practices to be located within the respective development. Finally, draft objectives aim to support the provision of residential care facilities and services for older people.
Open Space, Parks and Amenity Space	Draft objectives aim to support and facilitate the delivery of safety measures along the towpath in Liffey Linear Park from the Strand to The Gables and upgrade the wooden boardwalk. Draft objectives aim to support and facilitate a masterplan for Dara Park, a masterplan for the amenity green space of Pairc Mhuire and the development of a new urban neighbourhood park. Draft objectives also aim to investigate the feasibility of providing a dog park within lands designated for Open Space and Amenity, to extend and develop a linear park along both sides of the River Liffey, to improve existing open space areas in housing developments, to promote community-managed gardens, allotments, sensory gardens and finally, to support the development of local parks, small parks and pocket parks.

Objective Sectors	Summary of draft objectives
Sports and Recreation	Draft objectives aim to facilitate sports clubs, community groups and educational institutions in the acquisition and/or use of accessible lands for sports and recreation purposes and to support the delivery of multi-use sports facilities on appropriately zoned land. Draft objectives aim to acquire zoned lands for the delivery of a Municipal Sporting Facility and to work with key stakeholders to deliver a shared amenity for sports clubs and the general public. Draft objectives also aim to facilitate the development of a network of universally designed playgrounds, to seek funding to secure financial support to develop sports facilities and finally, to ensure new Residential Developments at or over 20 units or for commercial developments (including office/industrial developments) over 2,000 square metres shall be subject to a Special Development Contribution under Section 48(2)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
Social and Community	Draft objectives aim to support the development of two universally accessible additional community centres/hall and to support the approved refurbishment and extension of the existing Newbridge Library.
Faith Facility	Draft objectives aim to support and facilitate further development of St. Conleth's Cemetery.
Neighbourhood Centre	Draft objectives aim to support and facilitate the development of neighbourhood centres in 3 locations.
Sustainable Movement and Accessibility	Draft objectives aim to adopt a 'whole journey approach' to delivering transport infrastructure in Newbridge, to ensure universal accessibility to all.
Walking, Permeability and Cycling Development objectives	Draft objectives aim to support and facilitate the implementation of the measures in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment, to ensure that all development allows for universally accessible connectivity for active travel modes to adjacent lands, to work with Iarnród Éireann and all relevant landowners to implement greenways north of the rail line and along the western bank of the River Liffey, to provide appropriate, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities, to support and improve links from Newbridge Town Centre to destinations outside the plan area and to support the implementation School Safe Zones.
Public Transport objectives	Draft objectives aim to support sustainable mobility within Newbridge by focusing people-intensive land uses around existing public transport nodes, to engage and co-operate with the Department of Transport, National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Irish Rail, Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport in Newbridge, Support any potential expansion to the Local Links network to implement the looped route, to support and facilitate Iarnród Éireann in the further development of Newbridge Train Station and to support and facilitate the development of transport mobility hubs.
Road and Parking objectives	Draft objectives aim to ensure the implementation of the road measures outlined in the Settlement Plan, to support and prioritise the development of the Newbridge Southern Ring Road (NSRR) and associated bridge over the River Liffey, to support and facilitate the implementation of the preferred car parking measures, to promote car-free or low car developments in the opportunity sites identified in the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site, to support the provision of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) and reserved space for Car Sharing Schemes.
Heritage and Conservation objectives	Draft objectives aim to encourage the sensitive restoration and enhancement of shopfronts and signage of architectural merit or heritage value, and promote the replacement of inappropriate shopfronts and signage, within the town centre of Newbridge, to reduce, prevent and encourage the removal of visual and urban clutter within the town centre and to Proactively address dereliction, endangerment, neglect and vacancy in the town centre, particularly within its network of back lanes.
Archaeological Heritage objectives	Draft objectives aim to protect and promote the archaeological heritage of Newbridge, to prioritise the protection/preservation in situ of items of archaeological interest, to support the sensitive incorporation of public amenity and open spaces around monuments (where practical), to support the protection, preservation and promotion of military architecture within the Plan area, to seek the implementation of heritage-led regeneration including that of the public realm, to ensure old stone walls around the Liffey Linear Park and Ryston Sports and Social Club are preserved where appropriate, to provide for the protection of historic burial grounds within Newbridge and to support the protection, preservation and promotion of the archaeological value of underwater and archaeological sites within the Plan area.
Natural Heritage and Biodiversity objectives	Draft objectives aim to protect, conserve and manage the Pollardstown Fen SAC and Mouds Bog SAC by ensuring that screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is carried out with respect to any plan or project, to promote the use of the Nature-Based Management Areas to manage surface water runoff and associated nutrients from entering the catchment of the Milltown Stream which feeds the Pollardstown Fen and to support the full implementation of the targets and actions outlined in the Newbridge Biodiversity Action Plan 2021–2025 (and any subsequent or amended Plan).

Objective Sectors	Summary of draft objectives
Green and Blue Infrastructure objectives	Draft objectives aim to protect and enhance identified key Green and Blue Infrastructure (Map 9.1) and prohibit developments that would fragment or otherwise degrade the Green and Blue Infrastructure network, to ensure that all development proposals on sites where hedgerows and treelines are located are, as far as practicable, retained and fully integrated as a focal point of the development in the first instance, to increase native tree planting and pollinator friendly planting of local provenance, in accordance with the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, to Support and facilitate the creation of a linear nature park along the eastern banks of the River Liffey between the M7 Motorway and St Conleth's Bridge on lands zoned F: Open Space and Amenity over the medium to long term, to require all development proposals located within the 'Curragh Buffer Zone' to include a tree planting programme of native trees of local provenance and finally, to encourage state agencies and private entities to include tree planting measures when delivering key infrastructure or upgrading infrastructure works in the town.
Water and Wastewater objectives	Draft objectives aim to work in conjunction with Uisce Éireann to promote and facilitate the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure, to ensure that surface run-off does not discharge to the existing wastewater treatment infrastructure in Newbridge to ensure that developments do not have a negative impact on the capacity of the wastewater treatment network and to support Uisce Éireann in addressing the issues relating to the Srowland Water Treatment Plant and issues related to the EPA Quarterly Remedial Action Lists.
Surface Water and Ground Water objectives	Draft objectives aim to protect surface waterbodies and groundwater aquifers from deterioration and maintain, or where necessary, improve their quality over the period of the Plan and beyond, to incorporate Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) as part of all plans and projects in the plan area, to ensure areas indicated as Nature-Based Management Areas (NBMAs) are reserved free from development and integrated into design proposals for nature-based surface water drainage purposes, to pursue opportunities to divert untreated surface water away from discharging into either the River Liffey or the groundwater area which feeds Pollardstown Fen, subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) and to support Uisce Éireann's Surface Water Separation programme.
Surface Water and Ground Water objectives	Draft objectives aim to manage flood risk in Newbridge in conjunction with the Office of Public Works, to ensure development proposals within the areas where Kildare County Council have applied a Justification Test and where residual flood risk remains are the subject of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, to maintain all existing overland flow routes and to support and co-operate with the Office of Public Works in progressing the development of a Flood Relief Scheme for Newbridge which may include physical works.
Energy and Communications Infrastructure objectives	Draft objectives aim to support the statutory providers of electricity and gas infrastructure by safeguarding existing infrastructure and strategic corridors <sup>3</sup> from encroachment, to support and facilitate the provision of telecommunications infrastructure, to engage with EirGrid, ESB Networks and telecommunications providers in relation to the rationalisation of transmission and telecommunications infrastructure and/or underground routing, to promote and encourage micro-generation on existing and proposed building stock and to actively support the delivery of a district heating network in the Littleconnell Strategic Employment Area.
Pollution and Environmental Services objectives	Draft objectives aim to maintain existing recycling facilities and secure the provision of additional universally accessible facilities, to support the development of a green waste composting site in Newbridge, to support local schools and community groups such as Newbridge Tidy Towns through education and awareness programmes.

<sup>3</sup> Adjoining 110kv powerlines see <https://www.eirgrid.ie/grid/how-grid-works/irelands-grid> for details.

## 2.3 Geographic Area

The Newbridge Settlement Plan boundary (red line) is illustrated in Figure 1 overleaf.

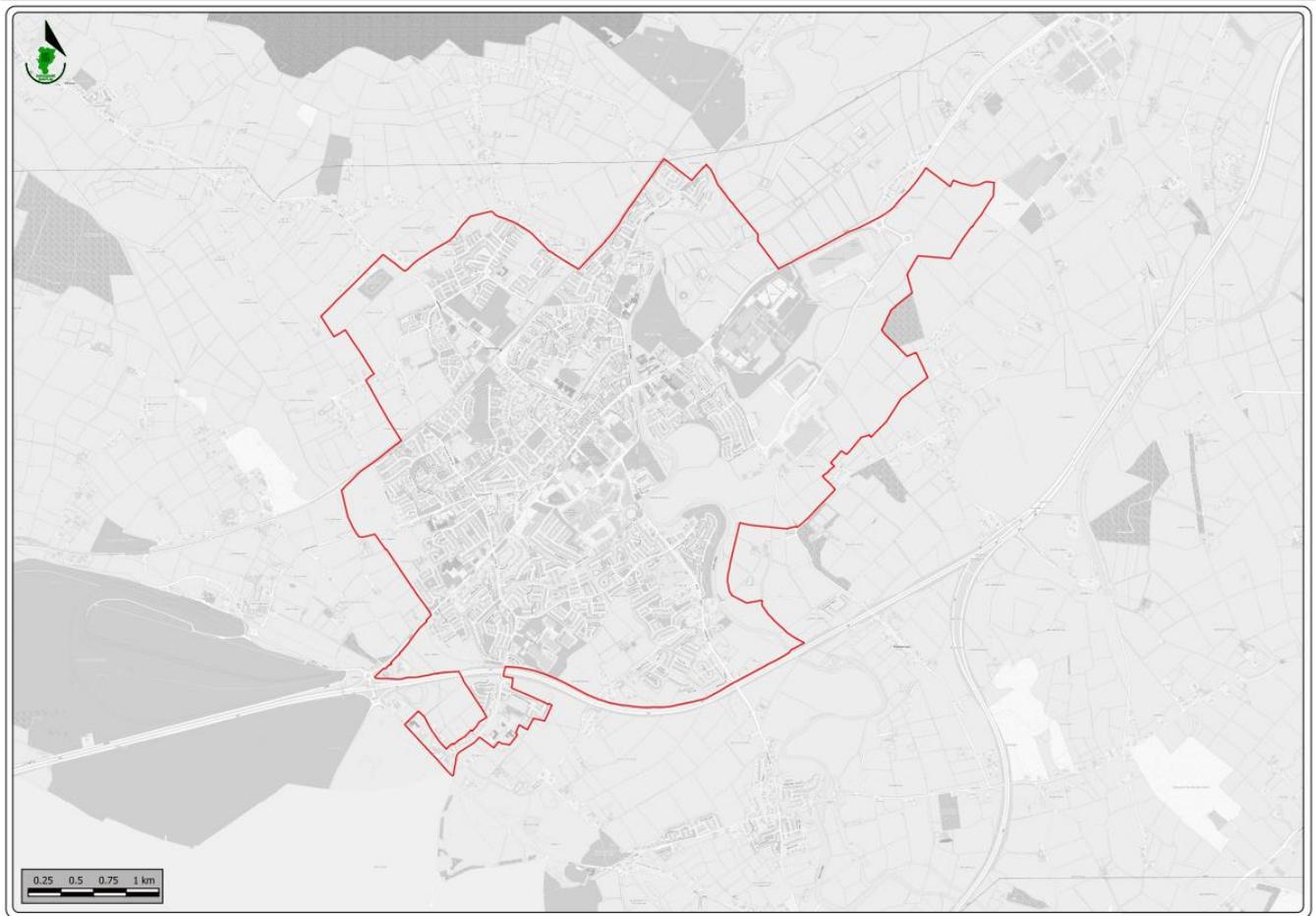


Figure 1 Geographic area relevant to the Proposed Variation (Source: KCC, 2025)

## 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 LSE on the integrity of European sites within the scope of the Kildare CDP (as varied).

As the Proposed Variation 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. While the Proposed Variation 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.

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. Data, Guidance and Methodology

### 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 LSE 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.

The AA Screening must include a final determination by the competent authority as to whether or not a proposed project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. In order to reach a final determination, the public authority must undertake examination, analysis and evaluation, followed by findings, conclusions and a final determination.

### 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<sup>4</sup> habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Annex I habitats are habitats whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

<sup>5</sup> Annex II species are animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

<sup>6</sup> Commission Note on Setting Conservation Draft 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](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission_note/commission_note2_EN.pdf)

### 3.2.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

The Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) 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)<sup>7</sup> 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.

### 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:

- 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
- 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, 2014)
- 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).

The requirements for Screening for AA for European sites, are set out in Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) with numerous relevant rulings and opinions issued in both Irish and EU courts. AA is a process required under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive as transposed by the aforementioned legislation as stated within Section 0.

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<sup>7</sup> OPR (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01

### 3.4 Data Sources

The ecological data reviewed to inform this report comprises:

- Article 12 Birds Directive - Article 12 web tool;<sup>8</sup>
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Map Viewer;<sup>9</sup>
- Kildare County Council (2023) Kildare County Development 2023-2029;<sup>10</sup>
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Draft objectives Series;<sup>11</sup>
- NPWS (2023) SAC and SPA Datasheets;<sup>12</sup>
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Designations web viewer;<sup>13</sup>
- NPWS Protected Sites in Ireland;<sup>14</sup>
- NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland Web Viewer;<sup>15</sup>
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. Unpublished NPWS report. NPWS (2019);<sup>16</sup>
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O’Neil. NPWS (2019); and<sup>17</sup>
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report (2019). Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O’Neill (2020).<sup>18</sup>

### 3.5 Methodology

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

1. **Impact Prediction:** Identify the aspects of the Proposed Variation 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 LSE upon the integrity of European sites. This requires understanding of relevant QIs/SCIs and associated COs.

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<sup>8</sup> Article 12 of the Birds Directive Web tool accessed at <https://nature-art12.eionet.europa.eu/article12/> accessed November 2023

<sup>9</sup> EPA Map Viewer accessed at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> accessed November 2023

<sup>10</sup> Kildare County Council (2023) Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Accessed at

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/KildareCountyDevelopmentPlan2023-2029/> May 2024.

<sup>11</sup> NPWS Conservation draft objectives accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-draft-objectives> accessed November 2023

<sup>12</sup> 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

<sup>13</sup> NPWS Designations web viewer accessed at

<https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba> accessed November 2023

<sup>14</sup> NPWS Protected sites accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> accessed November 2023

<sup>15</sup> NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland web viewer accessed at

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1a721520030d404f899d658d5b6e159a> accessed November 2023

<sup>16</sup> 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](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_Article17.pdf) Accessed September 2023

<sup>17</sup> 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](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol2_Habitats_Article17.pdf) Accessed September 2023

<sup>18</sup> 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](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol3_Species_Article17.pdf) Accessed September 2023

### 3.5.1 Impact Prediction: Identifying the Zone of Influence

The ZoI is established using the S-P-R method and takes into consideration the scale of the elements of the Proposed Variation. There is no recommended ZoI, and guidance from the 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 PN01<sup>7</sup> applies equally to a plan level AA and so the S-P-R 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 and 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 is likely to undermine the COs, it must be considered as a LSE upon that European site. The assessment of effects stages determines whether the potential impacts identified using the S-P-R could result in a LSE.

From establishing the ZoI using the S-P-R method, focusing on the relevant QIs and SCIs of European sites which may be at risk of LSE arising from the Proposed Variation. The potential impacts of the Proposed Variation are assessed against the COs of the relevant QIs and SCIs to determine in a LSE 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.<sup>19</sup>

## 4. Screening Assessment

### 4.1 Overview

The scope of the Proposed Variation has a scale of application across the boundary of Newbridge Town.

COs of relevant European sites can be accessed on [www.npws.ie](http://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 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 LSE.

Refer to Appendix A.5 for full details of Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment undertaken for this report.

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<sup>19</sup> OPR (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01.

### 4.3 Identification of Potential Sources of Impacts

In identifying the potential impacts of the implementation of the Proposed Variation, 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 S-P-R 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 and SCI habitats and species are only considered where links are identified to be credible. Factors include the distance between receptors and sources and the means by which the pathway travels through air, water, ground etc., occurs.

All draft objectives of the Proposed Variation have undergone a thorough review for potential impacts. In instances where draft objectives have been determined to potentially generate construction level activities or impacts arising from operation of sectors (recreation, water treatment etc.) a variety of potential impacts have been identified.

Construction activities may result in impacts including air pollution from dust and other pollutants, water contamination due to improper handling of materials and waste, and soil erosion from ground disturbance. Noise pollution from construction sites can result in disturbance and/or displacement of species and construction can potentially result in the destruction of important habitats. The generation of significant amounts of waste, often not properly disposed of or recycled, is another concern. Operational activities of wastewater treatment plants, recreation, transport, residential and industrial sectors can also contribute to similar inputs to the environment as construction.

After examining all the draft objectives that could potentially result in an impact, each objective was categorised under the corresponding impacts. It is crucial to emphasize that the list of activities discussed in this report is largely theoretical, not necessarily reflecting actual scenarios or events. These activities are hypothetical examples with the potential to arise from the Proposed Variation draft objectives, aiding in understanding and should not be interpreted as definitive or actual occurrences. Additionally, the potential for connectivity, a significant aspect of this discussion, is explored in detail in Section 5.4 of the report. This section offers an extensive exploration of the concept, highlighting the interconnectedness of the elements within the study.

A summary of the potential impacts identified are provided below.

- Potential changes in water quality, hydrology to waterbodies as a result of construction activities arising from draft objectives BI O47, RE O119, RE O98, RE O122, RE O125, RE O135, TCO 3.5, EC O28, EC O72, EC O84, EDO 2.1, HCO 5.1, HCO 5.2, HCO 5.3, IN O16, IN O19 IN O20, IN O27, LR A15, LR O65, LR O56, LR O65, LR O67, LR O80, LR O94, LR O95, LR O99, MATO 2.1, MATO 4.3, GBIO 2.4, IEO 1.2, IEO 3.3, IEO 4.3, TM O3, TM O5, TM O7, TM O10, TM O111, TM P4, Land-Use Zoning Ref. F and U
- Potential habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation as a result of construction activities arising from draft objectives BI O4, RET O21, RET O24, RET O25, RE O37, RE O98, RE O100, RE O10, CSO 1.1, CSO 1.5, TCO 2.2, EC O73, EDO 2.2, HCO 2.1, HCO 6.1, HCO 6.3, HCO 6.5, IN O41, IN O42, IN O47, MATO 2.4, MATO 3.5, MATO 3.6, MATO 3.7, TM A25, TM A10, TM O18, TM O23, TM O24, TM O27, TM O38, TM O42, TM O49, TM O119, LR A20, LR O58, LR O65, LR O87, LR O89, LR O90, LR O91, LR O92, S, RE P12C O6, SC O7, SC O9, SC O13, SC O15, SC O16, SC O20, SC O25, SC O26, SC O67, SC O68, SC O74, SC P12, GBIO 2.6, IEO 5.1, IEO 5.2, Land-Use Zoning Ref. A, B, C, E, F, GU, H, N and Q; and
- Potential disturbance to species as a result of construction activities arising from draft objectives BI O4, RET O21, RET O24, RET O25, RE O37, RE O98, RE O100, RE O10, CSO 1.1, CSO 1.5, TCO 2.2, EC O73, EDO 2.2, HCO 2.1, HCO 6.1, HCO 6.3, HCO 6.5, IN O41, IN O42, IN O47, LR A20, LR O58, LR O65, LR O87, LR O89, LR O90, LR O91, LR O92, MATO 2.4, MATO 3.5, MATO 3.6, MATO 3.7, GBIO 2.6, IEO 5.1, IEO 5.2, TM O23, TM A25, TM O24, TM O27, TM A10, TM O18, TM O38,

TM O42, TM O49, TM O119, RE P12, SC O6, SC O7, SC O9, SC O13, SC O15, SC O16, SC O20, SC O25, SC O26, SC O67, SC O68, SC O74, SC P12, Land-Use Zoning Ref. A, B, C, E, F, GU, H, N and Q.

## 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 Proposed Variation 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 Newbridge Town

Newbridge town is situated on the River Liffey, approximately 40km from the centre of Dublin. The town is characterised by a varied landscape with Pollardstown Fen (SAC) located immediately northwest of the Proposed Variation boundary (approximately 47m), Mouds Bog (SAC) is located approximately 830m northwest of the town. In addition, the Curragh is located south-west of the town and the Wicklow and Dublin Mountains are located approximately 22km east of the town. Otherwise, flat areas of the Kildare lowlands are located to the west of Newbridge.

The River Liffey flows southeast to northeast of the town. Habitats found within the town boundary include hedgerows, treelines, woodlands, fen, river, agricultural fields, recreational areas, parks, brownfield sites and hardstanding areas.

#### 4.4.1.1 Hydrological Connectivity

In addition to the River Liffey, there are a number of streams, field drains and ditches that run through Newbridge Town. It must be noted that the Cloncumber stream flows northwards through Pollardstown fen on the edge of the Proposed Variation boundary. Refer to Figure 2 for surface water features located within and surrounding Newbridge town. The nearest hydrologically connected European site to Proposed Variation area is Pollardstown Fen SAC which is located approximately 47m northwest of the Proposed Variation boundary. Mouds Bog SAC is also located in proximity (approximately 830m north) to the Proposed Variation boundary.

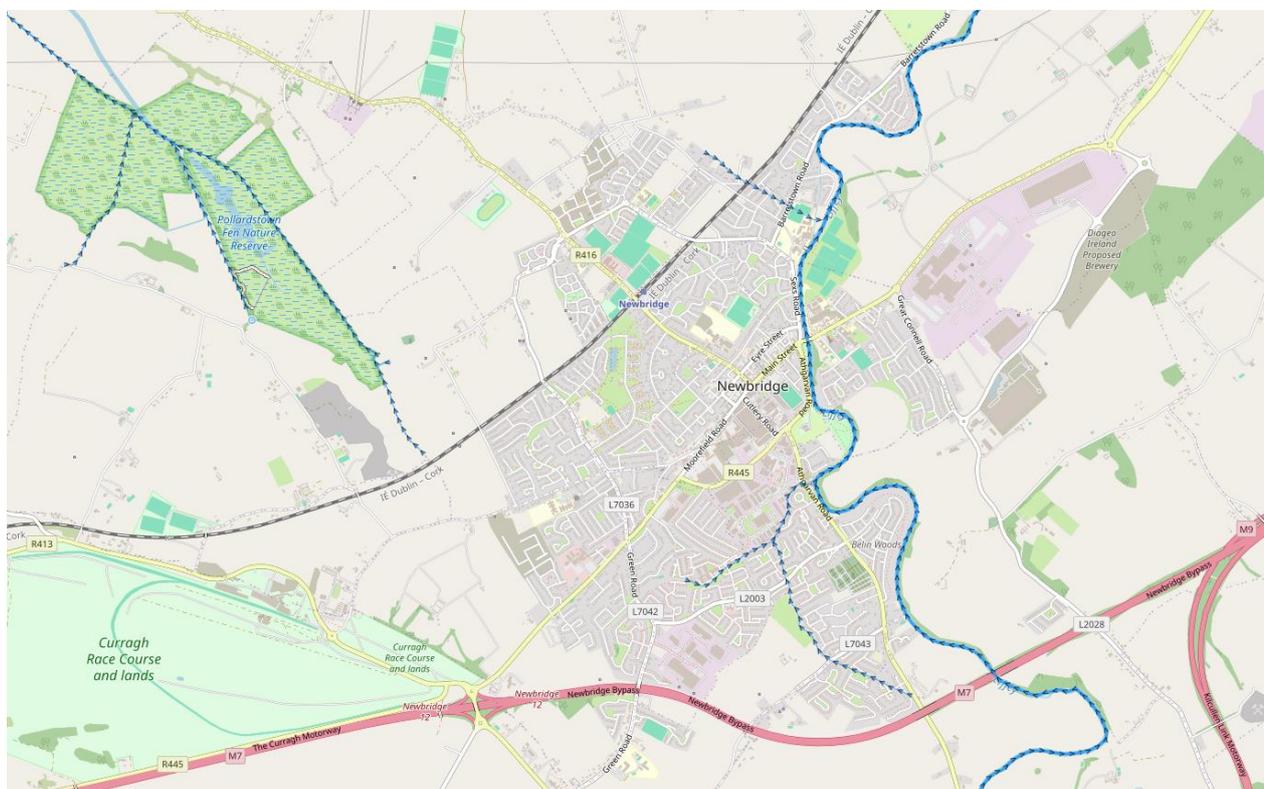


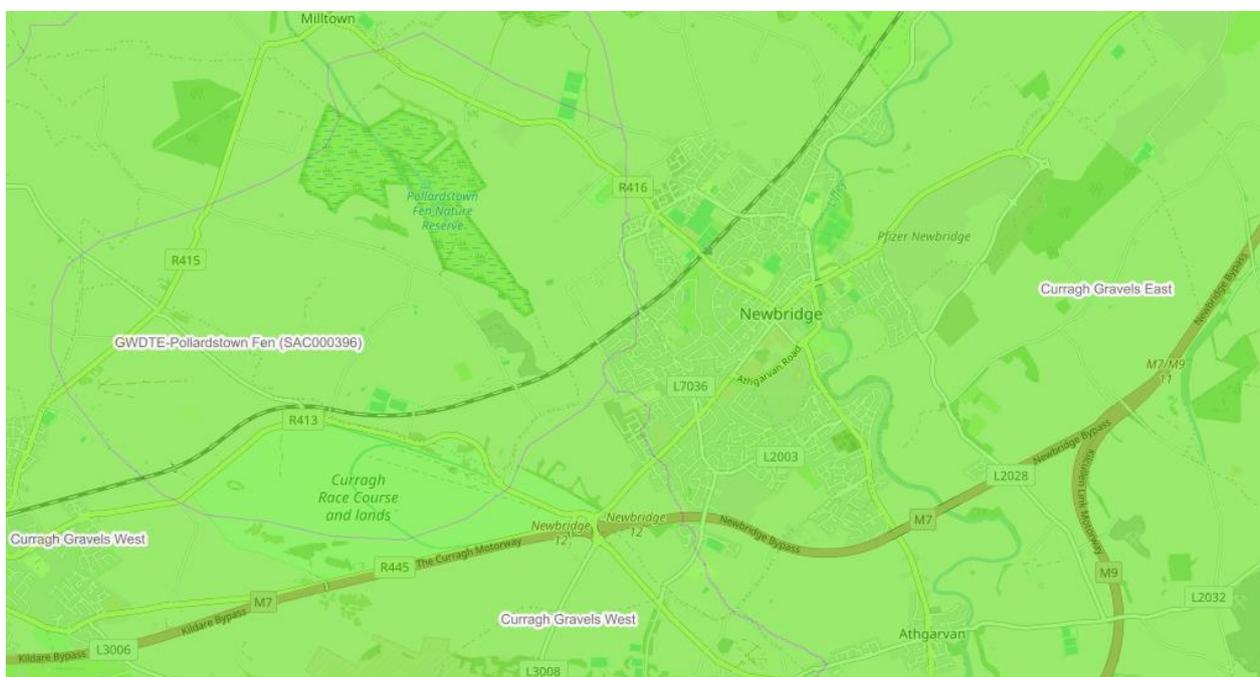
Figure 2 Surface water features located in proximity to the Proposed Variation Boundary (Source: EPA, 2025)

The River Liffey flows downstream through the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA from the Wicklow Mountains approximately 22km to the east of the town boundary. The river flows through the town until it reaches Dublin Bay (approximately 57km). Dublin Bay includes South Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and North Dublin Bay SAC. 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.

**Given the direct hydrological connection between the boundary of the Proposed Variation and Pollardstown Fen SAC, it is considered that hydrological connectivity may function as a pathway for potential effects to the SAC.**

#### 4.4.1.2 Hydrogeological Connectivity

As stated within the Proposed Variation, the groundwater areas within the plan area are the Curragh Gravels (east and west) and Pollardstown Fen. Pollardstown Fen SAC is within the Pollardstown Fen groundwater area. As a fen is a groundwater dependent habitat, it is dependent on good quality groundwater to function favourably. Refer to Figure 3 for an illustration of the groundwater bodies (illustrated by pink lines) located in and surrounding the Proposed Variation boundary.



**Figure 3 Groundwater Bodies located in proximity to the Proposed Variation Boundary (Source: EPA Maps, 2025)**

Mouds Bog SAC is located within the groundwater area of the Curragh Gravels (east and west) and is also located 830m north to the Proposed Variation boundary. The QI features of Mouds Bog SAC have potential to be impacted by human based activities, for example some human based activities can lower the regional groundwater table and pose a threat to the eco-hydrological integrity of peatland habitats.<sup>20</sup>

Mouds Bog SAC is located within the same groundwater area as Newbridge town, namely Curragh Gravels (east). Pollardstown Fen SAC is located within the Pollardstown Fen groundwater area, it must be noted that only a small proportion of the Proposed Variation boundary is located within the same groundwater area as Pollardstown Fen SAC.

<sup>20</sup> Mackin, F., Barr, A., Rath, P., Eakin, M., Ryan, J., Jeffrey, R. & Fernandez Valverde, F. (2017) Best practice in raised bog restoration in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 99. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

**Given that Mouds Bog SAC sits within the same groundwater body as the Proposed Variation and that a small proportion of the Proposed Variation boundary is located within the same groundwater area as Pollardstown Fen SAC, there is potential for geohydrological connectivity to act as a pathway for effect.**

#### 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 boundary for which an Annex II species is designated is Pollardstown Fen (approximately 47m northwest) which has QI species of Geyer's whorl snail (*Vertigo geyeri*), narrow-mouthed whorl snail (*Vertigo angustior*) and Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*). These species have very limited mobility, typically not dispersing beyond 1km. They are strongly associated with wetland habitats such as fens and bogs and are therefore unlikely to occur in urbanised environments, including the area surrounding the boundary of the Proposed Variation. Additionally, infrastructure barriers, such as the railway line situated between the Proposed Variation boundary and the SAC in which these species are protected, further reduce the likelihood of any functional ecological connectivity.

Otter species are the sole QI species for the Wicklow Mountains SAC (approximately 20km east). According to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)<sup>21</sup>, otters have been recorded in the upper reaches of the River Liffey (Athgarvan) which passes through Newbridge town. Land that may be functionally connected to otter populations could rely on the Proposed Variation area, particularly the River Liffey. Although otters have been recorded near the boundary of the Proposed Variation area along the River Liffey, these are likely a different population from those in the Wicklow Mountains SAC. Male otters typically range up to 35 km<sup>22</sup> and considering that the Wicklow Mountains SAC is located approximately 47 km upstream from Newbridge town, it is unlikely that the records present within the Proposed Variation are of the otter population of Wicklow Mountains SAC. It is noted that there are large infrastructure barriers (the M7/M9 Motorways and the R411 and R412 Regional Roads) and rural and urban areas located between the Proposed Variation area and Wicklow Mountains SAC. A range of heavily urbanised areas are also present within the Proposed Variation boundary which have the potential to act as a barrier for movement (e.g. roads, bridges, settlements). Overall, it is considered that otter populations may depend on the Proposed Variation area as functionally linked land.

SCI species<sup>23</sup> for nearby sites Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (approximately 16km east) and Wicklow Mountains SPA<sup>24</sup> (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 and the nearer the coastline of Wicklow it is not anticipated that peregrine falcon would be likely to depend upon the Newbridge area for prey availability. A review of NBDC data was undertaken for the area included within the Proposed Variation red line boundary and it is noted that one record of lesser black backed gull was recorded within the Proposed Variation boundary.

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<sup>21</sup> NBDC (2025) Biodiversity Maps. Available at: [Maps - Biodiversity Maps](#)

<sup>22</sup> Reid, N., Hayden, B., Lundy, M.G., Pietravalle, S., McDonald, R.A. & Montgomery, W.I. (2013) National Otter Survey of Ireland 2010/12. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 76. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

<sup>23</sup> SCIs of Poulaphouca SPA are greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*).

<sup>24</sup> SCIs of Wicklow Mountains SPA are merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

However, lesser black backed gull will commute and/or forage in any town/ urban area for food and so, the population are not anticipated to depend on the Proposed Variation area as functionally linked land. Otherwise, no QI species of the aforementioned European sites were recorded within the Proposed Variation boundary.

**In conclusion, given the criteria outlined above, it is considered that otter populations may depend on the Proposed Variation area as functionally linked land, and this would act as a viable pathway for effect. It is not anticipated that any other QI species depend on the Proposed Variation area as functionally linked land.**

#### **4.4.1.4 Aerial Connectivity**

Pollardstown Fen SAC and Mouds Bog SAC are located 47m and 830m respectively from the Proposed Variation boundary. Prevailing wind conditions at Newbridge town originate from the south and west, blowing in a north and east direction. Thereby any such emissions, which may include dust, that have the potential to originate from projects arising from the Proposed Variation, which could be transported by aerial means would likely travel in a similar direction. It is anticipated that any such material would be dispersed over a large area of the landscape and deposited in micro amounts and not give rise to harmful effects.

It is considered that there is potential for emissions to be transported in the direction of Pollardstown Fen SAC and Mouds Bog SAC however, overall, this likelihood is considered to be low and confined to limited duration and time of year. For example, the occurrence of north-westerly winds may occur during winter months, although these conditions are not seen to be the predominant, prevailing wind conditions in the study area.

**In conclusion, given the criteria outlined above, it is not anticipated that aerial connectivity would act as a viable pathway for effect.**

## **4.5 Identification of Potential Receptors**

Three viable pathways for effect are considered to exist for the potential impacts identified in Section 4.3. Potential receptors identified within this S-P-R assessment are Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow Mountains SAC.

With regards to Pollardstown Fen SAC, it must be noted that development and operation of transport systems including roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure and/or the development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure may pose threats and/or pressures to fens.<sup>25</sup> The Proposed Variation is considered likely to result in similar development and construction as draft objectives aim to increase and improve housing infrastructure, transport infrastructure, and social and physical infrastructure across the town. Thus, it is considered that threats/pressures have potential to occur on Pollardstown Fen SAC, for example, groundwater tables may be altered or affected as a result of hydrological disruption from construction works.

With regards to Moud's Bog, it is noted that the QI features of Mouds Bog SAC are not directly dependent on groundwater, however it is noted that some human based activities can lower the regional groundwater table and pose a threat to the eco-hydrological integrity of peatland habitats.<sup>26</sup> Thus, similar to Pollardstown Fen, construction and/or development that is likely to occur as a result of the Proposed Variation has potential to result in threats/pressures to Moud's Bog SAC.

With regards to Wicklow Mountains SAC, it is noted that otter species are the sole QI species for the Wicklow Mountains SAC. It must be noted that development has the potential to cause disturbance to otters and their habitats for example, development has the potential to cause pollution, fragmentation or loss of habitat, which can ultimately result in the loss of the species in an area.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> NPWS (2023) Scoping Study and Pilot Survey of Fens: Appendices. Irish Wildlife Manuals. Available at: [IWM143 Appendices.pdf](#)

<sup>26</sup> Mackin, F., Barr, A., Rath, P., Eakin, M., Ryan, J., Jeffrey, R. & Fernandez Valverde, F. (2017) Best practice in raised bog restoration in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 99. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

<sup>27</sup> Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) (2011) Otters and Development. Available at: [Otters and Development](#)

Thus, construction and/or development that is likely to occur as a result of the Proposed Variation has potential to result in threats/pressures to land that may be functionally connected to otter populations.

An assessment of LSE has been provided for in Section 4.6 of this report.

#### **4.6 Assessment of LSE**

The Proposed Variation has been assessed for the potential to give rise to LSE on European sites, specifically Pollardstown Fen SAC, Mouds Bog SAC and Wicklow Mountain SAC. The following potential impacts have been considered:

- Potential changes in water quality, hydrology to waterbodies as a result of construction activities arising from draft objectives
- Potential habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation as a result of construction activities arising from draft objectives; and
- Potential disturbance to species as a result of construction activities arising from draft objectives.

These impacts may operate through the following pathways:

- Hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Variation boundary and Pollardstown Fen SAC, which lies approximately 47 metres away
- Geohydrological connectivity to Pollardstown Fen SAC located approximately 47m from the Proposed Variation boundary and geohydrological connectivity to Mouds Bog SAC, located approximately 830 metres from the Proposed Variation boundary
- Land that may be functionally connected to otter populations could rely on the Proposed Variation area, particularly the River Liffey. Although otters have been recorded near the boundary of the Proposed Variation area along the River Liffey, these are likely a different population from those in the Wicklow Mountains SAC. Male otters typically range up to 35 km<sup>28</sup> and considering that the Wicklow Mountains SAC is located approximately 47 km upstream from Newbridge town along the river, it is unlikely that the records present within the Proposed Variation are of the otter population of Wicklow Mountains SAC. Therefore, no LSE are anticipated on the otter population of Wicklow Mountains SAC; and
- Direct proximity to both SACs, increasing the potential for indirect effects.

An assessment for LSE has been undertaken on each of the draft objectives and is provided in Appendix A.1.

As stated in Section 2.4, the Kildare CDP (as varied), of which the Proposed Variation forms a part, was subject to Appropriate Assessment, and as a result, protective policies and mitigation measures were embedded within the CDP. These embedded protective policies are directly applied to the Proposed Variation and are considered part of its baseline framework. Accordingly, while the Proposed Variation is assessed independently for the potential for LSE, the embedded protective policies are not considered mitigation specific to the Proposed Variation, but rather integral safeguards already in place. When these embedded policies are taken into account, the Proposed Variation can be excluded from the likelihood of significant effects on Pollardstown Fen SAC and Mouds Bog SAC.

#### **4.7 In-Combination Effects**

The purpose of the in-combination assessment is to ascertain whether the Proposed Variation may give rise to effects in-combination with other plans and/or projects. In the application of the S-P-R method, this report has found that no LSE exists for the Proposed Variation due to the embedded protective policies in place for European sites.

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<sup>28</sup> Reid, N., Hayden, B., Lundy, M.G., Pietravalle, S., McDonald, R.A. & Montgomery, W.I. (2013) National Otter Survey of Ireland 2010/12. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 76. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland

Arising from this, the consideration of in-combination effects is not required given that the Proposed Variation alone, shall not result in LSE.

## 4.8 Summary

Section 4.3 identified that potential impacts arising from construction and operational activities associated with the Proposed Variation draft objectives were established to be potential changes in water quality, hydrology to waterbodies; potential habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation; and potential disturbance to species.

Section 4.4 assessed the potential for a viable pathway for effect to European sites through hydrological connectivity, functionally linked land and aerial connectivity. Appendix A.4 illustrates the European sites which have been discussed in the report.

A pathway for LSE via hydrological connectivity does exist due to the distance between Proposed Variation boundary and the nearest hydrologically connected European site (Pollardstown Fen SAC (approximately 47m). Furthermore, a pathway for LSE via hydrogeological connectivity does exist due to the distance between Proposed Variation boundary and the nearest hydrologically connected European sites (Pollardstown Fen SAC (approximately 47m) and Moud's Bog SAC (approximately 830m).

A pathway for LSE via functionally linked land pathway does exist as it is considered that otter (sole QI of Wicklow Mountain SAC) populations may depend on the Proposed Variation area as functionally linked land.

A pathway for LSE via aerial connectivity does not exist when considering the typical prevailing wind conditions for the Proposed Variation area.

As a viable pathway for effect was identified, three potential receptors for effect were identified, namely Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.

Refer to Appendix A.5 for full details of Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment undertaken for this report.

The draft objectives of the Proposed Variation will not give rise to LSE on European sites, as the embedded protective policies of the Kildare CDP (as varied) (developed through Appropriate Assessment) apply directly to the Proposed Variation and provide sufficient safeguards. Furthermore, it is embedded within the Proposed Variation that any projects or plans must be subject to a Screening for AA prior to their implementation. As such, this embedded protective policy would negate the risk of LSE from occurring. Thus, overall, the potential for LSE to European sites, alone or in-combination, does not exist.

# 5. Summary and Conclusion

## 5.1 Summary

KCC is currently preparing a Proposed Variation (No. 2) to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). The purpose of the Proposed Variation is to incorporate the town of Newbridge into Volume 2 of the Kildare CDP (as varied). This will ensure that a planning framework is in place for Newbridge, in the form of a 'Settlement Plan'.

A Screening for AA has been carried out in line with Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Source-Pathway-Receptor model has been used to carry out the screening assessment. Refer to Appendix A.5 for full details of Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment undertaken for this report.

Three potential impacts (**Sources**) were determined potential changes in water quality, hydrology to waterbodies; potential habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation; and potential disturbance to species all arising from future construction and operational activities pertaining to the Proposed Variation draft objectives.

Three **Pathways** for effect were identified in the process to include hydrological connection, hydrogeological connectivity and functionally linked land to European sites.

Three **Receptors** were identified as a result namely, Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow Mountain SAC.

An assessment of LSE was carried out as part of this Screening for AA report, refer to Appendix A.1 of this report for full details of this assessment. The assessment concluded that all draft objectives outlined within the Proposed Variation align with provisions already in place as part of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) . Thus, any potential effects of the provisions of the Proposed Variation have been considered by the existing CDP and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA of the Kildare CDP (as varied).

Furthermore, it is embedded within the Proposed Variation that any projects or plans must be subject to a Screening for AA prior to their implementation. As such, this embedded protective policy would negate the risk of LSE from occurring. Refer to Appendix A.2 of this report for the Mitigation Measures identified as part of the NIR of the Kildare CDP (as varied). Refer to Appendix A.3 of this report for the embedded protective policies and objectives as outlined in the Kildare CDP (as varied).

Thus, overall, the potential for LSE to European sites, alone or in-combination, does not exist.

## **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 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 COs, have been fully considered.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that this plan does not require a full Stage 2 AA.

# Appendix A

# A.1 Assessment of LSE of the Proposed Variation

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
CSO 1.1 Ensure sufficient land is zoned at appropriate locations to accommodate sustainable housing growth in Newbridge in accordance with the housing unit allocation in Table 2.8 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 -2029 (as varied) and to ensure the balanced and strategic development of Newbridge.	This objective aligns with provision HO O2 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring near European sites.
CSO 1.2 Support and facilitate compact growth development in Newbridge through the application of the 10-minute settlement concept, the consolidation of the existing urban form and the sequential approach to land use development.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including, but not limited to HO O4, HO O5, HO O8.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
CSO 1.3 Support new residential development and infill development that occurs in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including, but not limited to HO O8, HO O9, and HO O16.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the provision of support rather than implementation, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
CSO 1.4 Prioritise the development of Newbridge Town Centre and Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site with a mix of uses, including residential to ensure a vibrant and dynamic commercial core through the utilisation of brownfield and infill sites.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including, but not limited to HO O5, HO O8, and HO O9.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to prioritising development with a mix of uses, instead of facilitating development itself, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
CSO 1.5 Facilitate the sequential development of lands designated as ‘Phase 2 New Residential’ on Map 11.1 – Land Use Zoning Draft objectives, through a plan-led approach, implemented via a statutory variation to the County Core Strategy in Volume 1 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023–2029 (as varied).  The revised Core Strategy will support the orderly, phased release of the Cp2 (1), Cp2 (2) and Cp2 (3) lands to accommodate future housing growth in Newbridge, aligned with updated housing targets.  Pending their release these ‘Phase 2 New Residential’ lands should be safeguarded from inappropriate development to preserve their strategic function beyond the current development plan period.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including, but not limited to HO O1, HO O4, and HO O8.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
CSO 1.6 Monitor the level of residential development within Newbridge during the lifetime of the Plan and apply appropriate development management prioritisation measures to ensure the delivery of strategic planned and coordinated balanced development within the town.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to MI 01.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
CSO 1.7 Protect the lands identified as ‘Strategic Reserve’ on Map 11.1 Land Use Zoning Draft 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 Newbridge beyond the lifetime of the Plan.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to SC O2.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 1.1 Promote the town centre as the priority location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development and facilitate the renewal of derelict sites and brownfield land to support compact growth development that consolidates and regenerates the existing urban core.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to HO O8, HO O9, HO O12, RET O18, RET O56.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 1.2 Encourage and facilitate the full use of existing buildings and sites and in particular the use of upper floors and backlands, having particular regard to high quality urban design and materials used, as well as integration and linkages.	This objective aligns with provision HO 11 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 1.3 Protect the vibrancy, ambience, quality and vitality of the town centre by: Promoting an appropriate mix of day and night-time uses. Preventing an excessive concentration of non-desirable uses including takeaways, off-licences, bookmakers, phone repair shops and vape shops (where planning permission is required). Facilitating development that will attract and retain commercial and retail activities in the town centre. 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 and cultural offerings such as a theatre or museum.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to RET O13, RET O18, RET O24, RET O83, RET O85.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
TCO 2.1 Encourage the retention of the retail function of ground floor uses within the Core Retail Area and carefully consider development which would individually or cumulatively undermine the primary use of the Core Retail Area, particularly on Main Street, for retail purposes taking cognisance of the need to address vacancy and the move towards ‘experience-led retailing’.	This objective aligns with provisions RET O16, RET O22 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 2.2 Protect and support the continued operation of the Whitewater Shopping Centre and major retailers in the town centre, while also facilitating additional global and national retailers in the development of infill sites and the redevelopment/renewal of under-utilised sites and buildings, at an appropriate scale, with universal access and design.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to RET O21, RET O24, RET O25.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
TCO 2.3 Support and facilitate the development of a diverse retail offering, particularly in the areas of independent and niche retailing within the town centre and on the laneways between Eyre Street and the northern side of Main Street.	This objective aligns with provisions RET O23, RET O25 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 2.4 Encourage the upkeep of retail properties within Newbridge through the application of the Kildare County Council’s Shopfront Improvement, Accessibility and Age Friendly Grant Scheme or any successor of same.	This objective aligns with provisions RET O63, RET O64 and RE O40 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 3.1 Protect the inherent character of the town centre and ensure that new development responds positively to its established built form, fine urban grain, and human scale to sustain and improve its attraction for living, working, visiting and investment.	This objective aligns with provisions RET O19, RET O50, RET O64 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 3.2 Require that all new development enhances the quality of the public realm. This includes the facilitation of 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.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP2023-2029 (as varied)., including but not limited to RET O7, RET O63, RET O80, UD O8.	For the purposes of this assessment it is considered that this objective relates to zonation and planning requirements rather than facilitating construction, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 3.3 Continue to actively engage with the community, landowners, developers and other agencies to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of Newbridge Town Centre.	This objective aligns with UD O6 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
<p>TCO 3.4 Facilitate the implementation of the urban renewal projects throughout the town centre outlined in Section 4.3.1 including the following in:</p> <p>Newbridge Cultural Quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New public civic squares – redevelopment of Old Market Square and St. Conleth’s Square.</li> <li>• Main Street/Edward Street and Georges Street – formation of a cultural quarter by enhancing the streetscape and providing bus priority routes.</li> </ul> <p>Athgarvan Road and Environs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved pedestrian and cycle crossing points across Athgarvan Road.</li> </ul> <p>Eyre Street and Laneways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath widening and resurfacing of adjoining laneways.</li> </ul> <p>These projects shall be implemented on a phased basis over the life of the Plan and beyond, to improve the vitality and vibrancy of the public realm.</p>	<p>This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to UD O1, UD O8, RET O7 and TM O7.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.</p>
<p>TCO 3.5 Actively engage with the community and other agencies to secure resources for the purposes of an outdoor civic hub such as a market or event space at Market Square.</p>	<p>This objective aligns with UD O6, RET O43, and RET O81 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).</p>	<p>No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>TCO 3.6 Support the development and renovation/upgrading of the quality of civic facilities in the town centre over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newbridge Library</li> <li>• St. Conleth’s Park</li> <li>• The Riverbank Arts Centre</li> <li>• Green Energy Hub</li> </ul>	<p>This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to SC A15, SC P11, RE O79, EC O52.</p>	<p>For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to providing support to development, rather than facilitating development itself, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>TCO 3.7 Support the Town Team and the Town Regeneration Officer in the carrying out of their duties in Newbridge in respect of prioritising the regeneration of the town centre through the application of the government’s Town Centre First policy (2022).</p>	<p>This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to UD O6, RET O7, RET O8, RET O10, RET O18, amongst others.</p>	<p>No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>TCO 3.8 Support the community and other agencies in the implementation of the ‘Safer Newbridge Project’ on Eyre Street as an exemplar of crime prevention through environmental design.</p>	<p>This objective aligns with provision UD O4 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).</p>	<p>No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
TCO 4.1 Support and facilitate the regeneration of the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site for town centre uses and compact growth development, in accordance with the Urban Design Framework set out in Sections 4.4.2, 4.4.3 and Figure 4.10.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions, of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) including but not limited to RET O18, RET O24, UD O1, UD P2.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 4.2 Deliver a cohesive and integrated approach to the development of the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site. The delivery and realisation of the vision for the Central Settlement Consolidation Site is fully dependent on cooperation between all landowners. Piecemeal or uncoordinated proposals for individual sites will not be permitted where it does not adhere to an agreed masterplan and/or prejudice the delivery of the overall regeneration of the area.  Where necessary Kildare County Council will facilitate the preparation of the masterplan (to include but not limited to infrastructure delivery and phasing) to guide and regulate the implementation of this strategic area of Newbridge.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions, of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) including but not limited to RET O18, RET O24, UD O1, UD P2.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites
EDO 1.1 Facilitate sustainable economic development and employment growth in Newbridge in accordance with its designation as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town while adhering to the overall Economic Development Strategy of this Plan.	This objective aligns with provision RE O1 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.2 Support the IDA and other relevant landholders in the further development of the Littleconnell Employment Area for high value manufacturing and logistics enterprises as part of the Council's Naas to Newbridge Strategic Economic and Employment Zone. Development proposals within this area require a detailed design statement which showing adherence to the design framework in Section 5.4.2 including active travel and public transport measures and a Traffic and Transport Assessment to ensure there are no negative impacts on the local and national road network. Such proposals shall also have regard to the Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines 2012 (or any subsequent Guidelines).	This objective aligns with provisions RE O2, RE O34, RE O26, UD A2 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the provision of support to development facilitated by the IDA and other relevant landholders, rather than KCC facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.3 Incentivise employment creation on lands zoned 'A: Town Centre' through the reuse of vacant commercial premises as a key driver of regeneration, through the application of the Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme (2024) or any successors to the same.	This objective aligns with provision RE O12, RE O48, RE O45 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
EDO 1.4 Promote the economic renewal and revitalisation of Cill Dara Industrial Estate as a dynamic and sustainable employment cluster into a vibrant mixed-use quarter with a distinct spatial identity.	This objective aligns with provision RE O42, RET O74, UD O7 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the promotion of renewal and revitalisation works, rather than facilitating renewal and revitalisation works, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.5 Encourage the development of employment areas in a comprehensive manner which uses existing infrastructure effectively and efficiently, ensuring they are designed to the highest architectural and landscaping standards, with natural site features, such as watercourses, trees and hedgerows to be retained and enhanced as an integral part of the scheme.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to RE O56, RE P1, RET O64, BI P1, BI O18.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to encouraging development of employment areas, rather than facilitating development of employment areas, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.6 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 mixed-use and residential developments in the town centre, as a means of enlivening streets and to provide flexible accommodation for small businesses and remote working opportunities.	This objective aligns with provision RE O48, RE O53 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 2.1 Encourage the development of new or the upgrading / extension of tourism activities/facilities including supporting infrastructure (such as cycle/bus/car parking and public toilets), in particular those related to tourism within Newbridge, that respect, respond and enhance their physical location, environmental quality and community setting.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to RE O119, RE O98, RE O122, RE O125, RE O135 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
EDO 2.2 Facilitate the provision of additional over-night tourist accommodation in appropriately zoned locations and support the re-use of vacant building stock for appropriate tourism related activities.	This objective aligns with provision RE O37, RE O98, RE O100, RE O105 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
EDO 2.3 Support and promote the inclusion of cafés and eateries in Newbridge as part of a food tourism experiential trail for the county.	This objective aligns with provision RET O81, RET O82 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective
EDO 2.4 Support and promote eco-tourism facilities to foster greater appreciation for the natural environment of Newbridge.	This objective aligns with provision RE O99, RE P24 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the provision of support to eco-tourism facilities, rather than facilitating the development of eco-tourism facilities, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 1.1 Promote new residential development that occurs in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure identified in the Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) and set out in Table 11.3: Implementation and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule – Central Newbridge and New Residential Lands in Chapter 11.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to HO O6, SC O15, SC O16, SC O17, SC O93, SC O94, UD O7 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the promotion of new residential development, rather than facilitating the development of new residential development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 1.2 Encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for a mix of uses (including residential) within the Built-Up Footprint (BUF) of Newbridge, as identified on Map 11.2: Implementation.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to RET O18, HO O5, HO O8, HO P22 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to encouraging the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for a mix of uses, rather than facilitating development itself, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 1.3 Require a high standard of urban design to be integrated into the layout and design of all new residential development in Newbridge and ensure compliance with the principles of healthy placemaking by integrating opportunities for physical activities, social interaction and active travel, through the creation of compact, permeable developments which feature high-quality pedestrian and cyclist connectivity.	This objective aligns with provision UD P1, UD O1 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). This objective aligns with provision HO O16, HO O17, HO O18, HO P1, HO O019, UD P1, UD O1 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
HCO 2.1 Support and facilitate new schools and improvements/expansion of existing educational facilities, including special needs education and further educational opportunities which may arise, at appropriate locations accounting for the 10-minute settlement concept.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to, TM A25, TM A10, SC O67, SC O68, SC O74, SC P12.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 2.2 Continue to engage with the Department of Education and Youth in respect of the identification and phased delivery of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new 24 - 32 classroom primary school at Crotanstown on lands zoned as 'E (1): Community and Education'.</li> <li>A 1,000 pupil post primary school in Newbridge at Cornelscourt on lands zoned as 'E (3): Community and Education'.</li> </ul>	This objective aligns with provision SC P12, SC O67, SC O68, SC O71, UD O3 and SC O74 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to engaging with the Department of Education in respect of the identification and delivery of the primary and post primary school developments, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 3.1 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.	This objective aligns with provision SC A19, SC O78, SC O79, SC O80, SC O81, SC O82, SC O84, SC O87 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 4.1 Support and liaise with operators of public and private healthcare facilities by encouraging the provision of facilities in appropriate locations in Newbridge in order to address the current deficit provision and to meet future needs during the lifetime of the Plan.	This objective aligns with provision SC O88, SC O89, SC O92, SC O94, in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 4.2 Support the delivery of a new primary care centre on land zoned 'MU: Mixed Use', as outlined in Section 4.4.3. - Newbridge Central SCS Urban Design Framework, subject to planning and design considerations.	This objective aligns with provision SC A20, SC O89 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the delivery of a new primary care centre, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
HCO 4.3 Support the provision of GP practices in Newbridge within the town centre, in designated neighbourhood centres and on lands zoned for community purposes, subject to planning and design considerations.	This objective aligns with provision SC O89 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the provision of GP practices in Newbridge town centre, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 4.4 Require planning application for new Neighbourhood Centre developments within Newbridge to be accompanied by a feasibility study for a GP practice to be located within the respective development.	This objective aligns with provision SC O89, SC O94 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 4.5 Support the provision of residential care facilities and services for older people, subject to appropriate siting and universal design considerations, including the redevelopment of the Liffey Lodge into age-friendly housing and the development of lands zoned 'E (2): Community and Education' for the development of individual housing units and/or a nursing home facility to provide for the needs of the elderly.	This objective aligns with provision SC O36, SC O37, SC O39, SC O40, SC O41 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the provision of residential care facilities and services, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 5.1 Support to and facilitate the Parks and Open Space Department in the delivery of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety measures along the towpath in Liffey Linear Park from the Strand to The Gables and upgrade the wooden boardwalk.</li> <li>• A masterplan for Dara Park.</li> <li>• A masterplan for the amenity green space of Pairc Mhuire.</li> </ul>	This objective aligns with provision LR A15, LR O65, LR O56, LR O80, LR O94, LR O95 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 5.2 Support and facilitate the development of a new urban neighbourhood park in Newbridge; on the opposite side of the river from the Liffey Linear Park on lands zoned 'F (1): Open Space' (on Map 11.2: Implementation, which shall contain a number of play facilities catering for a variety of ages and abilities, outdoor seating, multi-use sports facilities (including water-based activities, if appropriate) The park shall incorporate a comprehensive landscaping scheme that enhances the existing riparian habitat.	This objective aligns with provision LR O67, LR O94, LR O95 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
HCO 5.3 Extend and develop a linear park along both sides of the River Liffey from Tankardsgarden to the M7 Motorway and to continue the development of the riverside park system for the purposes of passive recreation and water sports in accordance with the draft objectives outlined in Liffey Valley Strategy' Towards a Liffey Valley Park (2006), or any superseding plan.	This objective aligns with provision LR O65, LR O67, LR O99 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 5.4 Promote community-managed gardens, allotments, sensory gardens at appropriate locations on Newbridge, including but not limited to lands adjacent to the Newbridge Family Resource Centre identified in Kildare's Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 – 2030.	This objective aligns with provision LR O101, LR O102, LR O103, LR O104 in the Kildare CDP) 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 5.5 Improve existing open space areas in housing developments that have been taken in charge and to provide additional play facilities, pocket parks and outdoor seating where feasible and appropriate.	This objective aligns with provision, LR O81, LR O82, LR O95, SC O13 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to improvements such as landscaping, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 5.6 Investigate the feasibility of providing a dog park within lands designated for Open Space and Amenity.	This objective aligns with provision LR O80, LR O96 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to investigating the feasibility of providing this dog park, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 6.1 Facilitate sports clubs, community groups and educational institutions in the acquisition and/or use of accessible lands for sports and recreation purposes and support the delivery of multi-use sports facilities on appropriately zoned land such as 'F (1): Open Space and Amenity', 'F (2): Open Space and Amenity' and 'F (3): Open Space and Amenity' within the Plan area.	This objective aligns with provision LR O89, LR O90, LR O91, LR O92, SC O7 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
HCO 6.2 Support the delivery of a Municipal Sporting Facility in Newbridge and work with key stakeholders to deliver a shared amenity for sports clubs and the general public.	This objective aligns with provision, SC O20, SC O28 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to acquiring lands, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 6.3 Facilitate the development of a network of universally designed playgrounds on amenity spaces and recreational areas throughout the town and support the Parks and Open Space Department in Kildare County Council in the delivery of playgrounds at Moorefield Park, Dara Park and Pairc Mhuire.	This objective aligns with provision LR A20, LR O87, SC O25, SC O26 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 6.4 Actively seek funding from relevant agencies and government sources including the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) to secure financial support to develop sports facilities on lands zoned 'F (1), F (2) and F (3): Open Space'.	This objective aligns with provision UD A1, SC O20, SC O28 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 6.5 Address the deficit in social infrastructure in respect of the provision of an urban neighbourhood park, municipal sports facility and a community centre through the application of a Special Development Contribution where specific exceptional costs in respect of recreational and community facilities are not covered by the Kildare County Council Development Contribution Schemes 2023-2029, or any successor of same.	This objective aligns with provision SC O9, SC O13, SC O15, SC O16, SC O20, LR O65 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 7.1 Actively support the development of universally accessible community centres/hall that support a wide range of uses for groups and clubs on lands zoned 'E (2): Community and Education' E (4): Community and Education' and a changing and community facility on lands zoned 'F (1) Open Space and Amenity'.	This objective aligns with provision SC P2, SC O6, SC O8, SC O9 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the development of two universally accessible additional community centres/hall, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
HCO 7.2 Support the approved refurbishment and extension of the existing Newbridge Library, to create the new Kildare County Library which is both a cultural centre and a community facility.	This objective aligns with provision SC P11, SC O60, SC O63, SC O64, in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the approved refurbishment and extension of the existing Newbridge Library, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 8.1 Support and facilitate the extension of St. Conleth’s Cemetery on lands zoned ‘E: Community and Education immediately south of the existing cemetery, subject to detailed design and environmental assessment.	This objective aligns with provision SC O99, SC O100, SC O101 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the further development of St. Conleth’s Cemetery, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
HCO 9.1 Support and facilitate the development of a neighbourhood centre east of Newbridge within the Greatconnell Key Development Area on lands zoned ‘N (1): Neighbourhood Centre’ and on lands at Crotanstown zoned ‘N(2): Neighbourhood Centre’ in accordance with the definition outlined in the Section 28 Retail Planning Guidelines (2012), subject to planning, transport and environmental considerations.	This objective aligns with provision SC O17, SC O8 in the Kildare 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the development of a neighbourhood centre, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 1.1 Adopt a ‘whole journey approach’ to delivering transport infrastructure in Newbridge, 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.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) , including but not limited to TM A2, TM O2, TM O44, TM O47 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 2.1 Support and facilitate the implementation of the measures in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment including those detailed in Table 7.1, Map 7.1 ‘Transport and Movement – Walking Measures and Map 7.2 ‘Transport and Movement – Cycling Measures’ to improve movement through the settlement and promote modal shift from the private car to more sustainable modes in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, and other relevant stakeholders. The indicative measures will form the basis for individual projects. Each project will be subject to a detailed design process, including environmental and/or ecological assessment, where applicable.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) including but not limited to TM O7, TM O10, TM O111	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
All measures shall incorporate nature-based solutions to surface water management.			Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 2.2 Ensure that all development allows 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.	This objective aligns with provision TM O3, TM O101, TM A20, in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 2.3 Engage with Iarnród Éireann and all relevant landowners to implement greenways north of the rail line and along the western bank of the River Liffey as detailed in Maps 7.1 and 7.2. Subject to detailed engineering design, Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).	This objective aligns with provision LR O46, TM O24 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to Iarnród Éireann and relevant landowners implementing greenways, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 2.4 Provide appropriate, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities at locations identified in Map 7.2 ‘Transport and Movement – Cycling Measures’.	This objective aligns with provision LR O58 TM O38 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 2.5 Support and improve links from Newbridge Town Centre to destinations outside the plan area including Corbally Harbour and Naas (via the Grand Canal Greenway), the Curragh Plains and Pollardstown Fen using Quietway routes along existing rural roads as detailed in Map 7.1 and Map 7.2subject to detailed design, environmental and planning assessments.	This objective aligns with provision LR O59, TM O90, TM O100 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	As this objective will ensure project level EIA and AA will be carried out prior to the commencement of any development, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 2.6 Support the implementation School Safe Zones identified on Map 7.1 in line with the National Transport Authority’s Safe Routes to School Programme.	This objective aligns with provision TM A5, TM A10, TM A12, TM A18, in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
MATO 2.7 Support the development of a shared cycle scheme in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) for the town of Newbridge.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to TM O12, TM O19, TM O23, TM O34, TM P1 RET O6, RET O14 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) and SC O24, SC O30 in the Kildare CDP 2 Year progress Report	As this objective will ensure project level EIA and AA will be carried out prior to the commencement of any development, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 3.1 Support sustainable mobility within Newbridge by focusing people-intensive land uses around existing public transport nodes of Newbridge Train Station.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to RET O6, RET O14, TM O41, TM P1, SC O24, SC O30	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 3.2 Support and facilitate, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, the implementation of the public transport measures in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment including those detailed in Table 7.2 and Map 7.3 Transport and Movement – Public Transport, to encourage a shared mode of travel and incentivise train and bus travel.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) including but not limited to TM P2, TM O10, TM O13, TM O44, TM O55, TM O57, TM O69, TM O115,	As this objective will ensure project level EIA and AA will be carried out prior to the commencement of any development, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 3.3 Actively engage and co-operate with the Department of Transport, National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Irish Rail, Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport in Newbridge, increasing the number of destinations available and increasing the frequency of train and buses, as identified in Table 7.2.	This objective aligns with provision TM P2, TM O10, TM O57 Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)..	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 3.4 Support and facilitate the National Transport Authority (NTA) in the delivery of the looped bus route on Map 7.3 – Transport and Movement Public Transport to serve both the existing town and the expanding areas of Newbridge including in Rickardstown, Cornelscourt and Greatconnell.	This objective aligns with provision TM O2, TM O47 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the National Transport Authority (NTA) in the delivery of the looped bus route, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
MATO 3.5 Support and facilitate Iarnród Éireann in the further development of Newbridge Train Station, including ancillary supporting infrastructure that improves user experience in terms of shelter, universal access and parking, subject to planning and environmental considerations.	This objective aligns with provisions TM O52 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to Iarnród Éireann in the further development of Newbridge Train Station, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 3.6 Support and facilitate the development of Key Destination Hubs on Map 7.3 that provide for interchange between public transport modes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newbridge Train Station</li> <li>• Whitewater Shopping Centre</li> <li>• Newbridge IDA Business Park</li> <li>• Littleconnell Strategic Employment Area</li> </ul>	This objective aligns with provisions TM O18, TM O42, TM O49 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 3.7 Support and facilitate the development of a local interchange mobility hub at the Liffey View/Main Street carpark in Newbridge.	This objective aligns with provisions TM O23 and TM O27 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 3.8 Support the delivery of a series of Neighbourhood Mobility Hubs to complement the Key Destination Hubs and Local Interchange Hub in Newbridge Town Centre.	This objective aligns with provisions TM O24 and SC O6 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 4.1 - Facilitate the implementation of the road and parking measures outlined in Table 7.3 and Map 7.4 Transport and Movement – Road Network Measures and in Table 7.4 and on Map 7.5 Transport and Movement – Parking Measures, in accordance with the DMURS standards for urban roads and streets and where necessary preserve the identified road routes for the future delivery of the proposed roads. All measures shall incorporate nature-based solutions to surface water management.	This objective aligns with provisions TM P2 and TM O19 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
MATO 4.2 Support and prioritise the development of the Newbridge Southern Ring Road and associated bridge over the River Liffey within the lifetime of the Plan.	This objective aligns with the provisions of TM 066 and Item J from Table 5.4 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the development of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road and associated bridge, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 4.3 Support and facilitate the implementation of the preferred car parking measures, as outlined on Map 7.5 Transport and Movement – Parking Measures.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), including but not limited to TM P4, TM O3, TM O5, TM O7.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 4.4 Promote car-free or low car developments in the opportunity sites identified in the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site, identified in Figure 4.10 Urban Design Framework for the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site.	This objective aligns with provisions TM A10, TM O106 and TM O111 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the implementation of the preferred car parking measures, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 4.5 Support the provision of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) at Newbridge Town Hall public car park and on other public and private lands, in accordance with County Development Plan standards.	This objective aligns with provisions TM O49, TM O116, TM O117 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 4.6 Require developers of residential developments of 100 units or more or residential schemes of 20 units or more located within 1,000 metres of high-capacity public transport routes (i.e Newbridge Train Station) or schemes over 2,000 square metres within the Littleconnell Employment Area to provide reserved space for Car Sharing Schemes.	This objective aligns with provisions TM O111, TM O122 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
BHO 1.1 Encourage the sensitive restoration and enhancement of shopfronts and signage of architectural merit or heritage value, and promote the replacement of inappropriate shopfronts and signage. Proposals for new shopfronts and signage, contemporary or traditional, will be required to respond positively to the proportions of the building and complement the character of the area in terms of design, detail, lighting and materials. The use of the Irish language within signage should be considered.	This objective aligns with provisions RE O40, RET O64 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 1.2 Reduce, prevent and encourage the removal of visual and urban clutter within the town centre including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excessive traffic management structures and related signage</li> <li>• Utility structures and signage</li> <li>• Commercial related signage (including signs protruding from the façade) at ground and upper floor levels</li> <li>• Obsolete/unnecessary lighting, electrics, cables, ducts</li> <li>• External roller shutters and shutter boxes</li> <li>• Internally affixed stickers and internally illuminated signage, where planning permission is required.</li> </ul>	This objective aligns with provisions RET O24, UD O2, LR O17 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 1.3 Proactively address dereliction, endangerment, neglect and vacancy in the town centre, particularly within its network of back lanes, through the application of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 and the Residential Zoned Land Tax as well as through the promotion of appropriate uses and the sensitive conservation of historic buildings, in conjunction with other relevant initiatives.	This objective aligns with provisions RET O18, , RET O56 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.1 Protect and promote the archaeological heritage of Newbridge, in particular those sites illustrated on Map 8.1 and Map 8.2 Built Heritage and Archaeology and listed in Appendix 6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied ), and avoid negative impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest by ensuring archaeological assessments are undertaken to inform proposed development in accordance with the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) (or any subsequent guidance).	This objective aligns with provisions AH O2, AH O3, AH O4, AH O5 and others in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.2 Prioritise the protection/preservation in situ of items of archaeological interest as listed in Table 8.2 and shown on Map 8.1 and Map 8.2 from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.	This objective aligns with provisions AH O2, AH O4, AH O6 and others in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
BHO 2.3 Support the sensitive incorporation of public amenity and open spaces around monuments (where practical), in a manner compatible with the protection and proper management and conservation of the monument, subject to an appropriate management and conservation plan to be prepared by the relevant landowner or stakeholder.	This objective aligns with provision AH O19, LR O66, LR O69 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.4 Support the protection, preservation and promotion of military architecture including structures associated with the former cavalry barracks walls on Athgarvan Road, Cutlery Road and within the Liffey Linear Park.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) including, but not limited to, AH O20, AH O21, AH O22.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.5 Seek the implementation of heritage-led regeneration including that of the public realm, through funding sources such as the Historic Town Initiative and the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (or any successor fund).	This objective aligns with provision AH O15 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.6 Ensure old stones walls around the Liffey Linear Park and Ryston Sports and Social Club are preserved where appropriate and the ensure the contribution they make to green infrastructure is protected.	This objective aligns with provision AH O31 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.7 Provide for the protection of historic burial grounds within Newbridge, in cooperation with agencies such as the Office of Public Works and the National Monuments Section of the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	This objective aligns with provision AH O8 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.8 Support the protection, preservation and promotion of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites within the Plan area including any associated with the River Liffey and associated features.	This objective aligns with provision AH O3, AH O7 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 1.1 Protect, conserve and manage the Pollardstown Fen SAC and Mouds Bog SAC by ensuring that screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is carried out with respect to any plan or project.	This objective aligns with provisions LR O21, LR O22, BI O9, BI O10, BI O22, RE O135 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 1.2 Promote the use of the identified Nature-Based Management Areas on Map 10.1 to manage surface water runoff and associated nutrients from entering the catchment of the Milltown Stream which feeds the Pollardstown Fen.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) including, but not limited to BI O47, BI O77, and BI O78.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
GBIO 1.3 Support the full implementation of the targets and actions outlined in the Newbridge Biodiversity Action Plan 2021–2025 (and any subsequent or amended Plan).	This objective aligns with provisions BI O4 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 2.1 Protect and enhance identified key Green and Blue Infrastructure (Map 9.1) and prohibit developments that would fragment or otherwise degrade the Green and Blue Infrastructure network. 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.	This objective aligns with provisions BI O72, LR O4 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 2.2 Ensure that all development proposals on sites where hedgerows and treelines are located (identified in Map 9.1) are, as far as practicable, retained and fully integrated as a focal point of the development in the first instance. In exceptional circumstances, where they are demonstrably required to be removed, development proposals shall be accompanied by a detailed landscape planting scheme prepared by a landscape architect in association with a qualified ecologist, maximising the use of native species as appropriate to the scheme and location of similar quantity and species mix to ensure no net biodiversity loss over the longer term and these biodiversity corridors are maintained.	This objective aligns with provisions BI O22, BI O26, BI O27, BI O28 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 2.3 Increase native tree planting and pollinator friendly planting of local provenance, in accordance with the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, throughout Newbridge and in open spaces in new developments in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management. Planting schemes should consider the Miyawaki Method to deter antisocial behaviour and increase biodiversity.	This objective aligns with provisions BI O4, BI O33, BI O34, BI O36, LR O76 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 2.4 Support and facilitate the creation of a linear nature park along the eastern banks of the River Liffey between the M7 Motorway and St Conleth’s Bridge on lands zoned F: Open Space and Amenity over the medium to long term and ensure that any landscaping scheme protects the existing riparian habitat and contributes to the enhancement of the corridor as a significant Green and Blue Infrastructure asset in the town.	This objective aligns with provisions LR O65, LR O67, LR O99 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
GBIO 2.5 Require all development proposals located within the 'Curragh Buffer Zone' as identified on Map 9.1 to include a tree planting programme of native trees of local provenance (to primarily include tree canopy of Scot's pine (Pinus sylvestris) / Pedunculate oak (Quercus robur) and underplanted with hazel (Corylus avellane) / birch (Betula pubescens) to protect the ecological and amenity value of the Curragh.	This objective aligns with provisions LR O82, BI O26, BI O28, HO O52, RE O107 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 2.6 Encourage state agencies and private entities to include tree planting measures when delivering key infrastructure or upgrading infrastructure works in the town.	This objective aligns with provisions BI O4, EC O73, TM O119, RE P12 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 1.1 Work in conjunction with Uisce Éireann to promote and facilitate the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure, to ensure that land is effectively serviced and ensure that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with new development in accordance with the Implementation and Delivery Schedule (Section 10.2 refers).	This objective aligns with provisions IN O4, IN O13 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to working with Uisce Éireann to promote and facilitate the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
IEO 1.2 Ensure that surface run-off does not discharge to the existing wastewater treatment infrastructure in order to protect the integrity of the wastewater infrastructure.	This objective aligns with provisions IN O16, IN O19 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 1.3 Support Uisce Éireann in addressing the issues relating to the Scrowland Water Treatment Plant and any other issues identified on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Quarterly Remedial Action Lists.	This objective aligns with provisions IN O1, IN O12, RE O10 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting Uisce Éireann in addressing the issues relating to the Scrowland Water Treatment Plant, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
IEO 2.1 Protect surface waterbodies and groundwater aquifers from deterioration and maintain, or where necessary, improve their quality over the period of the Plan and beyond.	This objective aligns with provisions BI O18, IN O5, IN O18 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 2.2 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 10.1 Infrastructure and Environmental Services – Surface Water Management Strategy and the Kildare County Council Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document 2024.	This objective aligns with provisions IN O21, IN O22, IN O30 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 2.3 Ensure areas indicated as Nature-Based Management Areas (NBMAs) on Map 10.1 are reserved free from development and integrated into design proposals for nature-based surface water drainage purposes.	This objective aligns with multiple provisions of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) including, but not limited to IN O21, IN O22, IN O25, IN O29, IN O30, BI O76, BI O18, BI O77, BI O78.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 2.4 Pursue opportunities to divert untreated surface water away from discharging into either the River Liffey or the groundwater area which feeds Pollardstown Fen, subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA).	This objective aligns with provision BI P15, BI O47, IN O30 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	As this objective will ensure project level AA will be carried out prior to the commencement of any development, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 2.5 Support Uisce Éireann’s Surface Water Separation programme to alleviate system surcharge and facilitate additional foul network capacity.	This objective aligns with provisions IN P3, IN O12, IN O16 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting Uisce Éireann’s Surface Water Separation, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
IEO 3.1 Manage flood risk in Newbridge in conjunction with the Office of Public Works, and in accordance with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).	This objective aligns with provisions IN O31, IN O32, IN O33 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 3.2 Ensure development proposals within the areas where Kildare County Council have applied a Justification Test and where residual flood risk remains as outlined on Map 10.2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment are the subject of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed.	This objective aligns with provisions IN O33 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
IEO 3.3 Maintain all existing overland flow routes.	This objective aligns with the provisions BI O47, IN O20 and IN O27 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 3.4 Support and co-operate with the Office of Public Works in progressing the development of a Flood Relief Scheme for Newbridge which may include physical works, such as a series of hard defences (flood embankments and walls), new or upgraded trash and works to improve channel conveyance including dredging 90m of the Liffey tributary and upgrading two culverts.	This objective aligns with provisions IN O31, IN O37 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the Office of Public Works in progressing the development of a Flood Relief Scheme for Newbridge, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
IEO 4.1 Support the statutory providers of electricity and gas infrastructure by safeguarding existing infrastructure and strategic corridors from encroachment by development that might compromise the operation, maintenance and provision of energy networks.	This objective aligns with provisions EC O69 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 4.2 Support and facilitate the provision of telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband services in Newbridge, subject to safety and amenity requirements.	This objective aligns with provisions EC O75 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 4.3 Engage with EirGrid, ESB Networks and telecommunications providers in relation to the rationalisation of transmission and telecommunications infrastructure and/or underground routing of all electricity, telephone, broadband and television cables within the Built-Up Footprint.	This objective aligns with provisions EC O28, EC O72, EC O84 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 4.4 Promote and encourage micro-generation on existing and proposed building stock, including solar, photovoltaic, wind, hydro and other renewable energy technologies.	This objective aligns with provisions EC P10, EC O31, EC O35 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) ; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
IEO 5.1 Maintain existing recycling facilities and secure the provision of additional universally accessible facilities, in conjunction with new development as required, in particular at the lands designated as Neighbourhood Centre.	This objective aligns with provisions IN O41, IN O42 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 5.2 Support the development of a green waste composting site in Newbridge for use by local community groups for the sustainable disposal of green waste at appropriate locations.	This objective aligns with provisions IN O47 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 5.3 Support local schools and community groups such as Newbridge Tidy Towns through education and awareness programmes and where available, through the provision of grant aid.	This objective aligns with provisions IN O45 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

**Table 2 Land Use Zonings**

Ref	Use	Land-Use Zoning Objective	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
A	Town Centre	<u>To protect, improve and provide for the future development of the town centre.</u>	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
B	Existing Residential/ Infill	<u>To protect and enhance the amenity of established residential communities and promote sustainable intensification.</u>	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
C	New Residential	To provide for new residential development.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
Cp2	New Residential – Phase 2	To protect future development lands from inappropriate forms of development which would impede the sequential expansion of the town in accordance with Objective CSO 1.5.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
E	Community and Educational	To provide for community, recreation and educational facilities. Site Specific Objectives: E (1) This site is identified for the provision of a 24 – 32 classroom primary school. The lands identified as ‘F: Open Space and Amenity’ to the front of Kellsborough House can facilitate the development of play areas for the primary school. E (2) This site shall accommodate the development of: – individual housing units and/or a nursing home facility to provide for the needs of the elderly – a universally accessible community centre/hall.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Ref	Use	Land-Use Zoning Objective	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
		<p>E (3) Lands in this location in Newbridge North Key Development Area (Cornelscourt) are reserved for a future 1,000 pupil post-primary school.</p> <p>E (4) This site in Newbridge North Key Development Area is identified for the provision of a universally accessible community centre/hall.</p> <p>E* These lands have been identified for the provision of a childcare facility as part of an approved residential development.</p>		
F	Open Space and Amenity	<p>To protect and provide for open space, amenity and recreation provision.</p> <p>Specific Draft objectives:</p> <p>F (1) – These lands have been designated for the provision of a neighbourhood park.</p> <p>F (2) – Designated for the provision of a Municipal Sporting Facility.</p> <p>F (3) – These lands have been designated for the provision of playing pitches.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.</p> <p>Also, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.</p>
GU	General Business Use	<p>To provide for general business development.</p> <p>This zoning provides for a wide range of uses including office, leisure and light industrial / employment use. In this zone, it is important to avoid abrupt transitions in scale and use at the boundary of adjoining land use zones.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.</p>
H	Industry and Warehousing	<p>To provide for new warehousing and industrial development.</p> <p>Site Specific Objectives:</p> <p>H (1) These lands are designated for strategic employment and identified as the Littleconnell Strategic Employment Area.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.</p>
I	Agriculture	<p>To retain and protect agricultural uses.</p>	<p>No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>

Ref	Use	Land-Use Zoning Objective	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
L	Leisure and Tourism	To provide for leisure and tourism facilities.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MU	Mixed Use	To provide for a mix of uses to include residential, employment and commercial. This zoning allows for a wide range of uses including residential, commercial, office and cultural.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
N	Neighbourhood Centre	To provide for new/existing neighbourhood centres and associated facilities. Neighbourhood centres are intended to serve the immediate needs of local residents and workers and should not compete with similar retail uses within the town centre. Specific Draft objectives: <u>N (1) Lands in this location of Great Connell reserved for a neighbourhood centre within the wider Key Development Area.</u> N (2): Lands designated for the provision of a neighbourhood centre.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
O	Department of Defence	To provide for services associated with the Department of Defence.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
Q	Enterprise and Employment	To provide for and facilitate an appropriate mix of employment uses including office-based industry, enterprise and incubator units, business, science and technology and institutional uses. The purpose of this zoning is to accommodate Horse Racing Ireland headquarters and to allow for clustering of other office-based industries.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
R	Retail and Commercial	To support continued operation of existing retail commercial uses.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
SR	Strategic Reserve	To protect the integrity of the lands to provide for the future strategic expansion of the town over future plan periods and ensure any development that would prejudice the future orderly expansion of the town will be resisted.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Ref	Use	Land-Use Zoning Objective	Potential Source of Impacts	Potential for LSE
		The inclusion of these lands will not in any way infer a prior commitment regarding the nature of any future zoning. Such a decision will be considered within the framework of the need for additional zoned lands and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.		
U	Transport and Utilities	To provide for and improve public infrastructure utilities.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

## A.2 Mitigation Measures as taken from the NIR of the Kildare CDP (as varied)

### Mitigation

Mitigation to prevent LSE and avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of any European sites is presented in two forms in this NIR. Firstly, in Table 3 of the NIR, the broader elements of the Plan are considered at a more general level, with the potential types of impact identified and potentially relevant European sites listed. A suite of embedded mitigation measures within the Plan which will contribute to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of any European sites is also provided.

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

**Table 3 Mitigation against the potential effects associated with provisions of the Plan**

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

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

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

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

## A.3 Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites included in the Kildare CDP (as varied) (as taken from the NIR of the Kildare CDP (as varied))

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

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

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

**Table 4 Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the Draft CDP**

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

**Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the CDP**

	<p><b>RE O121</b> Support in conjunction with Offaly County Council, and Laois County Council and all other relevant stakeholders such as Bord na Mona, Coillte and the NPWS, any proposal for a new National Peatlands Heritage Park centred in Kildare on Bord Na Mona cutaway bogs in Kildare, Laois and Offaly</p> <p><b>RE O122</b> Support the development and marketing of the Barrow Blueway and facilitate related commercial opportunities throughout the county, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>RE O125</b> Promote the development of existing and new walking and cycling routes throughout the county as an activity for both international visitors and local tourists, in a manner that is compatible with road safety, nature conservation and other environmental policies.</p> <p><b>RE P26</b> Support the development of tourism activities on and adjacent to waterways, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and in accordance with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant European Directives.</p> <p>New objective Provide new or upgraded lighting for all footpath and cycle track schemes subject to the consideration of ecology and impacts on wildlife. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required and may result in unlit sections which may include some parts of the county’s Greenways’.</p>
<p>Chapter 5 Sustainable Mobility &amp; Transport</p>	<p><b>TM O52</b> Mitigating the negative impacts of infrastructure by incorporating wildlife crossings/underpasses into the designs for new road infrastructure and where possible, by incorporating such measures into the existing road network, where appropriate.</p> <p><b>TM O80</b> Minimise the extent of hedgerow removal in order to achieve adequate sightlines. However, where it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that there is no other suitable development site (for planning reasons) any removed hedgerow shall be replaced with native hedgerow species.</p> <p><b>TM O96</b> Ensure car parking particularly parking associated with retail areas is designed in such a manner as to reduce visual impact and promote carbon sequestration, green infrastructure, and nature-based surface water drainage solutions by requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape design to include planting of trees and pollinator species to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified Landscape Architect;</li> <li>• The construction details for the root zones of proposed trees in accordance with best practice and to specify which locations utilise systems such as ‘root barriers’ to avoid future conflict between roots, roads, footpath surfaces and underground utility services;</li> <li>• The provision of not more than two parallel or five perpendicular spaces between trees/planting bays; and</li> <li>• The use of permeable paving, where appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>TM A21</b> Require that any lighting design strategies to be developed to minimise impacts on biodiversity. The chosen luminaires should have an optimum light control and a tightly controlled distribution to minimise light spillage or pollution outside of the immediate site area and potential impact on biodiversity in particular navigation routes and natural habitats. Cows/shields should be utilised to provide directional lighting. In general lighting luminaires should be positioned to avoid up-lighting where possible.</p>
<p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure and Environmental Services</p>	<p><b>IN P2</b> Ensure the protection and enhancement of water quality throughout Kildare in accordance with the EU WFD and facilitate the implementation of the associated programme of measures in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (and subsequent updates).</p> <p><b>IN O3</b> Promote water conservation and best practice water conservation in all developments, including rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.</p> <p><b>IN O6</b> Require an undisturbed edge or buffer zone to be maintained, where appropriate, between new developments and riparian zones of water bodies to maintain the natural function of existing ecosystems associated with water courses and their riparian zones, and to enable sustainable public access.</p>

**Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the CDP**

	<p><b>IN O7</b> Protect recognised salmonid water courses in conjunction with Inland Fisheries Ireland such as the Liffey catchment, which are recognised to be exceptional in supporting salmonid fish species.</p> <p><b>IN P4</b> Ensure adequate surface water drainage systems are in place which meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan in order to promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems.</p> <p><b>IN O21</b> Facilitate the development of nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, including the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas. Culverting entire drains and streams will generally be prohibited; interference with natural drainage systems is to be minimised and the Council will explore opportunities to remove culverted drainage systems in favour of open, natural drainage systems.</p> <p><b>IN O22</b> Require the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage as an integral part of all new development proposals.</p> <p><b>IN O25</b> Promote the use of green infrastructure (e.g., green roofs, green walls, planting, and green spaces) as natural water retention measures.</p> <p><b>IN O32</b> Recognise the important role of natural boglands and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidelines.</p> <p><b>IN P7</b> Support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan, and the Local Authority Waters Programme in achieving and maintaining at least good environmental status for all water bodies in the county.</p> <p><b>IN O53</b> Assess applications for developments, having regard to the impact on the quality of surface waters and any targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p><b>IN O64</b> Require the design of external lighting schemes to minimise the incidence of light spillage or pollution into the surrounding environment having regard to the residential amenity of surrounding areas and the need to mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity, particularly on river corridors.</p> <p><b>IN O65</b> Investigate measures to improve the approach to street lighting and ensure new developments are lit appropriately protecting environmentally sensitive areas.</p>
<p>Chapter 7 Energy and Communications</p>	<p><b>EC O2</b> Adopt a positive approach to renewable energy proposals, having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including community, environmental and landscape impacts and impacts on protected or designated heritage areas / structures.</p> <p><b>EC O11</b> Encourage wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner whilst having regard to Government policy and the County Wind Energy Strategy.</p> <p><b>EC O12</b> Support small to medium scale wind energy developments within agricultural, industrial or business areas and support small community-based proposals in urban and rural areas where they do not negatively impact upon the environmental quality and visual or residential amenities of the area.</p> <p><b>EC O16</b> Require comprehensive winter and summer bird and wildlife surveys for all proposed wind farms sites, so that impacts on wildlife can be fully assessed and evaluated and so that appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures can be considered, to include for example removal or repositioning of turbines, introducing one black painted rotor blade (to reduce motion smear and reduce incident of collision) or the provision of technologies that help minimize harm to birds and other wildlife.</p>

**EC O17**

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

**EC P6**

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

**EC O26**

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

**EC O28**

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

**EC P7**

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

**EC P10**

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

**EC O35**

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

**EC O53**

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

**EC O54**

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

**EC A7**

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

**EC P18**

Support the accommodation of Data Centres at appropriate locations in line with the draft objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland subject to appropriate Transport and Environmental Impact Assessments.

**EC O62**

Require planning applications involving the siting of overhead cables to minimise visual impact by avoiding areas of high landscape sensitivity, sites and areas of nature conservation and/or archaeological, cultural or heritage interest.

**EC O67**

Consider the removal of trees (singular or in stands) and hedgerows (in part or in whole) only in circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated that the removal of hedgerow material and/or tree(s) is essential for the provision of energy and cannot be designed out. Where proven, the vegetation is to be replaced with equivalent number, species, variety and size as was in situ. Where non-native species are removed, they will be required to be replaced with native species. In all cases, plants of local provenance are to be planted within 1 year of removal and maintained to establishment to negate the habitat and biodiversity loss within 3 years. Existing vegetative or 'stepping-stone' linkages are to be maintained and improved upon to increase wildlife corridors.

**EC P21**

Support the infrastructural renewal and development of the gas networks in the county, subject to proper planning, heritage, environmental and amenity requirements.

**Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the CDP**

	<p><b>EC O85</b> Support and facilitate the production of low carbon renewable biogases such as hydrogen and biomethane, produced largely from agricultural organic matter, that can be exported to the National Grid, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.</p>
<p>Chapter 9 Our Rural Environment</p>	<p><b>RD O6</b> Encourage the conservation and promotion of biodiversity in all rural development activities whilst supporting the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry.</p> <p><b>RD O9</b> Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that the quality of the natural environment (watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance) is maintained and protected from the threat of pollution to support the achievement of climate targets.</p> <p><b>RD O11</b> Support the implementation of the draft objectives identified in the County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014 and any relevant local action plan.</p> <p><b>RD O19</b> Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable horticultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.</p> <p><b>RD P6</b> Increase forest cover in the county at appropriate locations while protecting sensitive landscapes, water bodies, special areas of conservation and amenity areas.</p> <p><b>RD O24</b> Support new forestry plantation and works related to forestry, subject to protection of visually sensitive areas, ecology, water resources and abstractions, and compliance with national regulations with respect to protection of the environment.</p> <p><b>RD O25</b> Support the development of forestry resources with several functions including, flood retention, biodiversity, water quality/catchment management, tourism and recreation in conjunction with Coillte and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p><b>RD O26</b> Discourage monocultural forestry and encourage a greater range of tree species in forestry plantations and promote, in particular, more native, deciduous hardwood woodlands.</p> <p><b>RD P7</b> Support the appropriate and sensitive diversification of peatlands, whilst ensuring the protection of their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational significance in line with the National Peatlands Strategy (DAHG 2015) and the Peatlands &amp; Climate Change Action Plan 2030.</p> <p><b>RD O27</b> Encourage the re-wetting, restoring and/or re-wilding of former cutaway bogs and peatlands with an emphasis on promoting biodiversity and carbon sequestration.</p> <p><b>RD O29</b> Support the development of renewable energy (wind and solar) on a percentage/no more than 50% of former industrial peatlands/cutaway bogs, in appropriate locations, subject to relevant environmental assessments.</p> <p><b>RD O31</b> Investigate the feasibility of the development of a Peatland National Park in co-operation with Bord Na Mona, NPWS and other relevant stakeholders as per recommendation 9 of the BOGLAND Report from the EPA in 2011 and action A28 of the National Peatland Strategy 2014.</p> <p><b>RD A1</b> Promote and support the development and operation of a number of long distance peatways that traverse the Bog of Allen utilising former industrial peat railway tracks and lines at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From Ticknevin Bridge ( Grand Canal) to Rathangan;</li> <li>• Enfield (Royal Canal)/Kilshancoo (Raven’s Cross)/Killyon/Doogary through Timahoe Bog to Allenwood Community Development Association Ltd. And onto the Grand Canal and from there through Lullymore East and onto the Rathangan.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>RD O32</b> Ensure that development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);</li> <li>• Special Protection Areas (SPAs);</li> <li>• Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs);</li> <li>• Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna</li> </ul> <p><b>RD O34</b> Require applications for mineral or other extraction to include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive where any quarry / sand and gravel extraction are likely to have an impact on a Natura 2000 site (see Chapter 12);</li> <li>• An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR);</li> <li>• An Ecological Impact Assessment may also be required for sub-threshold developments to evaluate the existence of any protected species/habitats on site</li> <li>• A detailed landscaping plan to be submitted indicating proposed screening for the operational life of the site. The predominant use of native plant species in the proposed landscaping plan will be expected;</li> <li>• Detailed landscaping and quarry restoration plans. Habitats and species surveying shall be carried out and shall influence the restoration plan for the site.</li> </ul> <p>Comprehensive Site Restoration Plan and./or After-Use Strategy having regard to the principles of ‘Rehabilitation Ecology’</p> <p><b>RD O38</b> Have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced, or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries, ancillary services, restoration and after-use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DEHLG (2004).</li> <li>• Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non-Scheduled Minerals), EPA (2006).</li> <li>• Archaeological Code of Practice between the DEHLG an ICF (2009).</li> <li>• Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry (2008).</li> <li>• Wildlife, Habitats, and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry, NPWS (2009).</li> </ul> <p><b>RD O39</b> Ensure the satisfactory and sensitive re-instatement and / or re-use of disused quarries and extraction facilities, where active extraction use has ceased. Future uses should include amenity, recreation and biodiversity areas and shall be informed by an assessment of the specific site/lands.</p> <p><b>RD O40</b> Require that quarry remediation plans provide for a minimum of 80% of the area to be provided for environmental benefit, biodiversity and re-wilding. Where other after-use strategies are proposed (i.e., concrete batching, etc.) that might require more than the 20% in use for ongoing economic purposes, then other lands (including other disused quarries) may be used to compensate any shortfall, either by condition of use, sterilisation/legal agreement, or rehabilitation and transfer to either the Council or an established wildlife group. The 80% requirement for environmental/biodiversity may be waived at sites closer to urban areas where a significant portion of the site is being provided for sports, recreation and amenity.</p>
<p>Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage</p>	<p><b>AH O47</b> Preserve, protect and where necessary encourage the use of heritage/traditional varieties of plants and trees that form part of the local/ regional biodiversity resource and that contribute to local identity.</p> <p><b>AH O49</b> Require that planning applications take into consideration the impacts of the development on their landscapes and demonstrate that the development proposal has been designed to take account of the heritage resource of the landscape.</p>

<p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity</p>	<p><b>AH P1</b>                  Integrate in the development management process the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape features wherever possible, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats (whether designated or not) and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate.</p> <p><b>AH O1</b>                  Require, as part of the Development Management Process, the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessments that adequately assess the biodiversity resource within proposed development sites, to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation and to integrate this biodiversity resource into the design and layout of new development and to increase biodiversity within the proposed development.</p> <p><b>AH P2</b>                  Protect and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of all-natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.</p> <p><b>AH O5</b>                  Avoid development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site located within and immediately adjacent to the county and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive, to support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p><b>AH O6</b>                  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.</p> <p><b>AH O7</b>                  Support the establishment of conservation measures and the preparation and implementation of management plans for the conservation of Natura 2000 sites by NPWS, as required by Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>AH P3</b>                  Protect and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.</p> <p><b>AH P4</b>                  Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation on plant, animal or bird species which are protected by law.</p> <p><b>AH O10</b>                  Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2012, the Birds Directive 1979 the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species.</p> <p><b>AH O11</b>                  Ensure appropriate species and habitat avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into all new development proposals.</p> <p><b>AH O12</b>                  Possibly require a derogation licence, issued by the DHLGH, in the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Regulations or the Wildlife Acts 1976 -2012.</p> <p><b>AH O13</b>                  Require all applications for new developments to identify, protect and sensitively enhance the most important ecological features and habitats, and incorporate these into the overall open space network, keeping free from development and to provide links to the wider Green Infrastructure network as an essential part of the design process and by making provision for local biodiversity</p>
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(e.g. through provision of swift boxes or towers, bat roost sites, hedgehog highways , green roofs, etc.).

**AH A5**

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

**AH P7**

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

**AH O23**

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

**AH O24**

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

**AH O25**

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

**AH O26**

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

**AH O28**

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

**AH O29**

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

**AH O33**

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

**AH O29**

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

**AH O37**

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

**AH O51**

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

## A.4 European sites discussed within this report

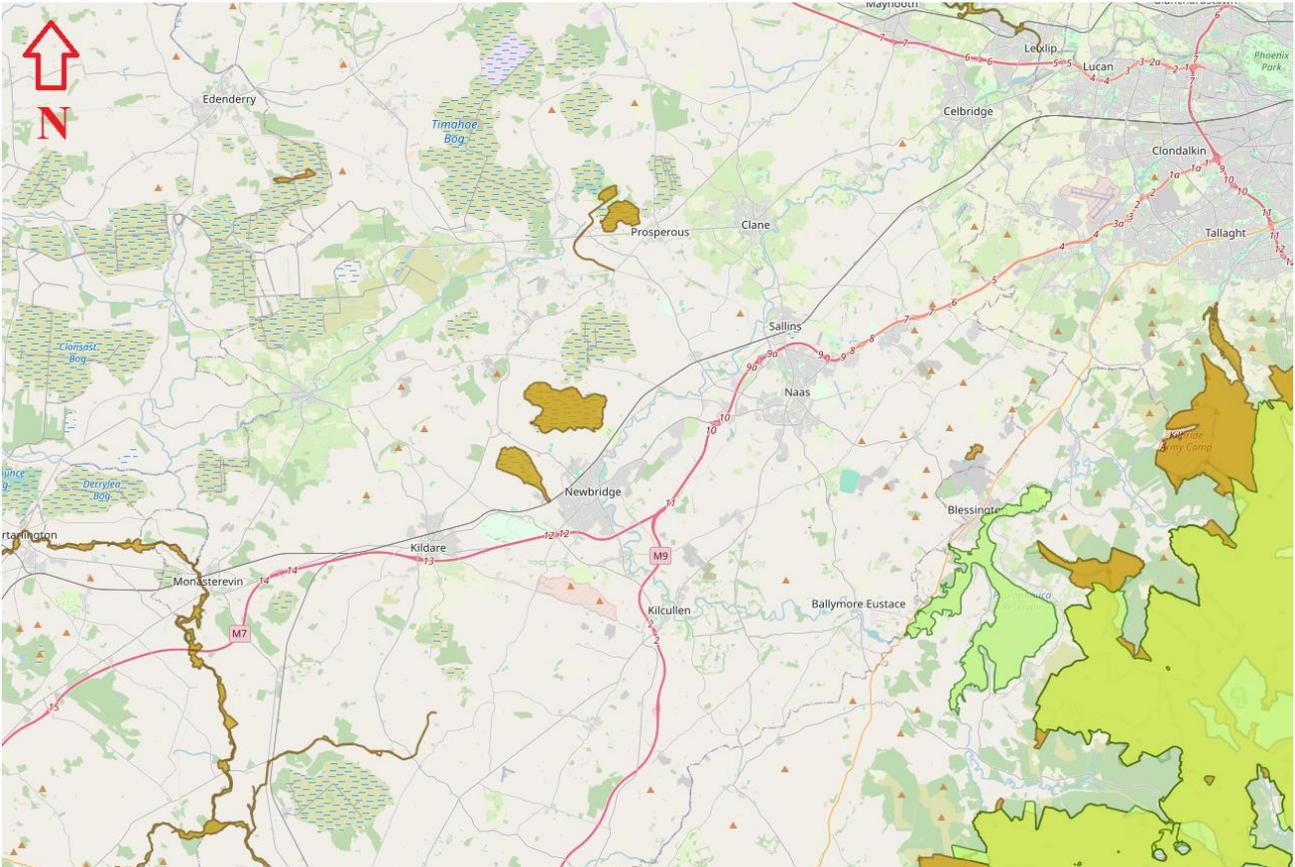


Figure 4 European sites discussed within this report (Source: EPA Maps, 2025)

# A.5 Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
CSO 1.1 Ensure sufficient land is zoned at appropriate locations to accommodate sustainable housing growth in Newbridge in accordance with the housing unit allocation in Table 2.8 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 -2029 (as varied) and to ensure the balanced and strategic development of Newbridge.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring near European sites.
CSO 1.2 Support and facilitate compact growth development in Newbridge through the application of the 10-minute settlement concept, the consolidation of the existing urban form and the sequential approach to land use development.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
CSO 1.3 Support new residential development and infill development that occurs in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the provision of support rather than implementation, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
CSO 1.4 Prioritise the development of Newbridge Town Centre and Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site with a mix of uses, including residential to ensure a vibrant and dynamic commercial core through the utilisation of brownfield and infill sites.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to prioritising development with a mix of uses, instead of facilitating development itself, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
CSO 1.5 Facilitate the sequential development of lands designated as 'Phase 2 New Residential' on Map 11.1 – Land Use Zoning Objectives, through a plan-led approach, implemented via a statutory variation to the County Core Strategy in Volume 1 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023–2029 (as varied).  The revised Core Strategy will support the orderly, phased release of the CP2 (1), CP2 (2) and CP2 (3) lands to accommodate future housing growth in Newbridge, aligned with updated housing targets.  Pending their release these 'Phase 2 New Residential' lands should be safeguarded from inappropriate development to preserve their strategic function beyond the current development plan period.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
CSO 1.6 Monitor the level of residential development within Newbridge 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.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
CSO 1.7 Protect the lands identified as ‘Strategic Reserve’ on Map 11.1 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 Newbridge beyond the lifetime of the Plan.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 1.1 Promote the town centre as the priority location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development and facilitate the renewal of derelict sites and brownfield land to support compact growth development that consolidates and regenerates the existing urban core.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 1.2 Encourage and facilitate the full use of existing buildings and sites and in particular the use of upper floors and backlands, having particular regard to high quality urban design and materials used, as well as integration and linkages.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
<p>TCO 1.3 Protect the vibrancy, ambience, quality and vitality of the town centre by:</p> <p>Promoting an appropriate mix of day and night-time uses.</p> <p>Preventing an excessive concentration of non-desirable uses including takeaways, off-licences, bookmakers, phone repair shops and vape shops (where planning permission is required).</p> <p>Facilitating development that will attract and retain commercial and retail activities in the town centre.</p> <p>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 and cultural offerings such as a theatre or museum.</p>	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
TCO 2.1 Encourage the retention of the retail function of ground floor uses within the Core Retail Area and carefully consider development which would individually or cumulatively undermine the primary use of the Core Retail Area, particularly on Main Street, for retail purposes taking cognisance of the need to address vacancy and the move towards 'experience-led retailing'.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 2.2 Protect and support the continued operation of the Whitewater Shopping Centre and major retailers in the town centre, while also facilitating additional global and national retailers in the development of infill sites and the redevelopment/renewal of under-utilised sites and buildings, at an appropriate scale, with universal access and design.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
TCO 2.3 Support and facilitate the development of a diverse retail offering, particularly in the areas of independent and niche retailing within the town centre and on the laneways between Eyre Street and the northern side of Main Street.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 2.4 Encourage the upkeep of retail properties within Newbridge through the application of the Kildare County Council's Shopfront Improvement, Accessibility and Age Friendly Grant Scheme or any successor of same.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 3.1 Protect the inherent character of the town centre and ensure that new development responds positively to its established built form, fine urban grain, and human scale to sustain and improve its attraction for living, working, visiting and investment.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 3.2 Require that all new development enhances the quality of the public realm. This includes the facilitation of 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.	For the purposes of this assessment it is considered that this objective relates to zonation and planning requirements rather than facilitating construction, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 3.3 Continue to actively engage with the community, landowners, developers and other agencies to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of Newbridge Town Centre.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
<p>TCO 3.4 Facilitate the implementation of the urban renewal projects throughout the town centre outlined in Section 4.3.1 including the following in:</p> <p>Newbridge Cultural Quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New public civic squares – redevelopment of Old Market Square and St. Conleth’s Square.</li> <li>• Main Street/Edward Street and Georges Street – formation of a cultural quarter by enhancing the streetscape and providing bus priority routes.</li> </ul> <p>Athgarvan Road and Environs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved pedestrian and cycle crossing points across Athgarvan Road.</li> </ul> <p>Eyre Street and Laneways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath widening and resurfacing of adjoining laneways.</li> </ul> <p>These projects shall be implemented on a phased basis over the life of the Plan and beyond, to improve the vitality and vibrancy of the public realm.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.</p>	<p>Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.</p>	<p>Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud’s Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.</p>
<p>TCO 3.5 Actively engage with the community and other agencies to secure resources for the purposes of an outdoor civic hub such as a market or event space at Market Square.</p>	<p>No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>No connectivity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>TCO 3.6 Support the development and renovation/upgrading of the quality of civic facilities in the town centre over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newbridge Library</li> <li>• St. Conleth’s Park</li> <li>• The Riverbank Arts Centre</li> <li>• Green Energy Hub</li> </ul>	<p>For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to providing support to development, rather than facilitating development itself, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>No connectivity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>TCO 3.7 Support the Town Team and the Town Regeneration Officer in the carrying out of their duties in Newbridge in respect of prioritising the regeneration of the town centre through the application of the government’s Town Centre First policy (2022).</p>	<p>No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>No connectivity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>TCO 3.8 Support the community and other agencies in the implementation of the ‘Safer Newbridge Project’ on Eyre Street as an exemplar of crime prevention through environmental design.</p>	<p>No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>No connectivity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
TCO 4.1 Support and facilitate the regeneration of the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site for town centre uses and compact growth development, in accordance with the Urban Design Framework set out in Sections 4.4.2, 4.4.3 and Figure 4.11.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
TCO 4.2 Deliver a cohesive and integrated approach to the development of the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site. The delivery and realisation of the vision for the Central Settlement Consolidation Site is fully dependent on cooperation between all landowners. Piecemeal or uncoordinated proposals for individual sites will not be permitted where it does not adhere to an agreed masterplan and/or prejudice the delivery of the overall regeneration of the area. Where necessary Kildare County Council will facilitate the preparation of the masterplan (to include but not limited to infrastructure delivery and phasing) to guide and regulate the implementation of this strategic area of Newbridge.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.1 Facilitate sustainable economic development and employment growth in Newbridge in accordance with its designation as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town while adhering to the overall Economic Development Strategy of this Plan.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.2 Support the IDA and other relevant landholders in the further development of the Littleconnell Employment Area for high value manufacturing and logistics enterprises as part of the Council's Naas to Newbridge Strategic Economic and Employment Zone. Development proposals within this area require a detailed design statement which showing adherence to the design framework in Section 5.4.2 including active travel and public transport measures and a Traffic and Transport Assessment to ensure there are no negative impacts on the local and national road network. Such proposals shall also have regard to the Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines 2012 (or any subsequent Guidelines).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the provision of support to development facilitated by the IDA and other relevant landholders, rather than KCC facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.3 Incentivise employment creation on lands zoned 'A: Town Centre' through the reuse of vacant commercial premises as a key driver of regeneration, through the application of the Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme (2024) or any successors to the same.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.4 Promote the economic renewal and revitalisation of Cill Dara Industrial Estate as a dynamic and sustainable employment cluster into a vibrant mixed-use quarter with a distinct spatial identity.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the promotion of renewal and revitalisation works, rather than facilitating renewal and	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	revitalisation works, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.			
EDO 1.5 Encourage the development of employment areas in a comprehensive manner which uses existing infrastructure effectively and efficiently, ensuring they are designed to the highest architectural and landscaping standards, with natural site features, such as watercourses, trees and hedgerows be retained and enhanced as an integral part of the scheme.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to encouraging development of employment areas, rather than facilitating development of employment areas, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 1.6 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 mixed-use and residential developments in the town centre, as a means of enlivening streets and to provide flexible accommodation for small businesses and remote working opportunities.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
EDO 2.1 Encourage the development of new or the upgrading / extension of tourism activities/facilities including supporting infrastructure (such as cycle/bus/car parking and public toilets), in particular those related to tourism within Newbridge, that respect, respond and enhance their physical location, environmental quality and community setting.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
EDO 2.2 Facilitate the provision of additional over-night tourist accommodation in appropriately zoned locations and support the re-use of vacant building stock for appropriate tourism related activities.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
EDO 2.3 Support and promote the inclusion of cafés and eateries in Newbridge as part of a food tourism experiential trail for the county.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

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EDO 2.4 Support and promote eco-tourism facilities to foster greater appreciation for the natural environment of Newbridge.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the provision of support to eco-tourism facilities, rather than facilitating the development of eco-tourism facilities, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 1.1 Promote new residential development that occurs in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure identified in the Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) and set out in Table 11.3: Implementation and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule – Central Newbridge and New Residential Lands in Chapter 11.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to the promotion of new residential development, rather than facilitating the development of new residential development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 1.2 Encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for a mix of uses (including residential) within the Built-Up Footprint (BUF), as identified on Map 11.2: Implementation.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to encouraging the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for a mix of uses, rather than facilitating development itself, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 1.3 Require a high standard of urban design to be integrated into the layout and design of all new residential development in Newbridge and ensure compliance with the principles of healthy placemaking by integrating opportunities for physical activities, social interaction and active travel, through the creation of compact, permeable developments which feature high-quality pedestrian and cyclist connectivity.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 2.1 Support and facilitate new schools and improvements/expansion of existing educational facilities, including special needs education and further educational opportunities which may arise, at appropriate locations accounting for the 10-minute settlement concept.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

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<p>HCO 2.2 Continue to engage with the Department of Education and Youth in respect of the identification and phased delivery of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new 24 - 32 classroom primary school at Crotanstown on lands zoned as 'E (1): Community and Education'.</li> <li>A 1,000 pupil post primary school in Newbridge at Cornelscourt on lands zoned as 'E (3): Community and Education'.</li> </ul>	<p>For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to engaging with the Department of Education in respect of the identification and delivery of the primary and post primary school developments, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>No connectivity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>HCO 3.1 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.</p>	<p>For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>No connectivity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>HCO 4.1 Support and liaise with operators of public and private healthcare facilities by encouraging the provision of facilities in appropriate locations in Newbridge in order to address the current deficit provision and to meet future needs during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>No connectivity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
<p>HCO 4.2 Support the delivery of a new primary care centre on land zoned 'MU: Mixed Use', as outlined in Section 4.4.3. - Newbridge Central SCS Urban Design Framework, subject to planning and design considerations.</p>	<p>For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the delivery of a new primary care centre, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	<p>No connectivity.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>

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HCO 4.3 Support the provision of GP practices in Newbridge within the town centre, in designated neighbourhood centres and on lands zoned for community purposes, subject to planning and design considerations.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the provision of GP practices in Newbridge town centre, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 4.4 Require and planning application for new Neighbourhood Centre developments within Newbridge to be accompanied by a feasibility study for a GP practice to be located within the respective development.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 4.5 Support the provision of residential care facilities and services for older people, subject to appropriate siting and universal design considerations, including the redevelopment of the Liffey Lodge into age-friendly housing and the development of lands zoned 'E (2): Community and Education' for the development of individual housing units and/or a nursing home facility to provide for the needs of the elderly.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the provision of residential care facilities and services, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 5.1 Support to and facilitate the Parks and Open Space Department in the delivery of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety measures along the towpath in Liffey Linear Park from the Strand to The Gables and upgrade the wooden boardwalk.</li> <li>A masterplan for Dara Park.</li> <li>A masterplan for the amenity green space of Pairc Mhuire.</li> </ul>	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 5.2 Support and facilitate the development of a new urban neighbourhood park in Newbridge; on the opposite side of the river from the Liffey Linear Park on lands zoned 'F (1): Open Space' (on Map 11.2: Implementation, which shall contain a number of play facilities catering for a variety of ages and abilities, outdoor seating, multi-use sports facilities (including water-based activities, if appropriate) The park shall incorporate a comprehensive landscaping scheme that enhances the existing riparian habitat.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

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HCO 5.3 Extend and develop a linear park along both sides of the River Liffey from Tankardsgarden to the M7 Motorway and to continue the development of the riverside park system for the purposes of passive recreation and water sports in accordance with the objectives outlined in Liffey Valley Strategy' Towards a Liffey Valley Park (2006), or any superseding plan.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 5.4 Promote community-managed gardens, allotments, sensory gardens at appropriate locations on Newbridge, including but not limited to lands adjacent to the Newbridge Family Resource Centre identified in Kildare's Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 – 2030.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 5.5 Improve existing open space areas in housing developments that have been taken in charge and to provide additional play facilities, pocket parks and outdoor seating where feasible and appropriate.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to improvements such as landscaping, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 5.6 Investigate the feasibility of providing a dog park within lands designated for Open Space and Amenity.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to investigating the feasibility of providing this dog park, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 6.1 Facilitate sports clubs, community groups and educational institutions in the acquisition and/or use of accessible lands for sports and recreation purposes and support the delivery of multi-use sports facilities on appropriately zoned land such as 'F (1): Open Space and Amenity', 'F (2): Open Space and Amenity' and 'F (3): Open Space and Amenity' within the Plan area.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

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HCO 6.2 Support the delivery of a Municipal Sporting Facility in Newbridge and work with key stakeholders to deliver a shared amenity for sports clubs and the general public.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to acquiring lands, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 6.3 Facilitate the development of a network of universally designed playgrounds on amenity spaces and recreational areas throughout the town and support the Parks and Open Space Department in Kildare County Council in the delivery of playgrounds at Moorefield Park, Dara Park and Paic Mhuire.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 6.4 Actively seek funding from relevant agencies and government sources including the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) to secure financial support to develop sports facilities on lands zoned 'F (1), F (2) and F (3): Open Space'.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 6.5 Address the deficit in social infrastructure in respect of the provision of an urban neighbourhood park, municipal sports facility and a community centre through the application of a Special Development Contribution where specific exceptional costs in respect of recreational and community facilities are not covered by the Kildare County Council Development Contribution Schemes 2023-2029, or any successor of same.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
HCO 7.1 Actively support the development of universally accessible community centres/hall that support a wide range of uses for groups and clubs on lands zoned 'E (2): Community and Education' E (4): Community and Education' and a changing and community facility on lands zoned 'F (1) Open Space and Amenity'.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the development of two universally accessible additional community centres/hall, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

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HCO 7.2 Support the approved refurbishment and extension of the existing Newbridge Library, to create the new Kildare County Library which is both a cultural centre and a community facility.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the approved refurbishment and extension of the existing Newbridge Library, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
HCO 8.1 Support and facilitate the extension of St. Conleth's Cemetery on lands zoned 'E: Community and Education immediately south of the existing cemetery, subject to detailed design and environmental assessment.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the further development of St. Conleth's Cemetery, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
HCO 9.1 Support and facilitate the development of a neighbourhood centre east of Newbridge within the Greatconnell Key Development Area on lands zoned 'N (1): Neighbourhood Centre' and on lands at Crotanstown zoned 'N(2): Neighbourhood Centre' in accordance with the definition outlined in the Section 28 Retail Planning Guidelines (2012), subject to planning, transport and environmental considerations	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the development of a neighbourhood centre, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 1.1 Adopt a 'whole journey approach' to delivering transport infrastructure in Newbridge, 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.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 2.1 Support and facilitate the implementation of the measures in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment including those detailed in Table 7.1, Map 7.1 'Transport and Movement – Walking Measures and Map 7.2 'Transport and Movement – Cycling Measures' to improve movement through the settlement and promote modal shift from the private car to more sustainable modes in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, and other relevant stakeholders.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

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The indicative measures will form the basis for individual projects. Each project 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.				Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 2.2 Ensure that all development allows 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.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 2.3 Engage with Iarnród Éireann and all relevant landowners to implement greenways north of the rail line and along the western bank of the River Liffey as detailed in Maps 7.1 and 7.2. Subject to detailed engineering design, Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to Iarnród Éireann and relevant landowners implementing greenways, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 2.4 Provide appropriate, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities at locations identified in Map 7.2 'Transport and Movement – Cycle Network Measures'.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 2.5 Support and improve links from Newbridge Town Centre to destinations outside the plan area including Corbally Harbour and Naas (via the Grand Canal Greenway), the Curragh Plains and Pollardstown Fen using Quietway routes along existing rural roads as detailed in Map 7.1 and Map 7.2 subject to detailed design, environmental and planning assessments.	As this objective will ensure project level EIA and AA will be carried out prior to the commencement of any development, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 2.6 Support the implementation School Safe Zones identified on Map 7.1 in line with the National Transport Authority's Safe Routes to School Programme.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

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MATO 2.7 Support the development of a shared cycle scheme in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) for the town of Newbridge.	As this objective will ensure project level EIA and AA will be carried out prior to the commencement of any development, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 3.1 Support sustainable mobility within Newbridge by focusing people-intensive land uses around existing public transport nodes of Newbridge Train Station.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 3.2 Support and facilitate, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, the implementation of the public transport measures in the Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment including those detailed in Table 7.2 and Map 7.3 Transport and Movement – Public Transport, to encourage a shared mode of travel and incentivise train and bus travel.	As this objective will ensure project level EIA and AA will be carried out prior to the commencement of any development, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 3.3 Actively engage and co-operate with the Department of Transport, National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Irish Rail, Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport in Newbridge, increasing the number of destinations available and increasing the frequency of train and buses, as identified in Table 7.2.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 3.4 Support and facilitate the National Transport Authority (NTA) in the delivery of the looped bus route on Map 7.3 – Transport and Movement Public Transport to serve both the existing town and the expanding areas of Newbridge including in Rickardstown, Cornelscourt and Greatconnell.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the National Transport Authority (NTA) in the delivery of the looped bus route, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

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MATO 3.5 Support and facilitate Iarnród Éireann in the further development of Newbridge Train Station, including ancillary supporting infrastructure that improves user experience in terms of shelter, universal access and parking, subject to planning and environmental considerations.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to Iarnród Éireann in the further development of Newbridge Train Station, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
MATO 3.6 Support and facilitate the development of Key Destination Hubs in Map 7.3 'Movement and Transport — Public Transport' that provide for interchange between public transport modes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newbridge Train Station</li> <li>Whitewater Shopping Centre</li> <li>Newbridge IDA Business Park</li> <li>Littleconnell Strategic Employment Area</li> </ul>	Little potential for impact.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 3.7 Support and facilitate the development of a local interchange mobility hub at the Liffey View/Main Street carpark in Newbridge.	Little potential for impact.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 3.8 Support the delivery of a series of Neighbourhood Mobility Hubs to complement the Key Destination Hubs and Local Interchange Hub in Newbridge Town Centre.	Little potential for impact.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
MATO 4.1 Facilitate the implementation of the road and parking measures outlined in Table 7.3 and Map 7.4 Transport and Movement – Road Network Measures and in Table 7.4 and on Map 7.5 Transport and Movement – Parking Measures, in accordance with the DMURS standards for urban roads and streets and where necessary preserve the identified road routes for the future delivery of the proposed roads. All measures shall incorporate nature-based solutions to surface water management.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

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MATO 4.2 Support and prioritise the development of the Newbridge Southern Ring Road and associated bridge over the River Liffey within the lifetime of the Plan.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the development of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road and associated bridge, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 4.3 Support and facilitate the implementation of the preferred car parking measures, as outlined on Map 7.5 'Movement and Transport – Parking Measures'.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the implementation of the preferred car parking measures, rather than facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 4.4 Promote car-free or low car developments in the opportunity sites identified in the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site, identified in Figure 4.10 Urban Design Framework for the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 4.5 Support the provision of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) at Newbridge Town Hall public car park and on other public and private lands, in accordance with County Development Plan standards.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
MATO 4.6 Require developers of residential developments of 100 units or more or residential schemes of 20 units or more located within 1,000 metres of high-capacity public transport routes (Newbridge Train Station) or schemes over 2,000 square metres within the Littleconnell Employment Area to provide reserved space for Car Sharing Schemes.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 1.1 Encourage the sensitive restoration and enhancement of shopfronts and signage of architectural merit or heritage value, and promote the replacement of inappropriate shopfronts and signage.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
Proposals for new shopfronts and signage, contemporary or traditional, will be required to respond positively to the proportions of the building and complement the character of the area in terms of design, detail, lighting and materials. The use of the Irish language within signage should be considered.				
<p>BHO 1.2 Reduce, prevent and encourage the removal of visual and urban clutter within the town centre including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive traffic management structures and related signage</li> <li>Utility structures and signage</li> <li>Commercial related signage (including signs protruding from the façade) at ground and upper floor levels</li> <li>Obsolete/unnecessary lighting, electrics, cables, ducts</li> <li>External roller shutters and shutter boxes</li> <li>Internally affixed stickers and internally illuminated signage, where planning permission is required.</li> </ul>	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 1.3 Proactively address dereliction, endangerment, neglect and vacancy in the town centre, particularly within its network of back lanes, through the application of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 and the Residential Zoned Land Tax as well as through the promotion of appropriate uses and the sensitive conservation of historic buildings, in conjunction with other relevant initiatives.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.1 Protect and promote the archaeological heritage of Newbridge, in particular those sites illustrated on Map 8.1 and Map 8.2 Built Heritage and Archaeology and listed in Appendix 6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied), and avoid negative impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest by ensuring archaeological assessments are undertaken to inform proposed development in accordance with the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) (or any subsequent guidance).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.2 Prioritise the protection/preservation in situ of items of archaeological interest as listed in Table 8.2 and shown on Map 8.1 and Map 8.2 from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
BHO 2.3 Support the sensitive incorporation of public amenity and open spaces around monuments (where practical), in a manner compatible with the protection and proper management and conservation of the monument, subject to an appropriate management and conservation plan to be prepared by the relevant landowner or stakeholder.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.4 Support the protection, preservation and promotion of military architecture including structures associated with the former cavalry barracks walls on Athgarvan Road, Cutlery Road and within the Liffey Linear Park.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.5 Seek the implementation of heritage-led regeneration including that of the public realm, through funding sources such as the Historic Town Initiative and the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (or any successor fund).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.6 Ensure old stones walls around the Liffey Linear Park and Ryston Sports and Social Club are preserved where appropriate and ensure the contribution they make to green infrastructure is protected.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.7 Provide for the protection of historic burial grounds within Newbridge, in cooperation with agencies such as the Office of Public Works and the National Monuments Section of the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
BHO 2.8 Support the protection, preservation and promotion of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites within the Plan area including any associated with the River Liffey and associated features.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 1.1 Protect, conserve and manage the Pollardstown Fen SAC and Mouds Bog SAC by ensuring that screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is carried out with respect to any plan or project.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 1.2 Promote the use of the identified Nature-Based Management Areas on Map 10.1 to manage surface water runoff and associated nutrients from entering the catchment of the Milltown Stream which feeds the Pollardstown Fen.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
GBIO 1.3 Support the full implementation of the targets and actions outlined in the Newbridge Biodiversity Action Plan 2021–2025 (and any subsequent or amended Plan).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
<p>GBIO 2.1 Protect and enhance identified key Green and Blue Infrastructure (Map 9.1) and prohibit developments that would fragment or otherwise degrade the Green and Blue Infrastructure network. 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.</p> <p>Site specific ecology surveys should be carried out to inform, assess and mitigate potential ecological impacts of any proposed development and its construction.</p>	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
<p>GBIO 2.2 Ensure that all development proposals on sites where hedgerows and treelines are located (identified in Map 9.1) are, as far as practicable, retained and fully integrated as a focal point of the development in the first instance. In exceptional circumstances, where they are demonstrably required to be removed, development proposals shall be accompanied by a detailed landscape planting scheme prepared by a landscape architect in association with a qualified ecologist, maximising the use of native species as appropriate to the scheme and location of similar quantity and species mix to ensure no net biodiversity loss over the longer term and these biodiversity corridors are maintained.</p>	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
<p>GBIO 2.3 Increase native tree planting and pollinator friendly planting of local provenance, in accordance with the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, throughout Newbridge and in open spaces in new developments in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management. Planting schemes should consider the Miyawaki Method to deter antisocial behaviour and increase biodiversity.</p>	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
<p>GBIO 2.4 Support and facilitate the creation of a linear nature park along the eastern banks of the River Liffey between the M7 Motorway and St Conleth’s Bridge on lands zoned F: Open Space and Amenity over the medium to long term and ensure that any landscaping scheme protects the existing riparian habitat and contributes to the enhancement of the corridor as a significant Green and Blue Infrastructure asset in the town.</p>	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud’s Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
GBIO 2.5 Require all development proposals located within the ‘Curragh Buffer Zone’ as identified on Map 9.1 to include a tree planting programme of native trees of local provenance (to primarily include tree canopy of Scot’s pine ( <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> ) / Pedunculate oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ) and underplanted with hazel ( <i>Corylus avellane</i> ) / birch ( <i>Betula pubescens</i> ) to protect the ecological and amenity value of the Curragh.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
GBIO 2.6 Encourage state agencies and private entities to include tree planting measures when delivering key infrastructure or upgrading infrastructure works in the town.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities..	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud’s Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 1.1 Work in conjunction with Uisce Éireann to promote and facilitate the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure, to ensure that land is effectively serviced and ensure that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with new development in accordance with the Implementation and Delivery Schedule (Section 10.2 refers).	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to working with Uisce Éireann to promote and facilitate the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
IEO 1.2 Ensure that surface run-off does not discharge to the existing wastewater treatment infrastructure in order to protect the integrity of the wastewater infrastructure.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud’s Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 1.3 Support Uisce Éireann in addressing the issues relating to the Scrowland Water Treatment Plant and any other issues identified on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Quarterly Remedial Action Lists.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting Uisce Éireann in addressing the issues relating to the Scrowland Water Treatment Plant, rather than KCC facilitating the development of such, no	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.			would consider AA Screening at project level.
IEO 2.1 Protect surface waterbodies and groundwater aquifers from deterioration and maintain, or where necessary, improve their quality over the period of the Plan and beyond.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 2.2 Incorporate Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) as part of all plans and projects in the plan area. Proposals for new development shall align with Map 10.1 Infrastructure and Environmental Services – Surface Water Management Strategy and the Kildare County Council Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance Document 2024.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 2.3 Ensure areas indicated as Nature-Based Management Areas (NBMA) on Map 10.1 are reserved free from development and integrated into design proposals for nature-based surface water drainage purposes.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 2.4 Pursue opportunities to divert untreated surface water away from discharging into either the River Liffey or the groundwater area which feeds Pollardstown Fen, subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA).	As this objective will ensure project level AA will be carried out prior to the commencement of any development, no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 2.5 Support Uisce Éireann’s Surface Water Separation programme to alleviate system surcharge and facilitate additional foul network capacity.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting Uisce Éireann’s Surface Water Separation, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
IEO 3.1 Manage flood risk in Newbridge in conjunction with the Office of Public Works, and in accordance with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
IEO 3.2 Ensure development proposals within the areas where Kildare County Council have applied a Justification Test and where residual flood risk remains as outlined on Map 10.2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment are the subject of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 3.3 Maintain all existing overland flow routes.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 3.4 Support and co-operate with the Office of Public Works in progressing the development of a Flood Relief Scheme for Newbridge which may include physical works, such as a series of hard defences (flood embankments and walls), new or upgraded trash and works to improve channel conveyance including dredging 90m of the Liffey tributary and upgrading two culverts.	For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting the Office of Public Works in progressing the development of a Flood Relief Scheme for Newbridge, rather than facilitating development, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective. Further, no LSE due to the embedded protective measure within the draft objective which would consider AA Screening at project level.
IEO 4.1 Support the statutory providers of electricity and gas infrastructure by safeguarding existing infrastructure and strategic corridors from encroachment by development that might compromise the operation, maintenance and provision of energy networks.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 4.2 Support and facilitate the provision of telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband services in Newbridge, subject to safety and amenity requirements.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 4.3 Engage with EirGrid, ESB Networks and telecommunications providers in relation to the rationalisation of transmission and telecommunications infrastructure and/or underground routing of all electricity, telephone, broadband and television cables within the Built-Up Footprint.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.

Proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029; Inclusion of a Settlement Plan for Newbridge	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
IEO 4.4 Promote and encourage micro-generation on existing and proposed building stock, including solar, photovoltaic, wind, hydro and other renewable energy technologies.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
IEO 5.1 Maintain existing recycling facilities and secure the provision of additional universally accessible facilities, in conjunction with new development as required, in particular at the lands designated as Neighbourhood Centre.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 5.2 Support the development of a green waste composting site in Newbridge for use by local community groups for the sustainable disposal of green waste at appropriate locations.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies in the CDP which ensure that project level AA will be carried out for all development occurring in proximity to European sites.
IEO 5.3 Support local schools and community groups such as Newbridge Tidy Towns through education and awareness programmes and where available, through the provision of grant aid.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.



**Proposed Variation No. 2: (Newbridge 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 177U of the Planning and  
Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening determination has been made by Kildare County Council regarding the Proposed Variation No. 2: Newbridge Settlement Plan of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied).

Having regard to the contents of the Proposed Variation No. 2: Newbridge Settlement Plan, 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. 2 of 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 the Proposed Variation 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 analysis prepared by ARUP, in addition to the Proposed Variation No. 2: Newbridge Settlement Plan 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 177U of the Planning and Development 2000 (as amended), taking into account all matters relevant it has been determined that the Proposed Variation No. 2 of 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.

Signed: ,

**Alan Dunney**

Director of Service - Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency  
Services

**Signatory (Approved Officer):**

**Date 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2025**

**Kildare County Council**

## Variation No. 2 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)

Appropriate Assessment Screening Addendum

Reference: 307619-00

Issue | 16 December 2025

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 307619-00

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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 Part 1: Small Towns and Environs Plans and Part 2: Villages Plans and Rural Settlements provides a coherent planning framework for the small towns, environs of Ladytown and Blessington, villages, and rural settlements across the county. The Strategy includes land use zoning maps and specific objectives which are underpinned by the strategic vision and the overarching guiding principles of the Kildare CDP.

In March 2025, the first variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 was adopted, the purpose of which was to incorporate a land use plan for the town of Kilcullen into the Kildare CDP 2023-2029. The first variation set out a planning framework for Kilcullen, in the form of a ‘Settlement Plan.’

KCC is currently preparing a second Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). The purpose of the proposed second Variation is to incorporate a land use plan for the town of Newbridge into Volume 2 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). This will ensure that a planning framework is in place for Newbridge, in the form of a ‘Settlement Plan.’

Arup was commissioned by KCC to prepare a report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening with regards to the proposed second Variation. 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 second Variation likewise determined that no AA is required in relation to the proposed second Variation.

Pursuant to Planning & Development Act 2024, Part 6 Chapter 2 Appropriate Assessment of Plans), KCC have prepared Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed second Variation. 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 proposed Material Alterations 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 second Variation. All mitigation measures proposed as part of the SEA Environmental Report and NIS of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) (CDP) will be applied to all Proposed Material Alterations, to minimize any potential for environmental impacts

## 2. AA Screening of the Proposed Material Alterations

The Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the Proposed Variation No.2 provides new objectives, text amendments and text removal in addition to amendments to maps contained within the proposed Variation No.2 (Newbridge Settlement Plan). 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. 2. The PMAs have been reviewed for sources of impact and pathways for effect.

**Table 2.1 AA Screening of PMAs**

Material Alteration Reference	Proposed Material Alteration Summary (Refer to Chief Executives Report for full detail on each PMA)	Potential Source of Impacts	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE (Likely Significant Effects?)
PMA 1	Text amendments to the estimated residential yield of sites in Table 3.7 (Estimated Residential Development Capacity)	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor amendments in housing delivery	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 2	Text Amendments: Residential unit delivery to be in tandem with the Newbridge Southern Ring Road; vehicular access via NSRR to be constructed in tandem with phased development.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 3	Text Amendments: Updates derelict site references in Newbridge Town Centre.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 4	<b>Objective Inserted: Support the implementation of a public realm strategy for Newbridge, as part of the Town Renewal Masterplan to incorporate a bespoke materials palette, including for pavement, signage (including wayfinding) and street furniture which will complement and enhance the natural and built environment.</b>	No- For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting this initiative only.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 5	<b>Objective Inserted: Support and facilitate the delivery of enhanced pedestrian access to the Courtyard</b>	Yes, potential for changes in water quality, or to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's	Potential for LSE does not exist considering

	<b>Shopping Centre from Military Road and the pedestrian area between the Whitewater Shopping Centre and Military Road.</b>	This objective aligns with provisions UD O1, TM O7, TM A20, and TM P9 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing CDP and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA.	connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	the embedded protective policies and mitigation measures set out in the existing CDP and associated AA.
PMA 6	Text Amendments: Urban Design Framework—flexibility in design, alternative proposals for opportunity sites, passive surveillance, permeability.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 7	Text Amendments: Residential development to south, pocket park/civic space and Primary Care Centre to north; map annotation updates.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 8	Text Amendments: Regeneration of Site 2 (Machinery Yard) is critical; Primary Care Centre location flexibility; alternative community use if not located in Site 2; details for Sites 3–7.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 9	Text Amendments: Objective TCO 3.2—require universally designed, connected network of streets and spaces prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 10	<b>Objective Inserted: Engage with the key stakeholders in relation to the implementation of the Water Tower Park as per the indicative layout detailed under Figure 4.10 Urban Design Framework for the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site.</b>	No- For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to engagement only	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 11	<b>Objective Inserted: Deliver a public swimming pool as part of the overall redevelopment of the former Machinery Yard site (in the ownership of Kildare County</b>	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement, changes in	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud’s Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies and mitigation measures set out

	<b>Council) as part of the Central Newbridge Settlement Consolidated Site. If not feasible, consider lands to the east in the Newbridge North Key Development Area (KDA) for a swimming pool.</b>	water quality, or to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities  This objective aligns with provisions of SC O28 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing CDP and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA.	land in proximity to European Sites.		in the existing CDP and associated AA.
PMA 12	Text Amendments: Insert additional pedestrian links (shown in yellow) on Urban Design Framework map.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 13	<b>Objective Inserted: Support, where appropriate, Into Kildare and Fáilte Ireland in the development of a tourist information centre within the town centre.</b>	No- For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting these organisations only.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 14	Text Amendments: Support the provision of supported living accommodation for young adults, residential care for older people, redevelopment of Liffey Lodge, and development of lands for elderly housing/nursing home.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 15	Text Amendments: Extend and develop linear park along River Liffey for recreation, water sports, and angling, with habitat protection.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 16	Text Amendments: Investigate feasibility of accessible dog park, pump track, and cricket pitch within Open Space and Amenity lands.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 17	Text Amendments: Facilitate sports clubs and multi-use sports facilities, including swimming pool, on various Open Space and Amenity zoned lands; seek funding for sports facilities.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 18	<b>Objective and site-specific objective Inserted: Support the provision of a universally designed natural</b>	No- For the purposes of this assessment it is assumed that this relates to design specification and considerations only	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are

	<b>playground within lands zoned ‘F (4): Open Space and Amenity’ at Roseberry/Rosconnell, having full regard to the sensitivities of the wet grassland habitat as illustrated on Map V2-N:9.1</b>				anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 19	<b>Objective Inserted: Support the development of a dedicated new Youth Centre on Athgarvan Road that provides a safe, inclusive and accessible environment for young people to learn, connect and grow.</b>	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement, changes in water quality, or to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities  This objective aligns with provisions of SC O28 and SC O29 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing CDP and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA.	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud’s Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 20	Text Amendments: Support and facilitate extension of St. Conleth’s Cemetery, including investigation of water table levels.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 21	Text Amendments: Insert modal split statistics and support for cycling aspiration in line with National Cycle Policy Framework.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 22	Text Amendments: Support and facilitate implementation of walking and cycling measures, nature-based solutions, and compliance with planning guidelines on national roads.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 23	Text Amendments: Best practice for segregated pedestrian/cycle paths per DMURS.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 24	Text Amendments: Remove Walk 2 from walking measures and maps.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are

					anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 25	Text Amendments: Amend walking measures and delivery timeframes; remove certain greenway and quietway proposals.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 26	<b>Objective Inserted: Support and facilitate a safe, signalised or raised pedestrian crossing at Barretstown Lawns.</b>	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 27	Text Amendments: Amend public transport measures and delivery timeframes; design and deliver Newbridge town bus service with universal access.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 28	Text Amendments: Engage with Iarnród Éireann for greenways and ensure future rail provision is not hindered. <b>Objective Inserted: Support and facilitate Iarnród Éireann in expanding the rail line in line with the All-Island Strategic Rail Review which includes the provision of a four-track rail line in Newbridge as part of the wider rail network.</b>	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction or operational activities  This objective aligns with provisions, TM O33, TM O50, TM O52, TM O60, TM O90 and TM O97 in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing CDP and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA	Hydrological connectivity, geohydrological connectivity and functionally linked land in proximity to European Sites.	Pollardstown Fen SAC, Moud's Bog SAC and Wicklow SAC.	Potential for LSE does not exist considering the embedded protective policies and mitigation measures set out in the existing CDP and associated AA.  It is also noted that the All Island Strategic Rail Review was subject to SEA and AA.
PMA 29	Text Amendments: Amend bus service network proposals and objectives.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 30	Text Amendments: Support further development of Newbridge Train Station, including changing place toilet.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA

PMA 31	Text Amendments: Prioritise sustainable travel modes over new roads; integrate roads with active travel and public transport strategies.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 32	Text Amendments: Amend road and parking objectives, compliance with DMURS, measures in the GDA Transport Strategy and nature-based solutions.	No—PMA relates to minor modifications made to an existing objective that do not alter the overall meaning or context of that objective.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 33	Text Amendments: Amend road connection delivery timeframe (Ballymany Rd to Green Road).	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 34	Text Amendments: Amend car parking measures; discourage large-scale surface parking except in exceptional circumstances.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 35	<b>Objective Inserted: Undertake an assessment of the Watering Gates, the Reading/Recreation Room on the Bord na Móna site and the Pinkeen Bridge, to consider the merit in adding the structure(s) to the Record of Protected Structures.</b>	No- for the purposes of this assessment it is considered that this objective relates to the undertaking of the assessment only.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 36	<b>Objective Inserted: Support Uisce Éireann in addressing maintenance issues relating to public sewer network in the Dara Park area.</b>	No- For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to supporting Uisce Éireann only.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 37	<b>Objective Inserted: Consult with Uisce Éireann and ESB prior to significant public realm works or development within the Newbridge Central Settlement Consolidation Site.</b>	No- For the purposes of this assessment, it is considered that this objective relates to consulting with Uisce Éireann only.	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 38	Text Amendment: Ensure areas indicated as Nature-Based Management Areas (NBMAs) are reserved free from development and integrated into design proposals for nature-based surface water drainage purposes subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA)	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	No

	screening and where applicable Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.				
PMA 39	Text Amendments: Flood risk mapping subject to change; planning applications must consider latest flood information.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 40	Text Amendments: Amend Greatconnell KDA Design Brief—site area, built form, flood risk assessment, public open space provision.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 41	Text Amendments: Public open space on F-zoned lands at the Greatconnell KDA may contribute to 15% site area provision if well located and usable.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 42	Text Amendments: Amend surface water drainage requirements for new development.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 43	Text Amendments: Amend infrastructure and delivery schedules for New Residential Phase 2 lands.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 44	Text Amendments: Amend land use zoning objectives for Enterprise and Employment.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 45	Text Amendments: Insert additional ‘Strategic Reserve (Residential and Community)’ use in zoning objectives.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 46	Text Amendments: Insert Zoning Matrix—Definition of Terms table.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 47	Text Amendments: Amend Land Use Zoning Matrix—community facilities/sports buildings permissible in Leisure and Tourism zone; add footnote.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA

<sup>1</sup> PMA 64	Text Amendments: Amend Ladytown Environs zoning objective for agricultural uses.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA
PMA 65	Text Amendments: Amend SFRA text and tables for flood risk assessment and justification tests.	No potential impacts anticipated arising from this PMA- relates to minor text amendments	No connectivity.	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential impacts are anticipated to arise from this PMA

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Map amendments are excluded from this assessment. Any proposed changes to land-use zonings are considered to be inherent in the proposed objectives, which have been assessed. All mitigation measures proposed as part of the SEA Environmental Report and NIS of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) (CDP) will be applied to all proposed Material Alterations, to minimise any potential for environmental impacts

### 3. Conclusion

A series of Proposed Material Alterations has been put forward to the Proposed Variation No.2 – Newbridge Settlement Plan of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied). A Screening for AA has been carried out in line with Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 in line with the methodology carried out in the Screening for AA of the Proposed Variation No 2. It is recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the Screening for AA of the Proposed Variation No.2. 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 Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation No.2 – Newbridge Settlement Plan of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) do not require an Appropriate Assessment.



## Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)

### Determination

#### **Under the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) for the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2: (Newbridge Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied)**

At a Special Meeting of Kildare County Council on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025, it was resolved to alter the Proposed Variation No. 2: (Newbridge Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied) and that these alterations constitute a material alteration to the Proposed Variation.

Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 requires a determination to be made as to whether the Proposed Material Alteration to the Proposed Variation No. 2 warrant the undertaking of AA.

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination is being made by Kildare County Council regarding the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation No. 2: (Newbridge Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied).

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report concludes that the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2: (Newbridge Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects will not give rise to likely significant effects and there is, therefore, no potential for adverse effects on the integrity on any European sites of the Natura 2000 network, in view of their Conservation Objectives.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above, agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines, pursuant to Section 202(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

This decision has been informed by the Proposed Material Alterations, the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report of the Proposed Material Alterations, and the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report of the Proposed Variation No. 2 (Newbridge Settlement Plan).

Signed: 

Alan Dunney

Director of Service - Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Date 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2026