

Kildare County Council

Naas Local Area Plan 2021 - 2027

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

278388-00

Issue 1 | 8 March 2021

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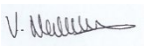


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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Kildare County Council (KCC) has prepared the Naas Local Area Plan (referred to hereinafter as the ‘Plan’ or the ‘LAP’) for the period 2021 - 2027. The LAP will set out the strategic land use and planning policy guidance for Naas for the six-year period between 2021-2027.

Arup has been appointed by KCC to prepare the relevant Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) Appropriate Assessment (AA) documentation, relative to the Plan, which will allow KCC, as the competent authority, to undertake SEA and AA of the Plan. This ‘AA Screening Report’ presents the assessment of the likely significant effects, if any, on designated European Sites as a result of the implementation of the draft LAP.

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

This AA Screening Report provides information to KCC, as the competent authority, to make a determination as to whether likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites arising as a result of the Plan can be excluded or screened out. This report provides a documented record of the screening of the proposed LAP.

1.2 The Requirement for Habitats Directive Assessment

HDA, also known as AA, is a requirement under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Habitats Directive indicates the need for plans and projects to be subject to AA if the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but is likely to have a significant effect either individually or in combination with other plans or projects on European sites.

1.3 The Purpose of Appropriate Assessment

The purpose of AA is to identify the possible effects of implementing a plan (or project) on the conservation status of designated European sites within the sphere of influence of the plan (or project).

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Habitats Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of interest to the EU in a favourable

condition. The Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997.

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive an AA must be undertaken for any plan or project that is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a European site. Article 6 paragraph 3 states:

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

Therefore, an AA is an evaluation of the potential impacts of a plan/project on the conservation objectives of a European site, and the development, where necessary, of mitigation or avoidance measures to preclude adverse effects. In a situation where it is not possible to fully demonstrate that adverse effects on the site integrity would occur, options must be explored so that any risk of damaging designated sites is avoided.

Plans can only be adopted after having ascertained that there will be no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the sites in question. Components within a plan, such as policies and objectives, can be adjusted or removed to avoid significant adverse impacts prior to implementation. The plan may also proceed if sufficient mitigation or compensation measures are in place to ensure the overall integrity of the European site.

1.4 Habitats Directive Assessment Process in relation to the Preparation of the Naas LAP

In the preparation of this report to inform AA by the competent authority the following documents have been reviewed:

- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) Circular letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 dated 15 February 2008.
- *"Managing European sites- The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC"* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2018).
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting European sites: Methodical Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001).
- *Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* (European Commission, 2007).

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10.
- *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).
- *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Version 1.1, updated September 2019.

This screening report is based on available ecological information and an adequate description of the plan and its likely environmental effects. It also takes into account any policies or proposals that will set the terms for future development. The results of the screening are recorded and will be made available to the public.

In any case where, following screening, it is found that the LAP may have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a European site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach a Stage 2 AA of the LAP must be carried out.

When the results of the Stage 2 AA under Article 6(3) are negative or uncertain then the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive apply. That is:

- The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site; and,
- Doubts remain as to the absence of adverse effects on the integrity of the site linked to the plan or project concerned.

The European Commission's Methodological Guidance recommends a four-stage approach to AA (Figure 1).

There are a number of methodologies in use for the characterisation and assessment of potential impacts and effects. This assessment broadly follows the approach specified by the professional association for ecologists, the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), which encourages a case by case assessment and description of impacts rather than relying on a strictly defined set of characters. This acknowledges the variation in the effects of impacts depending on the receptors involved. Guidance highlights the iterative nature of the assessment process:

“As with other forms of impact assessment, the AA process is an iterative one and the information gathered in respect of Natura 2000 sites, their conservation objectives, environmental sensitivities and existing environmental problems, should be used to guide the policies and objectives of the plan and to avoid impacts on the sites” (DoEHLG, 2010). Where later work has allowed a clear and unambiguous screening out of an impact, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, the screening section has been revised to account for this.

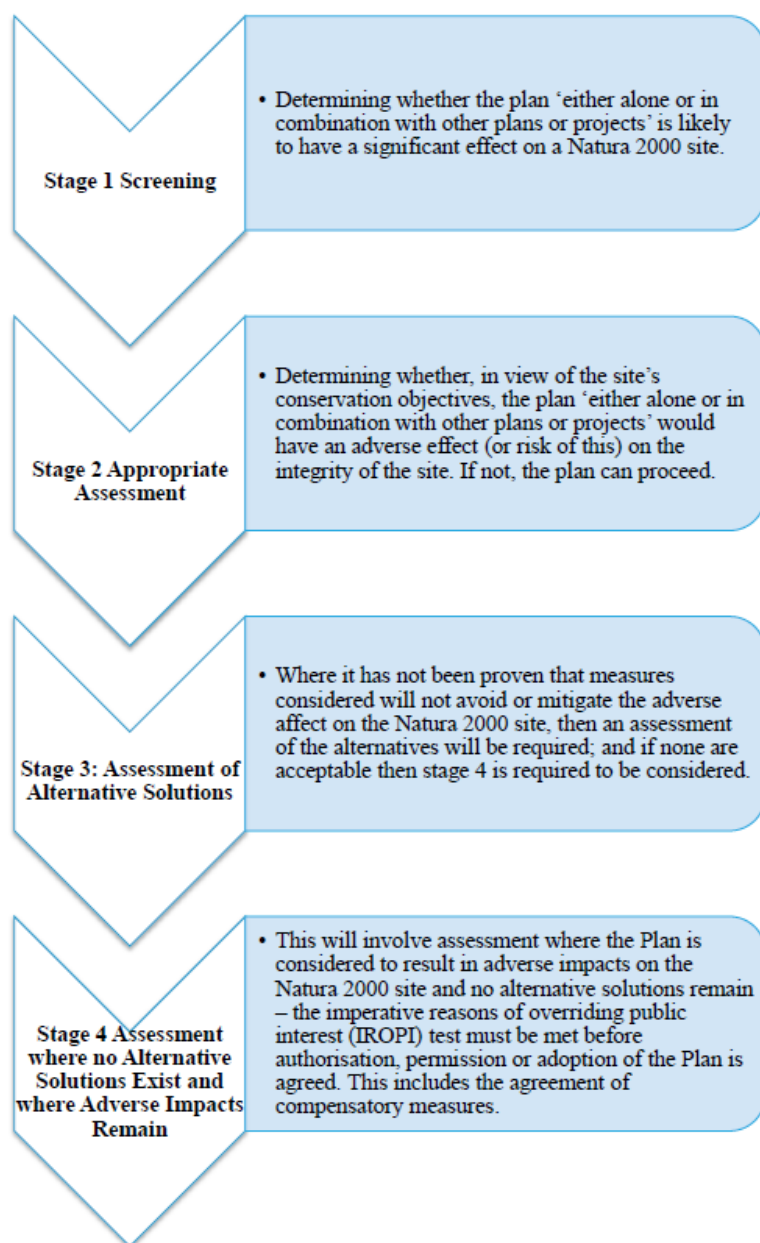


Figure 1: Four-stage approach to AA.

1.5 Overview of Stage One Screening

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

- 1) determine whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site. If it is, then no further assessment is necessary;

- 2) describe the plan and other plans and projects that, ‘in combination’, have the potential to have significant effects on a European site;
- 3) identify the potential effects on the European site; and
- 4) assess the significance of any effects on the European site.

The key to deciding if an AA of a plan would be required is determined by an assessment of whether the plan and its policies and objectives are likely to have a significant effect on a European site. The decision should not be determined by the size of the plan area alone. It will also be influenced by the nature and extent of the development likely to be proposed in the plan, and the plan area’s *in situ*, *ex situ* and in combination relationship to adjoining European sites and the wider European network.

When screening the plan and its policies and objectives there are two possible outcomes:

- the plan poses no risk of a significant effect and as such requires no further assessment; or
- the plan has potential to have a significant effect (or this is uncertain) and AA of the plan is necessary.

Screening can be used to establish which policies and objectives have potential to have significant effects, and therefore the ones that require further attention at the AA stage.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “Conservation Objectives”, “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/ or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive.

It is also vital that the threats to the ecological/environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives have been designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat or species at that site. According to the European Commission interpretation document ‘Managing European sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC’, paragraph 4.6(3) states:

“The integrity of a site involves its ecological functions. The decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on and be limited to the site’s conservation objectives.”

The screening stage of the AA takes account of the elements as relevant with regard to the details and characteristics of the LAP to determine if potential for significant effects on European sites are likely.

1.6 Appropriate Assessment Process in Tandem with LAP progression

As the LAP is progressed through the plan making process, the AA process will be continued by the competent authority, KCC, in tandem and will inform the decision-making process in terms of any likely significant impacts arising from the LAP on European sites.

This report contains the findings of the screening assessment which was carried out on the draft Naas LAP 2021-2027. It also contains recommendations for modifications to objectives and/or policies where applicable to prevent any risk of impact to all Natura 2000 sites arising from implementation of the plan.

1.7 Data Sources

This AA screening report of Naas LAP 2021-2027 for potential significant effects on a European site is based on a review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. Information relied upon from the following information sources, which includes maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Google aerial photography (viewed in November 2020);
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography¹;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) online data on European sites and on protected flora and fauna²;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland³;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre⁴;
- Information on environmental quality data available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)⁵; **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area⁶;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023⁷;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 Natura Impact Report⁸; and

¹ Available at www.osi.ie. Accessed February 2021.

² Available at www.npws.ie. Accessed February 2021.

³ NPWS (2019). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill.

⁴ Available at <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>. Accessed February 2021.

⁵ EPA Online Environmental Map Viewer available at <http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/spatial/webmapping/>. Accessed February 2021.

⁶ Available at www.gsi.ie. Accessed February 2021.

⁷ Kildare County Council Planning Department (2020) *Variation (No. 1) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 -2023*.

⁸ CAAS Ltd. (2016) Natura Impact Report in Support of the Appropriate Assessment of the Proposed Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. Report for KCC.

- Ecological reports and EIS/EIAR reports for proposed developments within the LAP boundary.⁹

1.8 Consultation

The LAP and this AA Screening Report for the plan will be placed on public display and will be referred to Government Departments and other statutory consultees for consideration during the consultation process. Submissions will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final plan and accompanying final Appropriate Assessment reporting.

⁹ Available at <http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/public/planningsearch/171>. Accessed February 2021.

2 Naas Local Area Plan and other Plans and Projects

2.1 Introduction

The LAP is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site, therefore this report moves directly onto the second step of the Stage One Screening process.

Detailed below is the second step of the Stage One Screening process which provides a description of the plan and other plans and projects that, 'in combination', have the potential to have significant effects on a European site.

2.2 Description of the Draft Naas LAP 2021-2027

2.2.1 Introduction

The draft LAP provides the main public statement of planning policies and objectives for Naas. The policies and objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development as the LAP is the primary statutory land use policy framework against which planning applications are assessed.

The objectives of the LAP are also used by KCC to guide their activities and to indicate priority areas for action and investment such as focusing on attracting employment into the town or enhancing the town as a centre for tourism.

The LAP is a key document for setting out a vision for how Naas should develop over the years 2021-2027 and beyond. The Draft LAP is consistent with the objectives set out in the following documents:

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework.¹⁰
- Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031.¹¹
- The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022.¹²
- Greater Dublin Area Transportation Study 2016-2035.¹³
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied).⁷
- Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021.¹⁴

¹⁰ National Planning Framework publications available at: <https://npf.ie/>. February 2021.

¹¹ Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (2019) *Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031*.

¹² Regional Planning Guidelines Office, Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities (2010) *Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022*.

¹³ National Transport Authority (2016) *Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035*.

¹⁴ Kildare Local Community Development Committee (2016) *Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021*.

- County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025.¹⁵
- County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014.¹⁶

2.2.2 Vision and Development Strategy

A key aim of any LAP is to set out the vision and development strategy for the future development of the plan area and from this vision, all policies and objectives can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this vision.

The vision and development strategy for the Draft LAP must be consistent with the ‘Core Strategy’ of the County Development Plan and reflect the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of the plan area.

The Draft LAP sets out a vision for the future development of the plan area, in accordance with the County Development Plan. All policies and objectives outlined in the LAP can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this vision. The vision for Naas over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond is:

“To ensure that the growth planned for the town up to 2031 and beyond occurs in a sustainable and sequential manner, while prioritising a low carbon, compact, consolidated and connected pattern of development.

To develop Naas as a vibrant and culturally rich town supported by an inclusive sustainable all-of-life residential community.

To create a distinct sense of place and community in which people will continue to choose to live, work, do business and visit. Movement, connectivity and permeability to key destinations within the town and wider region will be prioritised and a greater emphasis on safe active transport routes and an enhanced public transport network.

To deliver and facilitate the regeneration and redevelopment of Core Regeneration Areas in tandem with a radically improved public realm and rejuvenated town centre while having regard to and optimising the heritage assets of the town.

Through the realisation of a shared civic vision Naas will undergo expansion of growth within the designated ‘New Residential’ areas, and future strategic expansion of a low carbon urban district towards the Northwest Quadrant (NWQ) to 2031. Development of the NWQ into the future will comprise of a clear emphasis on linking the town centre to the NWQ lands and Sallins Train Station, in particular harnessing the potential of the canal greenway, developing key transport modes, community facilities and amenities and delivering a high quality and connected employment quarter with diverse residential and amenity areas.”

¹⁵ Kildare County Council (2019) *County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025: A partnership plan prepared by the County Kildare Heritage Forum.*

¹⁶ Kildare County Council (2014) *County Kildare Biodiversity Plan: Action to enhance our living environment 2009-2014.*

The strategic vision of the Draft LAP is intended to guide the future growth of Naas in a sustainable manner, in a way that reflects the existing character and amenities of the area, the surrounding landscape, heritage and environment and improves the quality of life for the existing and future community. There are seven core themes guiding the plan:

- 1) Town Centre Regeneration.
- 2) Economic Development.
- 3) Urban Design.
- 4) Sustainable Movement.
- 5) Homes and Communities.
- 6) Heritage and Culture.
- 7) Environment and Climate Change.

2.2.3 LAP Development Strategy

The Regeneration and Urban Development Strategy for Naas seeks to ensure that planned growth for the town occurs in a sustainable and sequential manner while prioritising a low carbon, compact, consolidated and connected pattern of development in order to realise a vibrant and regenerated town centre. This should result in a prosperous, enterprising, dynamic and green economy; supported by an inclusive and age friendly community.

The Draft LAP provides for a greater level of focus in directing and shaping the future growth of Naas, guided by the 2Vision for Naas 2031 and Beyond , as outlined in Section 2.3, as well as new and emerging planning policy at national and regional levels. The main principles guiding the physical development of the town include:

- Town Centre Regeneration: To realise the potential and grow the economic activity, whilst promoting a high-quality town centre experience.
- Sustainable Movement: The Plan seeks to develop and encourage more sustainable modes including walking, cycling and public transport and to reduce the existing over-reliance on the private car within the town centre in particular.
- Implementation and Monitoring: KCC will seek to actively implement the LAP and progress the vision during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond. Chapter 11, Land Use Zoning Objectives and Implementation, details the specific focus areas for implementation. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) which have informed policies and objectives will also be monitored.

2.3 In-combination/Cumulative Effects with other Plans and Projects

Other plans and projects within the Kildare/Greater Dublin Area which have the potential for cumulative effects in association with the Naas LAP are considered below.

It is considered extremely unlikely that significant in-combination or cumulative effects arising from in-combination/cumulative effects with other plans or projects could arise as each plan or project has either been subject to the AA process or provides for biodiversity protection i.e. County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025¹⁵ and County Kildare Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014¹⁶. Each Stage 2 AA or Stage 1 AA Screening concluded that significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from the plan or project in question were considered extremely unlikely.

2.3.1 Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016

The purpose of the retail strategy is to guide the activities and policies for retail planning across the seven Councils which make up the Greater Dublin Area.¹⁷ The Strategy sets out a series of policy recommendations which draw on quantitative analysis undertaken as part of the review, examining existing market pattern expenditure and future growth projections. By setting out a strategic framework for retail, the Strategy gives guidance on where future retail should be provided and what issues need to be addressed.

No publicly available data suggests that this Strategy has undergone AA however the retail strategy sits under the RPGs for the Greater Dublin Area which was subject to AA, and which, through mitigation, placed emphasis on the protection of European sites during the preparation of plans and projects arising from implementation of the RPGs.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

2.3.2 Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2016-2035

The Transport Strategy provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services in the Greater Dublin Area for the next two decades.¹³

The strategy has undergone an AA and mitigatory measures have been recommended and incorporated into the text.¹⁸ Mitigation measures include those specifically to protect biodiversity including European sites, protection of riparian zone and waterbodies and watercourses and soil protection and contamination. All

¹⁷ Regional Planning Guidelines Office, Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities (2008) *Retail strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016*.

¹⁸ CAAS Ltd. (2015) *Natura Impact Report in Support of the Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035*. Report for the National Transport Authority.

projects and plans arising from the strategy will be screened for the need to undertake AA under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

2.3.3 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021

The second River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) outlines the new approach that Ireland will take as it works to protect its rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters over the period 2018 to 2021.¹⁹ The Government is now planning on the basis that Ireland is defined as a single River Basin District replacing the Eastern, South Eastern, South Western, Western and Shannon River Basin Districts which are merged to form one national River Basin District.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was prepared to inform an AA of the Draft RBMP.²⁰ Mitigation measures and recommendations were proposed for the final RBMP, to further improve actions contained within the plan and to address potential negative effects identified during the assessment. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), as the competent authority for the RBMP, concluded that the Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site with the implementation of those measures identified within the report.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

2.3.4 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2031

In October 2018, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) prepared a draft RSES for the whole of the Eastern and Midland Region for the period 2019-2031, as required under section 24(4) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018.²¹ The Draft RSES identified regional assets, opportunities and pressures, and provided appropriate policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives. A period of public consultation on the Draft RSES was undertaken, ending on 23 January 2019. Elected members of EMRA considered the submissions received during the public consultation of the draft RSES and proposed a series of material amendments to the draft RSES.

The elected members of EMRA agreed to adopt the RSES 2019-2031, on 28 June 2019.¹¹ The RSES provides a framework for investment to better manage spatial planning and economic development throughout the Region.

¹⁹ Government of Ireland (2018) *River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021*. Report prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

²⁰ Government of Ireland (2018) *River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021* Natura Impact Statement. Report prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

²¹ Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (2018) *Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy*.

The RSES provides a:

- Spatial Strategy – to manage future growth and ensure the creation of healthy and attractive places to live, work, study, visit and invest in.
- Economic Strategy – that builds on our strengths to sustain a strong economy and support the creation of quality jobs that ensure a good living standard for all.
- Metropolitan Plan – to ensure a supply of strategic development areas for the sustainable growth and continued success and competitiveness of the Dublin Metropolitan Area.
- Investment Framework – to prioritise the delivery of key enabling infrastructure and services by government and state agencies.
- Climate Action Strategy – to accelerate climate action, ensure a clean and healthy environment and to promote sustainable transport and strategic green infrastructure.

The RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region replaces the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) for the Greater Dublin Area.¹² Naas is classified as a Key Town under the RSES, which are defined as “*large economically active service and/or county towns that provide employment for their surrounding areas and with high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as growth drivers to complement the Regional Growth Centres*”. The RSES includes the following Regional Policy Objectives in respect of Naas:

- RPO 4.48: Promote the improvement of the transport network within and serving Naas town, including delivery of a robust and efficient walking, cycling and bus network with strong links to Sallins Railway Station, key destinations within the town and to the Northwest Quadrant and town centre area.
- RPO 4.49: Support the development of the Grand Canal for amenity, recreation and sustainable transport purposes including the Naas to Sallins and Naas to Corbally harbour greenways and linking these to the national Grand Canal Greenway.
- RPO 4.50: Regeneration and consolidation of the historic centre to improve the retail and commercial functions of the town core, with enhanced permeability and sustainable mobility within the town centre and improve links between the core and surrounding residential and employment areas through the further development of walking and cycling routes and improved public transport.
- RPO 4.51: Strengthen the local employment base including through the development of MERITS, Millennium Park in the Northwest Quadrant and the regeneration of underutilised lands including industrial lands in the north east of the town.
- RPO 4.52: Support the delivery of new and enhanced public transport infrastructure in Naas and Sallins, including Park and Ride and interchange facilities as identified by the NTA and Kildare County Council.

- RPO 4.53: Support an enhanced role and function of Naas as the County town of Kildare, particularly as a hub for high quality employment, residential and amenities.

2.3.5 Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023

This Plan has undergone an AA and the report has been published.⁸ The AA concluded that:

“It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of all European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and will reliably mitigate these effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to relevant stages of Appropriate Assessment when further details of design and location are known. Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is considered that the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 is not foreseen to have any likely significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site”.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

2.3.6 County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025

The aim of the County Kildare Heritage Plan is to “*identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county*”.¹⁵

A number of actions within the Heritage Plan aim to raise public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the County’s Heritage and promote best practice. One of the guiding principles of the Plan centres around community and building “*the capacity of communities to engage and participate in heritage initiatives across the county*”. The strategic objectives of the Plan seek to increase understanding of Kildare’s heritage through awareness, education and training, in addition to promoting best practice in the conservation and management of County Kildare’s heritage resource.

An AA Screening of the Plan was undertaken and the findings used to inform the Plan. Overall, it was concluded that the plan would have no significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites and that no further assessment was necessary. The screening of individual projects for appropriate assessment will also be undertaken where appropriate during the implementation of the Plan.

No adverse in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

2.3.7 County Kildare Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014

This Plan has not undergone an AA however it should be noted that it sits under the Kildare County Development Plan which has undergone AA and has placed

emphasis on the protection of European sites. The nature of the Biodiversity Plan is to raise awareness and enhance the protection, conservation and management of County Kildare's natural heritage.¹⁶

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

2.3.8 Sallins Local Area Plan 2016-2022

The Sallins LAP was subject to an AA Screening which concluded that it will not have a significant effect on European sites.²²

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

²² RPS (2015) Sallins Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021: Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

3 Existing Environment

3.1 Background

Lying between the east coast and Ireland's central plain with the Mountains to the south, Kildare has a wealth of natural habitats which support a wide variety of wildlife, mostly distributed throughout the countryside.

Kildare is an inland county. It consists of a low-lying, fertile plain, broken only in a few places by small hills such as the Hill of Allen and Dunmurry Hill, with upland areas mainly on the eastern county boundary. Good agricultural land covers much of the county, interrupted in places by expanses of bog and fen, river and canal networks.

Kildare's wide variety of wildlife habitats including peatlands, grassland, woodland, hedgerows, rivers and canals. Even urban areas support wildlife habitats in parks and green spaces, stone walls and bridges, gardens and hedgerows, and along waterways.

The biodiversity of County Kildare is protected by National and EU legislation (The Wildlife Act (1976 & 2000) and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives) and is also protected by Kildare County Council through policies in the Kildare County Development Plan.⁷

A Biodiversity Action Plan was adopted by Kildare County Council for the 2009-2014 period.¹⁶ The purpose of this document was to provide a framework for the conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage at a local level by translating policies (national and international) and legislation into practical action which serve to raise awareness of and enhance the protection, conservation and management of County Kildare's natural heritage.

3.2 Water quality

The River Liffey is located on the western/north-western periphery of the town of Naas. The most up to date fisheries stock assessment was conducted in 2020 on behalf of the North Kildare Trout & Salmon Anglers Association.²³ A total of five fish species were recorded at Site 1, located downstream of Kilcullen Bridge. Brown trout *Salmo trutta*, was the most abundant species recorded, with moderate numbers of minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus*, and stone loach *Barbatula barbatula*, also present. Lower numbers of salmon *Salmo salar*, and European eel *Anguilla anguilla*, were recorded, in addition to incidental observations of white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, at low densities, primarily along the muddy margins of the west bank.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) required Member States to manage all of their waters to ensure they achieve at least 'good status' by 2015. In line with requirements of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021,

²³ Triturus (2020). *Fisheries assessment of the River Liffey, Co. Kildare*. Unpublished report prepared by Triturus Environmental Ltd. North Kildare Trout & Salmon Anglers Association. December 2020.

ecological sampling is carried out. The overall WFD status of the River Liffey where it flows through Naas, was recorded as “good” for the period from 2013-2018.²⁴

The River Morrell to the east of Naas was recorded as “poor” WFD status for the period 2013-2018, however the status changes to “good” south of the Morrell river station “South Br W of Tipper Ho”.

3.2.1 Hydrogeological Features

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) bedrock aquifer mapping identifies that a majority of the draft LAP area is underlain by a “Locally Important Aquifer – Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones” (Ll aquifer) in the centre portion of the Plan area. To the east of the Plan area is a “Regionally Important Aquifer – Karstified (diffuse)” (Rkd aquifer). The south of Naas is underlain by a “Poor aquifer – Bedrock which is generally unproductive except for Local Zones” (Pl aquifer). The south-east of Naas is underlain by a “Poor aquifer- Bedrock which is generally unproductive” (Pu aquifer).

Ll aquifers have limited and relatively poor connectivity with fractures, joints and fissures, and this leads to a low fissure permeability which subsequently decreases further with depth. The aquifer has a low “recharge acceptance” due to its low permeability and poor storage capacity. Rkd aquifers are characterised by the presence of karstified bedrock. Often karstification results in an uneven distribution of permeability. Distinctive karst landforms such as swallow holes, caves, dry valleys develop at the surface. Pu aquifers have a low fissure permeability which tends to decrease with depth. They consist of poorly connected fractures, fissures and joints. The poor network within the aquifer results in poor storage. Overall, groundwater quality in the plan area is of ‘good status’ and groundwater vulnerability is generally classed as being of ‘moderate’ or ‘high’ vulnerability.

3.2.2 Wastewater Facilities

Naas is served by the Oberstown Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), of the Upper Liffey Sewerage Scheme, which also serves the towns of Newbridge, Kilcullen, Sallins and Kill.

The scheme has recently been expanded and upgraded to provide a treatment capacity of up to 130,000 PE. The upgraded WWTP ensures a sufficient supply of waste water infrastructure to serve new development in the Plan area.

Phases 1 to 7 of pipeline upgrade works have also been completed in Naas and permanent reinstatement will be carried out in these areas in 2021.²⁵

²⁴ WFD data available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>. Accessed February 2021.

²⁵ <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/naas/>. Accessed February 2021.

3.3 Ecological Overview

An overview of the current state of the key ecological aspects for Naas (in relation to the Naas Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027) is summarised in this report.

Urban expansion has been accelerating over recent years as increased development expands into the countryside. The constant encroachment of the built environment on natural habitats will undoubtedly have an impact on natural flora, fauna and biodiversity.

The Kildare County Biodiversity Plan provides a framework for conserving biodiversity and natural heritage at a local level.¹⁶ It complements the Kildare Heritage Plan by including detailed actions to deliver positive outcomes focused on species and habitats.¹⁵

The dominant environments across Kildare County are improved grassland (for agriculture), urban, built land and forest/woodland (mixed and broad leaved) and bog and wetlands. For this reason, it is important to ensure that local biodiversity areas support connectivity within the network, are maintained, and given the opportunity to increase their distribution.

Naas falls into the catchment of the Liffey, with many smaller watercourses flowing through the town. The occurrence of natural vegetation adjacent to these watercourses also makes important contributions in terms of landscape character and ecology/biodiversity.

The Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan also provides an overview of the habitats of County Kildare. There are habitats and features which are of particular importance for biodiversity throughout Naas. These include woodlands, hedgerows, field boundaries, rivers, streams and associated riparian zones, canals, freshwater wetlands, urban parks and gardens.

The three main rivers that flow through Kildare are the Barrow, the Liffey and the Boyne, along with other small rivers and tributaries.

The canal, rivers and streams occurring within Naas provide a network which are home to a variety of habitats and species. The banks (riparian zones) of rivers and streams are particularly important as they contain a range of habitats and species, which are different from the surrounding landscape.

Trees and hedgerows constitute an important natural and historic resource, given their ecological importance as wildlife habitats and historical significance as townland and field boundaries. Naas contains many large trees and groups of trees of considerable heritage value, which enhance the urban fabric of the town.

Kildare is home to several rare, protected and/or threatened plants and animals.

Otters have strong populations in Kildare, particularly along the Barrow and the Liffey. Another keystone species is the white-clawed crayfish, regarded as threatened animal. Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*, butterfly has also been recorded at a number of sites in Kildare, mainly in areas of natural grassland that have been established on cutover peatlands.

3.3.1 Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

There are a range of statutory provisions in force in Ireland to protect, conserve and manage natural heritage, and to control and regulate human activities that may impact upon it negatively. The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is responsible, through the NPWS, for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland.

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Proposed NHAs were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995 but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated.

There is one NHA within 15km of the study area (Table 1). Hodgestown Bog NHA (Site Code 001393) is located to the north west of the Naas LAP boundary. There are 17 proposed Natural Heritage Area's (pNHAs) within 15km of the Plan boundary (Table 1).

Table 1: NHAs and pNHAs within 15km of Naas LAP Boundary.

Site Name Site Code	Site Name Site Code
Hodgestown Bog NHA	001393
Slade of Saggart and Crooksling Glen pNHA	000211
Ballynafagh Bog pNHA	000391
Curragh (Kildare) pNHA	000392
Liffey Valley Meander Belt pNHA	000393
Mouds Bog pNHA	000395
Pollardstown Fen pNHA	000396
Red Bog (Kildare) pNHA	000397
Poulaphouca Reservoir pNHA	000731
Ballynafagh Lake pNHA	001387
Donadea Wood pNHA	001391
Kilteel Wood pNHA	001394
Liffey at Osberstown pNHA	001395
Liffey Bank above Athgraven pNHA	001395
Newtown Marshes pNHA	001759
Dunlavin Marshes pNHA	001772
Grand Canal pNHA	002104

Impacts on NHAs and pNHAs are not assessed within the HRA process, the purpose of which is to assess the potential effects of a plan or project on European designated sites. However, the potential for NHAs and pNHAs to support designated features of a European site is taken into account in the assessment. Impacts on NHAs and pNHAs will be considered within the SEA.

4 Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Sites

4.1 Introduction

The third step of the AA Screening process is to map and tabulate the information available on all Natura 2000 sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI). As part of this, reasons for site designation and environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity will be indicated, where possible. It should be noted that Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) as well as proposed sites awaiting approval – potential SPAs (pSPAs) and candidate SACs (cSACs).

SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union.

SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union.

4.2 Zone of Influence

The ZoI comprises the area within which the plan or project may potentially affect the conservation objectives, QI's, or SCIs of a European site. There is no recommended zone of influence, 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 project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors and the potential for in-combination (cumulative) effects.²⁶ A distance of 15 km is currently recommended in the case of plans.

Thus, the ZoI for the Naas LAP AA is considered to be 15km, illustrated in Figure 2.

European sites are only at risk from significant effects where a source-pathway-receptor link exists between a proposed activity and a European site(s). This can take the form of a direct effect (e.g. where construction works associated with a proposed development are located within the boundary of the European site) or an indirect effect (e.g. activities resulting in changes to water quality, which can affect riparian habitats at a distance from the impact source). Consideration is therefore given to the source-pathway-receptor linkage and associated risks between the policies within the LAP and any European site.

²⁶ Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf. Accessed February 2021.

4.3 Identification and Consideration of Natura 2000 Sites

There are no SACs or SPAs within the LAP boundary. However, there are six SACs and two SPAs within 15km of the Plan area which are of relevance to the preparation of the draft Plan. These include:

Table 2: Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Naas LAP boundary.

Site Name	Site Code	Distance to LAP (km)
Mouds Bog SAC	002331	5.0
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	000397	6.2
Ballynafagh Lake SAC	001387	7.2
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	000391	8.2
Pollardstown Fen SAC	000396	8.0
Wicklow Mountains SAC	002122	10.4
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	004063	7.0
Wicklow Mountains SPA	004040	13.2

Natura 2000 sites (in addition to NHAs and pNHAs) within 15km of the Naas LAP boundary are shown in Figure 2.

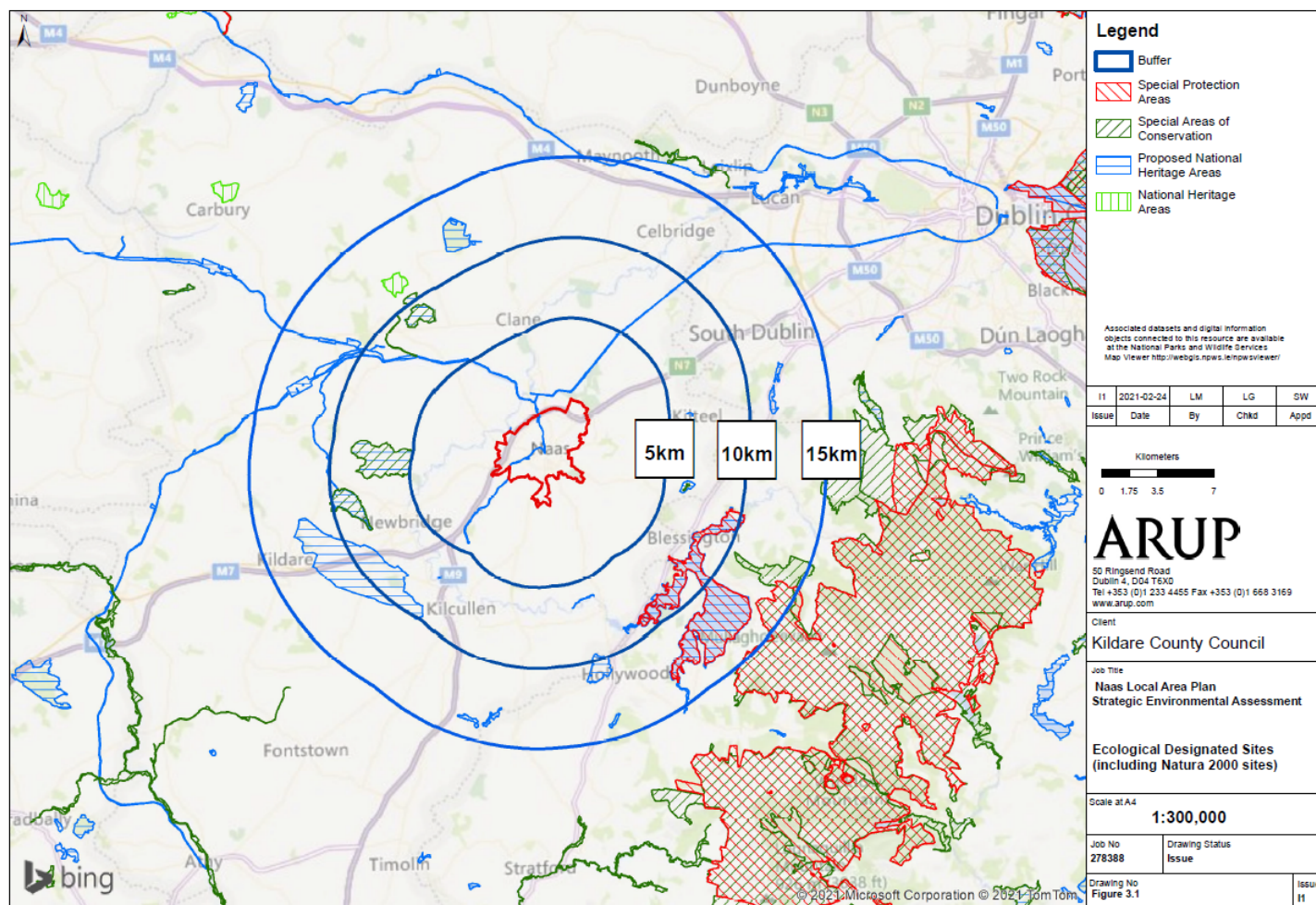


Figure 2: Designated sites within 15km of Naas LAP boundary.

A brief summary of each of the European designated sites is provided in Table 3. This text is taken from the NPWS Site Synopses.²⁷

Table 3: Summary of European Designated Sites.

Mouds Bog SAC (002331)
Mouds Bog is located about 3 km north-west of Newbridge in Co. Kildare, close to the Hill of Allen, and includes amongst others, the townlands of Grangehiggin, Barretstown and Hawkfield. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. Much of the margins of the site are bounded by trackways. The site is a SAC selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes): [7110] Raised Bog (Active)* [7120] Degraded Raised Bog [7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation
Red Bog, Kildare SAC (000397)
Red Bog, Kildare is located 3 km north of the village of Blessington in east Co. Kildare, close to the boundary with Co. Wicklow. It comprises a wetland complex of lake, fen and bog situated in a hollow between ridges of glacially-deposited material and underlain by rocks of Ordovician age. The site is a SAC selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes): [7140] Transition Mires
Ballynafagh Lake SAC (001387)
Ballynafagh Lake is located about 2 km north-west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. It is a shallow alkaline lake with some emergent vegetation. The Blackwood Feeder, which connects Ballynafagh Lake to the Grand Canal, is also included in the site. The site is a SAC selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes): [7230] Alkaline Fens [1016] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1065] Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)
Ballynafagh Bog SAC (000391)
This site is a raised bog situated about 1 km west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. The area is directly underlain by muddy, fossiliferous limestones, interbedded with calcareous shales. The subsoils are predominantly clay-rich tills. All are of low permeability. The site comprises a relatively small core of uncut high bog (approx. 70 ha), which is surrounded by a more extensive area of cutover bog (approx. 90 ha). The high bog area can be divided into a wet core of active bog which covers an area of 23 ha, surrounded by approximately 44 ha of degraded raised bog which is experiencing drying-out at present. The site is a SAC selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes): [7110] Raised Bog (Active)* [7120] Degraded Raised Bog [7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation
Pollardstown Fen SAC (000396)
Pollardstown Fen is situated on the northern margin of the Curragh of Kildare, approximately 3 km north-west of Newbridge. It lies in a shallow depression, running in a north-west/south-east direction. About 40 springs provide a continuous supply of water to the fen. These rise chiefly

²⁷ Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac>. Accessed February 2021.

at its margins, along distinct seepage areas of mineral ground above the fen level. The continual inflow of calcium-rich water from the Curragh, and from the limestone ground to the north, creates waterlogged conditions which lead to peat formation. There are layers of calcareous marl in this peat, reflecting inundation by calcium-rich water. This peat-marl deposit reaches some 6 m at its deepest point and is underlain by clay.

The site is SAC selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[7210] Cladium Fens*

[7220] Petrifying Springs*

[7230] Alkaline Fens

[1013] Geyer's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo geyeri*)

[1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*)

[1016] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*)

Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122)

Wicklow Mountains SAC is a complex of upland areas in Counties Wicklow and Dublin, flanked by the Blessington reservoir to the west and Vartry reservoir in the east, Cruagh Mountain in the north and Lybagh Mountain in the south. Most of the site is over 300 m, with much ground over 600 m. The vegetation over most of Wicklow Mountains SAC is a mosaic of heath, blanket bog and upland grassland (mostly on peaty soil, though some on mineral soil), stands of dense Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and small woodlands mainly along the rivers. Mountain loughs and corrie lakes are scattered throughout the site. . The site is a SAC selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[3110] Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals

[3160] Dystrophic Lakes

[4010] Wet Heath

[4030] Dry Heath

[4060] Alpine and Subalpine Heaths

[6130] Calaminarian Grassland

[6230] Species-rich Nardus Grassland*

[7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)*

[8110] Siliceous Scree

[8210] Calcareous Rocky Slopes

[8220] Siliceous Rocky Slopes

[91A0] Old Oak Woodlands

[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063)

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. The reservoir covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometres and is the largest inland water body in the mid-east and south-east regions. The reservoir receives water from two main sources, the River Liffey at the northern end, and the Kings River at the southern end. The exit is into the River Liffey gorge at the western end. Underlying the reservoir are sands and gravels deposited during the last glaciation. The shores of the lake are mostly sandy. When water levels are low the exposed lake muds are colonised by an ephemeral flora of annual plant species. Wet grassland areas occur in sheltered bays around the lake but especially in the northern part. Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is the main grass species present, but other plant species characteristic of wet grasslands occur, including Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). Sedges (*Carex* spp.) are locally common, while Rusty Willow (*Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*) scrub is often found associated with the wet grassland. In some places the water washes against grassy banks which are generally less than a

metre high, and in a few places there are steep sand and clay cliffs, up to 15 m high - these are remnants of the old River Liffey channel. In many places the banks are actively eroding, and a strip of conifers has been planted around much of the perimeter of the reservoir in an attempt to stabilize the banks. The site is a SPA under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*).

Wicklow Mountains SPA (004040)

This is an extensive upland site, comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. Most of the site is in Co. Wicklow, but a small area lies in Co. Dublin. The underlying geology of the site is mainly of Leinster granites, flanked by Ordovician schists, mudstones and volcanics. The area was subject to glaciation and features fine examples of glacial lakes, deep valleys and moraines. Most of site is over 300 m, with much ground being over 600 m; the highest peak is Lugnaquilla (925 m). The substrate over much of site is peat, with poor mineral soil occurring on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features of the site. The predominant habitats present are blanket bog, heaths and upland grassland. The site is a SPA under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*).

4.3.1 Conservation Objectives

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) is in the process of drawing up Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) for all Natura 2000 sites.²⁸

These SSCO aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site. The maintenance (or restoration) of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when:

*“...its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable”.*²⁹

Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when:

*“population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.”*²⁹

²⁸ DAHRRGA Contribution and Observations to National Planning Framework - Ireland 2040, Our Plan Consultation Issues Paper & SEA Scoping Document.

²⁹ https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004101.pdf
Accessed February 2021.

SSCOs are available for the Wicklow Mountain SAC. The conservation objectives are to restore the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with each habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* in Wicklow Mountains SAC;
- European dry heaths;
- Alpine and Boreal heaths;
- Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and sub-mountain areas, in Continental Europe);
- Blanket bogs (if active bog);
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*);
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; and
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.

For those sites where no SSCOs are available, which is the case for the other Natura 2000 sites, the DAHRRGA has provided generic Conservation Objectives for designated European sites:

“To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected”.

4.3.2 Pressures and Threats

Specific pressures and threats for each Natura 2000 site are identified within the standard data forms. These are summarised in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Qualifying interests, pressures and threats for each Natura 2000 site within 15km of Naas LAP boundary.

Site/Qualifying Interests	Identified Pressures and Threats*	Rank
Mouds Bog SAC		
<u>Habitat – Annex 1</u>	A01 cultivation (I)	Low
Active raised bogs (7110)	A04 grazing (B)	Low
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (7120)	B Sylviculture, forestry (I)	Medium
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)	C01.03.02 hand cutting of peat (O)	Medium
	C01.03.02 hand cutting of peat (I)	High
	E02 industrial or commercial areas (I)	High
	I01 invasive non-native species (I)	Medium
	J01 fire and fire suppression (I)	High
Red Bog Kildare SAC		
<u>Habitat – Annex 1</u>	A08 fertilisation (O)	Medium
Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140)	F02.03 leisure fishing (I)	Medium
	A04 grazing (O)	Medium
	F03.01 hunting (I)	Low
	E01.03 dispersed habitation (O)	Medium
	C01.01 sand and gravel extraction (O)	High
Ballynafagh Lake SAC		
<u>Habitat – Annex 1</u>	F02.03 leisure fishing (I)	High
Alkaline fens (7230)	A04 grazing (O)	Medium
Species – Annex 2	A04 grazing (I)	Low
Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (1016)		
Marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (1065)		

Ballynafagh Bog SAC		
<u>Habitat – Annex 1</u>	G05 human intrusions and disturbances (I)	Medium
Raised bog (active) (7110)	B01 forest planting on open ground (I)	Low
Degraded raised bog (7120)	B01 forest planting on open ground (O)	Medium
Rhynchosporion vegetation (7150)	C01.03 peat extraction (I)	High
	C01.03 peat extraction (O)	Medium
	E01.04 patterns of habitation (B)	Low
	D05 improved access to site (I)	Medium
	J01 fire and fire suppression (I)	Low
	G05 Other human intrusions and disturbances (O)	Low
Pollardstown Fen SAC		
<u>Habitat – Annex 1</u>	A04 grazing (I)	Medium
Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> (7210)	A04 grazing (O)	High
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (7220)	B silviculture, forestry (I)	Low
Alkaline fens (7230)	C01.01 seed and gravel extraction (O)	Medium
	D02.01 electricity and phone lines (I)	Low
<u>Species – Annex 2</u>	E01.03 dispersed habitation (O)	Medium
Geyer's whorl snail <i>Vertigo geyer</i> (1013)	E03.01 disposal of household/recreational facility waste (O)	Medium
Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (1014)	F02.03 leisure fishing (I)	Low
Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (1016)	F03.01 hunting (I)	Low
	J01 fire and fire suppression (I)	Low
Wicklow Mountains SAC		
<u>Habitat – Annex 1</u>	A04 grazing (B)	Medium
Obligotrophic waters containing very few minerals (3110)	A05.02 stock feeding (I)	Low
	B06 grazing in forests/woodland (I)	High

Dystrophic lakes (3160)	C01.03 peat extraction (I)	Medium
Wet heath (4010)	D01.01 paths, tracks cycling tracks (I)	Medium
Dry heath (4030)	E01 urbanised areas, human habitation (B)	Medium
Alpine and subalpine heaths (4060)	E03.01 disposal of household/recreational facility waste (I)	Low
Calaminarian grassland (6130)	F03 hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial) (I)	Medium
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland (6230)	F03.02.02 taking from nest (falcons) (B)	Medium
Blanket bogs (active) (7130)	F04.02 collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc) (I)	Low
Siliceous scree (8110)	G01 outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (B)	Medium
Old oak woodlands (91A0)	G01.02 walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles (B)	Medium
<u>Species – Annex 2</u>	G01.03.02 off-road motorised driving (B)	High
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> (1355)	G01.04 mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology (B)	Low
	G02.09 wildlife watching (I)	Low
	G04.01 military manouvres (B)	Medium
	G05.01 trampling, overuse (B)	Medium
	G05.04 vandalism (I)	Medium
	G05.06 tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees (I)	Low
	G05.07 missing or wrongly directed conservation measures (B)	Medium
	I01 invasive non-native species (B)	High
	J01.01 burning down	High
	K01.01 erosion	High
	K04.05 damage by herbivores (including game species)	Medium
	L05 collapse of terrain, landslide	Low
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA		
Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> (A043)	B01 forest planting on open ground (O)	High
Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> (A183)	D01.05 bridge, viaduct (I)	High
	G01.01 nautical sports (I)	Medium
	F03.01 hunting (I)	Low

	F02.03 leisure fishing (I)	Low
Wicklow Mountains SPA		
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> (A098)	A04 grazing (I)	Medium
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (A103)	B silviculture, forestry (O)	High
	C01.03 peat extraction (I)	Medium
	D01.01 paths, tracks, cycling tracks (I)	Medium
	G01.02 walking, horse-riding, non-motorised vehicles (I)	High

*(I) indicates pressures inside the site, (O) indicates pressures outside the site, (B) indicates pressures that apply both inside and outside the site.

5 Assessment of the Significance of Impacts on Natura 2000

5.1 Introduction

This is the fourth and final step of AA Screening and involves an assessment of the significance of any impacts on Natura 2000 Sites. In identifying the potential issues which could affect the integrity of these sites a range of factors were taken into account, including the possibility of effects manifesting themselves in the short, medium and long-term, in combination effects and the potential impacts of climate change. In addition, the precautionary principle was adhered to in the carrying out of this assessment.

Where potential effects have been identified, modification of the plan is recommended, where possible, so as to ensure that significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are avoided. If this can be achieved there may not be a need to proceed to Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment.

In certain instances, this can be achieved by amending the objective or policy so that they will not have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. In other cases, a caveat or conditional approach will be used to indicate that before certain policies or objectives are implemented certain things have to happen so that when implemented, will have no significant effect, or adversely impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. In other situations, it may be recommended that additional mitigation policies be included or that certain objectives/policies be rejected so as to ensure that significant adverse effects on the Conservation Objectives of Natura 2000 sites are avoided.

5.2 Data Sources, Consultation, Gaps and Limitations

The screening of potential adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites in this study is based on a desktop review of literature, existing and relevant NPWS Natura 2000 Site Synopses Data, Qualifying Interests, Conservation Management Plans and the Site-Specific Conservation Objectives and generic Conservation Objectives.

A review was also carried out of Habitats Directive Assessments/Natura Impact Assessments recently carried out in relation to plans /projects in the area, with particular attention paid to the Stage 2 AA Natura Impact Report for the Kildare County Development Plan and planning applications in the vicinity of each Natura 2000 site.

Consultation will take place in accordance with the Department's circular letter which states that:

“The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department has a formal consultation role (through the Development Applications Unit (DAU)) as part of the screening and assessment process.”

The Scoping report for the SEA for the Draft Naas LAP was also sent to the statutory bodies and submissions received have been incorporated into the plan where appropriate.

Furthermore in line with recommendations in the European Commission: Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, representatives from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Inland Fisheries Ireland will be further consulted with prior to the adoption of the plan and the completion of the accompanying 'Finding of no significant effects' (FONSE) report. The AA will also be forwarded as part of the SEA consultation process to statutory bodies required under the SEA directive.

The primary issue relating to data gaps and limitations was identified as the generic nature of some of the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites with site-specific quantitative objectives for each qualifying interest yet to be identified.

5.3 Purpose of the LAP

Under the Habitats Directive, plans that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site do not require AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive.

This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). The relationship should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the plan, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s).

The primary purpose of the LAP is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of the Naas area. Therefore, the LAP is not considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

5.4 Aspects of the LAP that Could Give Rise to Potential Effects

The potential for effects on European Sites arising from the implementation of the draft LAP are discussed below.

5.4.1 Direct Effects on Habitats and Species

The construction of residential space, retail units, car parks, business units, cycleways, walkways and other developments within Naas has no potential to impact directly on the QI's of the aforementioned European Sites, as these sites do not lie within the draft LAP boundary.

5.4.2 Indirect Effects on Habitats and Species

Indirect Damage/Degradation of Habitats and Disturbance to Species

Any new development within Naas poses minimal potential to impact indirectly on the QI's of the European Sites or result in disturbance to species as they are all a significant distance from the draft LAP area i.e. a minimum of 5km away. There are no hydrological connections between the draft LAP area and a European Site.

Although both Naas and the majority of Mouds Bog SAC are located in the Liffey River Catchment, Naas is downstream and therefore there is no hydrological pathway from the LAP area to Mouds Bog SAC.

The Red Bog SAC is also within the Liffey River Catchment, however there is no hydrological pathway between the plan area and Red Bog SAC.

Given the lack of hydrological pathway between the plan area and both Mouds Bog SAC and Red Bog SAC it is considered that significant effects on these sites are highly unlikely.

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA is located 7km from the draft LAP boundary and is not hydrologically connected to waterbodies within the LAP boundary.

Pollardstown Fen SAC, Ballynafagh Bog SAC and Ballynafagh Lake SAC are all located in the Barrow River Catchment, and so have no hydrological connectivity to the LAP area. Any potential development in Naas is highly unlikely to impact on the surface water or groundwater regime of these SACs and therefore will not impact on the integrity of the SACs or the habitats and species for which they are designated.

Resource Requirements (e.g. Drinking Water Abstractions)

The majority of the water supplied in County Kildare comes from the Dublin City Waterworks at Ballymore Eustace and this water is delivered by the Poulaphouca Regional Scheme to the Naas LAP area.

A Remedial Action List (RAL) of problematic drinking water supplies is released by the EPA on a quarterly basis.³⁰ The Remedial Action list is a public record for the supplies known to be at risk and where the EPA is requiring Irish Water to take corrective action. The EPA has instructed Irish Water to submit an action programme for the improvement of each of these supplies and has initiated enforcement action where action programmes were not being prepared or were not prepared to the satisfaction of the EPA. This includes issuing legally binding Directions requiring specific work to be carried out. The Poulaphouca Regional drinking water supply which serves Naas was not included on the Remedial Action list for Q4 of 2020.³¹

³⁰ Available at: <https://www.epa.ie/water/dw/ral/>. Accessed February 2021.

³¹ Available at: <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/drinking/RAL%20Q4%202020.pdf>. Accessed February 2021.

Emissions (e.g. Disposals to Lands, Water, Air)

Naas's wastewater is collected via a gravity and rising mains network and is treated at Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant which also serves the towns of Newbridge, Kilcullen, Sallins and Kill.

In 2015, Irish Water identified that the previously existing infrastructure of Osberstown wastewater treatment plant was under pressure and unable to support future economic and social development in the region. Irish water subsequently announced a major upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant. This €30.3 million upgrade represented the largest single investment to date in the upgrade of a wastewater treatment plant by Irish Water.

Construction of the plant has recently been completed, and process proving has commenced. The plant now has a final treatment capacity of 130,000 PE and a higher level of treatment in full compliance with environmental licenses.

The newly upgraded plant serves the many industries, local businesses and homes in Sallins, Clane, Prosperous, Naas, Johnstown, Kill, Newbridge, Kilcullen, Athgarven, Carragh and the Curragh.

The Osberstown treatment plant discharges treated wastewater into the River Liffey making it one of the largest inshore discharge points in the country.

5.5 Detailed Screening for Likely Significant Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

The LAP is screened at policy level and objective level so as to ensure that potential effects of the LAP on Natura 2000 sites are identified.

The DoEHLG (2009) have advised that policies and objectives found at AA Screening to have no significant effect can include policies or objectives that:

- will not lead to development;
- are intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity (see Article 10 of Directive);
- are intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment and are unlikely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 site;
- positively steer development away from Natura 2000 sites and associated sensitive areas;
- positively make provision to ensure that the policy/objective implementation will not have a significant effect or adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site; or,
- policies and objectives that can be dealt with by using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case by case AA.

No Natura 2000 site is located within the LAP boundary therefore there will be no direct impacts on qualifying habitats or species of a European site. It is considered that effects generated by the draft Naas LAP which have the potential to give rise

to adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites, are likely to be limited to issues relating to groundwater, water quality, disturbance associated with recreation and tourism, and invasive species.

The screening for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites includes assessment of cumulative effects, as required by Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive. Other relevant plans and projects considered are detailed in Section 2.3. It is considered extremely unlikely that significant in-combination or cumulative effects arising from interaction with other plans or projects could arise as each plan or project has either been subject to the Appropriate Assessment process or provides for appropriate biodiversity protection. Each Stage 1 Screening or Stage 2 AA concluded that significant effects on European sites arising from the plan or project in question were extremely unlikely.

5.5.1 Policies and Objectives

The likely significant effects of implementing the policies and objectives of the Naas LAP on Natura 2000 sites and species are assessed in Table 5 below. If any modification to the wording of the draft LAP was considered necessary to avoid significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, this would be highlighted. However, no significant effects have been identified, therefore no modifications to the wording of policies and objectives have been recommended.

Table 5: Potential impacts as a result of LAP policies and objectives³².

<u>Policy CS1: Compliance with the Core Strategy</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to support the sustainable long-term growth of Naas in accordance with the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied), or any subsequent plan, the provisions of the National Planning Framework (2018) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified. The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 has been subject to Stage 2 AA and the overarching core strategy was not specifically identified as significant risk.
<u>Objective CSO 1.1</u> <i>Support and facilitate compact growth through the sustainable intensification and consolidation of the town centre and established residential areas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective CSO 1.2</u> <i>Monitor the scale, type, tenure and location of constructed and permitted developments in Naas during the lifetime of the Plan and apply appropriate development management standards to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy to achieve the delivery of strategic plan-led and coordinated balanced development within the town.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective CSO 1.3</u> <i>Support and facilitate the implementation of the Urban Development and Regeneration Strategy for the town and pursue suitable funding mechanisms to bring forward the realisation of the Strategy as they arise.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective CSO 1.4</u> <i>Focus new enterprise development into lands identified for Enterprise and Employment, and Industry and Warehousing uses.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective CSO 1.5</u> <i>Support the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure to support all residential development.</i>	

³² Refer to Appendix A for full sized figure of the European sites within the LAP ZoI.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective CSO 1.6</u> <i>Work with multi-disciplinary stakeholders and the business community to realise the objectives and actions contained in this Plan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective CSO 1.7</u> <i>Transition over the lifetime of the Plan towards the preparation of a Joint Integrated Spatial Plan incorporating both Naas and Sallins to provide a single coordinated development strategy which considers the economic, social and environmental sensitivities within the overall study area, thereby providing a cohesive overall land use strategy for the respective urban environments.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective CSO 1.8</u> <i>Investigate in consultation with the NTA, Irish Water, Irish Rail, Waterways Ireland and other statutory agencies and stakeholders, options for the longer-term development of Naas and Sallins, and in particular the development of the Northwest Quadrant within the context of a masterplan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective CSO 1.9</u> <i>Preserve the lands identified as 'Strategic Reserve' on Map 11.1 Land Use Zoning Objectives, thereby controlling the level of piecemeal and haphazard development on these lands and safeguarding their strategic value in accommodating the orderly sequential expansion of the urban settlement beyond the current Plan period.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Policy HC1: Residential Development</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to ensure that sufficient land is available at appropriate locations to satisfy the County Core Strategy growth allocation for Naas, to ensure Naas maintains its status as one of Kildare's Key Towns and that good quality housing is provided.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 1.1</u> <i>Support new residential development and infill development that occurs in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 1.2</u> <i>Support approved housing bodies and other sectoral agencies in the provision of a greater diversity of housing type and tenure, including social and affordable housing and exploring new models at low cost rental and affordable homeownership.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 1.3</u> <i>Encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for residential uses within the footprint of the existing built-up area.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 1.4</u> <i>Manage the provision of one-off housing on lands zoned as I: Agricultural. Limited one-off housing may be permitted in this zone subject to compliance with Chapter 4, Rural Housing Policy of the County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) or any subsequent development plan subject to compliance with all other normal siting and design considerations.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 1.5</u> <i>Promote the sustainable development of vacant residential and regeneration sites in Naas, through the application of the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended), Vacant Site Levy, on Residential Land and Regeneration Land.³³</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 1.6</u> <i>Continue to pursue potential funding avenues and apply for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and other available funds to realise the vision for Naas Town Centre.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.

³³ Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended) - “regeneration land” means land identified by a planning authority in its development plan or local area plan, after the coming into operation of section 28, in accordance with section 10(2)(h) of the Act of 2000 with the objective of development and renewal of areas in need of regeneration, and includes any structures on such land.

Policy HC2: Residential Density, Mix and Design

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that all new residential development provides for a sustainable mix of housing types, sizes and tenures and that new development complements the existing residential mix.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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Objective HCO 2.1

Require that a good mix of housing types and sizes is provided in all new residential areas and in appropriate brownfield/infill areas, to meet the needs of the population of Naas, including the provision of appropriate supported housing and longer term residential care solutions designed for older people and/or people with disabilities.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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Objective HCO2.2

Seek to provide Traveller Specific Accommodation at appropriate locations close to key services, including education, community, health, recreation and public transport facilities in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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Objective HCO 2.3

Require that residential schemes in close proximity to Naas' heavily trafficked roads and streets are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance. A suitably qualified acoustic specialist shall be engaged in the development design process, paying particular attention to the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (or any subsequent plan) and the EPA 'Environment and Wellbeing' Maps. An Acoustic Design Statement, including proposals for post-construction noise monitoring, clearly demonstrating that significant adverse noise impacts will be avoided shall be submitted with development applications.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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Objective HCO 2.4

To apply a 10% social housing requirement, pursuant to Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to all sites that are zoned solely for residential use or for a mixture of residential and other uses (save where the development is exempt from the provisions of Part V)..

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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Objective HCO 2.5

Promote high levels of energy conservation, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in existing buildings, including retro fitting of energy efficiency in traditional buildings. All new buildings will be required to achieve the Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEB) standard in line with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 2.6</u> <i>Support the objectives set out in Kildare Age Friendly County Strategy 2019–2021 and any subsequent strategy, regarding the implementation of Age Friendly principles in the planning, design and delivery of physical infrastructure, public realm works, business and commercial premises.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 2.7</u> <i>To comply with the Special Policy Planning Requirements (SPPRs) for apartment standards and building heights issued under Section 28(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Policy HC3: Education, Early Learning and Healthcare</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and secure the provision of social infrastructure to support existing and new communities within the Naas Local Area Plan area, in a manner which provides flexibility to respond to varied and changing community needs.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 3.1</u> <i>Encourage the development of new facilities and improvements to and expansion of existing facilities for educational, early learning, childcare and healthcare facilities, at appropriate locations in Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 3.2</u> <i>Require the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities to meet the pro-rata childcare needs of housing development during the plan period.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 3.3</u> <i>Support and co-operate with promoters or operators of public and private health care facilities, including hospitals, by facilitating and encouraging the provision of improved health care facilities in appropriate locations in Naas.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 3.4</u> <i>Encourage the delivery of facilities and services for older people, at appropriate locations in Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 3.5</u> <i>Actively engage with the Department of Education and Skills in the identification and delivery of school sites to address the emerging demands.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Policy HC4: Community, Sports and Recreational Facilities</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and support a broad range of community, cultural and recreational facilities to serve the needs of the residents of the Plan area and its wider catchment.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 4.1</u> <i>Support and facilitate the provision of appropriately located multi-functional community facilities to meet the needs of the growing population in Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 4.2</u> <i>Support the relocation of Naas Library through the redevelopment and rejuvenation of Naas Town Hall into a new library and cultural centre.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 4.3</u> <i>Support the delivery of an access to the lands zoned Strategic Open Space to accommodate a public parkland amenity in proximity to the Grand Canal.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 4.4</u> <i>Support, promote and facilitate the development of cultural, arts and performance spaces in Naas.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 4.5</u> <i>Facilitate sports and community groups in the acquisition and/or use of lands for sports and recreation purposes.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 4.6</u> <i>Facilitate and promote the development of a network of playgrounds, amenity spaces and recreational areas for children of all ages which are universally designed throughout the town and its environs.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 4.7</u> <i>Investigate the feasibility of the provision a small green waste composting site in the town for use by local community groups, as an action towards sustainable waste management.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective HCO 4.8</u> <i>Investigate the feasibility of providing a dog park within lands designated for Open Space and Amenity in conjunction with the Council's Parks Department.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Policy MT1: Movement and Transportation</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to promote enhanced permeability for pedestrians and cyclists within Naas in order to improve access to the town centre, local schools, residential areas, recreational facilities, public transport services and other amenities.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified. A Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared for the Draft Transport Strategy for The Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 which concluded that the Strategy would not impact on the Natura 2000 network of sites. ¹⁸
<u>Objective MTO 1.1</u> <i>Support and promote the use of sustainable active transport modes in Naas and seek to implement a connected network of walking and cycling infrastructure in the town as detailed in Table 5.1 and 5.2 and illustrated on Map 5.1 and 5.2. [of the LAP] in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, other statutory agencies, and the relevant stakeholders. The final design details shall be subject to ecological assessment, where applicable, and undergo appropriate public consultation.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) prepared for the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan concluded that the Authority, in conjunction with other agencies and local authorities, will not pursue any schemes arising out of this plan, or in combination with other plans or projects, which will adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. ³⁴
Objective MTO 1.2 <i>Ensure all footpaths in Naas are accessible to all members of the community, including people with disabilities, the elderly and people with young children.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
Objective MTO 1.3 <i>Continue to work with Waterways Ireland to progress the delivery of:</i> <i>(i) Naas to Sallins Greenway</i> <i>(ii) Naas to Corbally Harbour Greenway.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
Objective MTO 1.4 <i>To work with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to implement the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan proposals for Naas subject to detailed engineering design and any mitigation measures presented in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanying the NTA Plan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
Objective MTO 1.5 <i>Create new pedestrian and cycle links across the Grand Canal that enhance connectivity in the area and link residential areas, the town centre, community facilities and public spaces/amenities as proposed under the Naas Transport Strategy. The final design details shall be subject to ecological assessment and public consultation.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
Objective MTO 1.6 <i>Ensure that all development within Naas allows for connectivity (pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular) to adjacent lands in accordance with the National Transport Authority's Permeability Best Practice Guide (2015) or any updated version of same.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.

³⁴ National Transport Authority (2013) Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan Appropriate Assessment: Natura Impact Statement. Available at: <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GDACNP-Appropriate-Assessment-Natura-Impact-Statement.pdf>. Accessed February 2021.

Objective MTO 1.7

To provide adequate, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities subject to demand analysis, at appropriate locations at:

- (i) Town centre – such as Market Square, Poplar Square, South Main Street/close to Shopping Centre entrance and the Harbour.*
- (ii) Adjacent to heritage, community and amenity destinations.*

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified.

Objective MTO 1.8

Promote the town centre as a pedestrian/cyclist friendly area and to investigate the feasibility of pedestrian priority at the section of Main Street between the Presbyterian Church to Poplar Square and to pedestrianise Poplar Square in line with the Dublin Road Naas Corridor Scheme.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified.

Objective MTO 1.9

Seek to improve and promote looped walks in conjunction with Slí na Sláinte and other relevant bodies recognising them as important health and recreation infrastructure within the town.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified.

Objective MTO 1.10

Seek to retain the character of Rathasker Road, Craddockstown Road and other rural links on the outskirts of the town and the extent of their approach to the town centre and to develop them as a connected series of walking routes in conjunction with Slí na Sláinte and other relevant bodies.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified.

Objective MTO 1.11

Provide a pedestrian crossing/connection at Jigginstown to facilitate walkers and cyclists using the Grand Canal Greenway and needing to cross the R445 safely.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified.

Objective MTO 1.12

Investigate the feasibility of a greenway/cycleway link between the town of Naas and the village of Caragh. Any development proposals along the Caragh Road should provide the necessary setback required to facilitate such a development and are subject to appropriate environmental assessments.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Policy MT2: Walking and Cycling</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to promote the sustainable development of Naas by supporting and guiding the relevant national agencies in delivering improvements to the public transport network and to public transport services.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) prepared for the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan concluded that the Authority, in conjunction with other agencies and local authorities, will not pursue any schemes arising out of this plan, or in combination with other plans or projects, which will adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. ³⁴
<u>Objective MTO 2.1</u> <i>Focus people intensive land uses around and close to existing and planned public transport and improve access to such services.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective MTO 2.2</u> <i>Secure the implementation of a bus interchange at Market Square/South Main Street, subject to the availability of funding and appropriate environmental assessment.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective MTO 2.3</u> <i>Support and facilitate the implementation of the following bus priority measures, subject to the availability of funding and appropriate environmental assessment and where necessary to preserve the identified routes free from development:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Travel Bridge over the M7 linking Sallins and Naas; • Morell Way bus gate to facilitate a new bus-only street; • Left turn ban on to Main Street (from R445 towards Main Street); • Bus priority entrance to Piper's Hill schools; and • Bus Priority Route link to Sallins Bypass through the Northwest Quadrant. 	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective MTO 2.4</u> <i>Engage and co-operate with the Department of Transport, National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Irish Rail, Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport in Naas including the delivery of a sustainable bus-only link between Naas and Sallins Railway Station, a local bus route, additional bus stops and the provision of bus priority measures to ensure the improved movement of bus services through the town centre and local neighbourhoods.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective MTO 2.5</u> <i>Support and promote in conjunction with National Transport Authority, Irish Rail, the upgrade and expanded Park & Ride facility at the Sallins Railway Station and the electrification of the rail line to Sallins with DART Services thus providing a 10-minute peak commuter rail frequency</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective MTO 2.6</u> <i>Investigate the merits of a second station with a Park & Ride to the west of Sallins to serve the population of Naas and the wider region..</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective MTO 2.7</u> <i>Protect the lands zoned Q: Enterprise and Employment to the east of the Western Relief Road from haphazard development that would prejudice the future delivery of a bus priority route through the Northwest Quadrant. Proposals for development on lands zoned Q: Enterprise and Employment should protect the integrity of these lands and potential developers will be required to liaise with the Planning Authority and Roads and Transportation Department of Kildare County Council in advance of submitting development proposals.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Policy MT3: Road and Street Network</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to maintain, improve and extend the local road network in and around Naas to ensure a high standard of connectivity and safety for all road users.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective MTO 3.1</u> a) <i>Maintain and improve, as required, the local road network to ensure a high standard of road quality and safety in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation.</i> b) <i>Safeguard the development and carrying capacity of the national road infrastructure along the existing M7 in accordance with the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012).".</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

Objective MTO 3.2

Support the implementation of the following road schemes/projects (as detailed on Map 5.4), subject to the availability of funding, the relevant legislative process and appropriate environmental assessment and where necessary to preserve the identified routes free from development:

- i) *The Gallops Avenue.*
- ii) *Upgrade of Murtagh's Corner junction.*
- iii) *Millbridge Street.*
- iv) *Roadway linking Aldi Distribution Centre to Millennium Link Road.*
- v) *Town centre HGV restrictions.*
- vi) *Upgrade signalised junctions to MOVA or SCOOT as appropriate.*

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective MTO 3.3

Co-operate and liaise with the Department of Transport, the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in relation to securing appropriate improvements/extensions to the transport network within Naas

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective MTO 3.4

Investigate the development of a street network within the Northwest Quadrant by way of the Northwest Quadrant masterplan (as set out in Chapter 10) including improved accessibility over the canal and access to the town centre and Sallins Railway Station to facilitate increased permeability and connectivity, in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective MTO 3.5

Ensure that development proposals within the Core Regeneration Areas and Key Development Areas are subject to a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), to be carried out in accordance with the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014). The requirement for all other developments will be determined on a case by case basis.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective MTO 3.6

Reduce the harmful effects of traffic noise by ensuring noise mitigation measures are implemented into new developments in proximity to motorway routes, national routes, regional routes and significant urban streets. Developers shall engage a suitably qualified acoustic specialist to prepare an Acoustic Design Statement for all new developments with the potential to impact sensitive noise receptors. The Statement shall have regard to the thresholds set out in the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (or any subsequent plan).

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective MTO 3.7</u> <i>To ensure a 91-metre building line setback from the motorway and associated junctions from the nearest roadside edge to protect against transportation noise and to ensure the future protection of the motorway network. Under certain circumstances ancillary development may be considered within the setback zone in recognition of local conditions and the nature of the proposed activity.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective MTO 3.8</u> <i>Examine the feasibility of realigning/raising the Newbridge Road (R445) at the point of crossing the canal at Jigginstown to be of a sufficient height so as not to hinder the future passage of boats and barges.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy MT4: Parking</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to manage the provision of car parking to provide for the needs of residents, business and visitors to the town centre of Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective MTO 4.1</u> <i>Apply the parking standards in the Kildare County Development Plan, and relevant Section 28 Guidelines, to all applications for planning permission in Naas. Dispensations will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and having regard to location, proximity to key public transport routes, heritage and urban design context.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified. A NIR has been prepared for the Draft Transport Strategy For The Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 which concluded that the Strategy would not impact on the Natura 2000 network of sites.
<u>Objective MTO 4.2</u> <i>Support and facilitate the implementation of the preferred car parking management measures, as illustrated on Map 5.4, as identified in the Naas/Sallins Transport Strategy.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective MTO 4.3</u> <i>Ensure that all new proposed developments make provision for the use of electric vehicles through a significant increase in the provision of clearly and exclusively designated electric car charging points on public and private land in partnership with ESB and other relevant stakeholders and landowners.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy ED1: Enterprise and Economic Development</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to support the development of Naas as the enterprise and employment hub for County Kildare and the region, increase employment located within the town, reduce commuting and ensure new employment development contributes towards reducing carbon output.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.1</u> <i>Encourage economic development and employment growth in Naas in accordance with its designation as a Key Town, while adhering to the overall Economic Development Strategy of the Plan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.2</u> <i>Promote enterprise and employment development in the Northwest Quadrant, focusing on high-tech manufacturing, research and development, ICT, food science and production, large scale offices, public administration, banking, tourism and bloodstock, within a high-quality campus/park type development.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.3</u> <i>Support the development of Mid-East Region Innovation Think Space (MERITS) and support the creation of economic linkages between all scales of local businesses through this enterprise and incubation hub.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.4</u> <i>Facilitate the regeneration and redevelopment of the lands to the east of the Dublin Road roundabout, in particular the Key Development Area at Junction 9 (Maudlins) (the former Donnelly Mirrors and Cemex Concrete sites), through a joint approach for the two landholdings through the preparation of a comprehensive masterplan comprising of an overall high quality design in recognition of its location as a key gateway site. Consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is required in the preparation of any masterplan for these lands and adherence to the Design Framework set out in Chapter 10.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.5</u>	

<i>Encourage the development of employment areas in a comprehensive and sequential 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.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.6</u> <i>Engage with IDA Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in seeking to attract Foreign Direct Investment into the Northwest Quadrant and elsewhere in the town, in line with the Mid-East Region's Enterprise Plan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.7</u> <i>Ensure new enterprise and employment uses provide Workplace Travel Plans /Mobility Management Plans to reduce dependency on private modes of travel consistent with the principles set out in the National Transport Authority guidance: 'Achieving Effective Workplace Travel Plans'.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.8</u> <i>Encourage the provision of remote working hubs and incentivise employment creation on lands zoned 'A: Town Centre' as a key driver of regeneration, including through a review of the Development Contribution Scheme and the application of the Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme (2021) or any successor to same.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.9</u> <i>Support and encourage the provision of ground floor live-work units and/or co-working spaces as part of mixed-use and residential developments in appropriate locations, as a means of enlivening streets and to provide flexible accommodation for small businesses and remote working opportunities.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.10</u> <i>Facilitate home-working and other innovative forms of working which reduce the need to travel but are subordinate to the main residential use of the dwelling and do not result in a disamenity in an area.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

<u>Objective EDO 1.11</u>	
<i>Ensure that the development of employment lands do not undermine the carrying and operational capacity of the N7 motorway network, by requiring that Traffic and Transport Assessments are submitted for larger developments with the potential to impact on the network.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 1.12</u>	
<i>Facilitate the location of Data Centre development on land designated P: Data Centre/Warehouse at Caragh Road South and Jigginstown for the identified land use only subject to appropriate environmental and transport impact assessments.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy ED2: Tourism</u>	
<i>It is the policy of the Council to support and facilitate the development of the tourism infrastructure in Naas with emphasis on utilising and harnessing, in an appropriate and sustainable manner, the potential of the town's natural and built heritage assets.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified. Although increased tourism activities and business can have the potential to disturbance sensitive habitats or species it is considered that such an increase at Naas is extremely unlikely to impact on qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites.
<u>Objective EDO 2.1</u>	
<i>Support and facilitate the development of an integrated network of greenways and heritage trails, including along the Corbally and Naas branches of the Grand Canal.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>Objective EDO 2.2</u>	
<i>Encourage the development of tourism activities such as water-based activities, cultural and agri- tourism, equine tourism and food markets in Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified. Although increased tourism activities and business can have the potential to disturbance sensitive habitats or species it is considered that such an increase at Naas is extremely unlikely to impact on qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites.
<u>Objective EDO 2.3</u>	
<i>Facilitate the provision of standardised signage and interpretation for tourism facilities and tourist attractions throughout the town.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 2.4</u>	
<i>Support the development of new tourist facilities or upgrading / extension of existing tourist facilities.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 2.5</u> <i>Explore the development of Millbank Lodge as a tourist amenity facility providing complementary uses to the Strategic Open Space lands and the proposed Naas to Sallins Greenway, such as bike hire/café.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 2.6</u> <i>Encourage appropriate development proposals for St David's Castle, Jigginstown Castle, Leinster Mills and the Canal Harbour and investigate the tourism, cultural and amenity potential for these sites.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 2.7</u> <i>Investigate the re-use of the Eir building on Abbey Street for a mix of cultural, community, leisure and/or tourism uses.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 2.8</u> <i>Support Naas' status as a 'purple flag' night-time economy and as a high-quality night-time destination.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 2.9</u> <i>Support the diversification and intensification of employment opportunities in the equine and agriculture industries in Naas and further develop linkages between the equine and tourism industries.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 2.10</u> <i>Work in conjunction with 'Into Kildare' to develop a local museum/tourist information centre within the town centre.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

<u>Policy ED3: Retail</u>	
<i>It is the policy of the Council to support the retail function of Naas as Level 2 Major Town Centre and to consolidate existing retail development and to develop/regenerate opportunity sites/areas within the town centre.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 3.1</u>	
<i>Ensure the type, quantum and location of future retail floorspace provision in Naas is consistent with the requirements and recommendations of the County Development Plan, relevant regional policy frameworks and national planning guidelines.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 3.2</u>	
<i>Protect and promote the vitality and viability of the Core Retail Area, through the application of a sequential approach to retail development, in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012).</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 3.3</u>	
<i>Support and facilitate the development of retail, retail services and niche retailing in the town centre area, including new/infill development and redevelopment of an appropriate scale.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 3.4</u>	
<i>Support and facilitate the development of retail-led tourism associated with the natural and built heritage assets of Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective EDO 3.5</u>	
<i>Facilitate and encourage the appropriate redevelopment or re-use of the Corban's Lane Shopping Centre site for a mix of town centre uses in accordance with Chapter 10, Urban Development and Regeneration Strategy.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

Objective EDO 3.6

Manage the proliferation of certain uses of development of undesirable uses such as fast food outlets, amusement arcades, off-licences, bookmakers, and of other non-retail uses in the interest of protecting the vibrancy, residential amenity and public realm of Naas Main Street.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective EDO 3.7

Encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of vacant / derelict land and buildings for retail and other town centre uses, with due cognisance of the character, heritage and design requirements for the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective EDO 3.8

Support the continued development of a high quality 'Farmers Market' within the town.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective EDO 3.9

Ensure that new shop front and signage design contributes positively to and enhances the streetscape and is in accordance with the guidance set out in the County Kildare Shopfront Guidelines (July 2013) and Kildare County Council Policy on Signage (April 2013).

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Policy NE1: Green Infrastructure

It is the policy of the Council to protect, reinforce and strengthen the Green Infrastructure network in Naas and to strengthen links to the wider regional network.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 1.1

Protect identified key green infrastructure (Map 7.1) and 'stepping-stone' habitats (according to their value), enhance where possible and integrate existing and new green infrastructure as an essential component of new developments and prohibit development that would fragment the green infrastructure network. Site specific ecology surveys should be carried out to inform proposed development and assess and mitigate potential impacts.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 1.2

Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to the Grand Canal (pNHA) is located and designed to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA and, where possible, to integrate these important attributes into all such development schemes.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 1.3

Protect and enhance the built, natural and recreational potential of the Grand Canal Corridor within Naas and to encourage and promote sustainable access to and enjoyment of the Grand Canal.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 1.4

Maintain a suitable buffer zone along the Grand Canal and other watercourses protecting them from development. The extent and composition of the buffer zone (up to 30 metres) shall be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist and will be informed by Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment (IFI, 2020).

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 1.5

Protect the Fairgreen Lakes off the Ballymore Road and to consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland prior to undertaking or authorising any works or development in proximity to the lakes.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 1.6

Identify, protect and enhance, in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies and other relevant groups active in Naas, sites of local biodiversity importance (Local Biodiversity Areas), not otherwise protected by legislation.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Green Infrastructure – Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands**Objective NE 2.1**

Increase tree planting and pollinator friendly planting, in accordance with the recommendations of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan throughout Naas and in open spaces in new developments in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective NE 2.2</u> <i>Protect trees and woodlands of particular amenity value, identified in the Naas Green Infrastructure Map (Map 7.1), from damage and/or degradation.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Green Infrastructure – Surface Water Management</u>	
<u>Objective NE 3.1</u> <i>Encourage the use of SuDS within public and private developments and within the public realm to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective NE 3.2</u> <i>Enhance and promote biodiversity and amenity and to ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive sites and habitats, including where flood risk management measures are planned.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Green Infrastructure – Open Spaces and Recreation Areas</u>	
<u>Objective NE 4.1</u> <i>Enhance and protect the existing green infrastructure open spaces and recreation areas, and facilitate the development of new green infrastructure corridors, through the provision of additional open and amenity areas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective NE 4.2</u> <i>Progress the development of a series of green routes/linear corridors that connect amenity and open space areas and the hinterland with new and established areas, with due regard for biodiversity constraints.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 4.3

Seek to develop habitat patches/ 'stepping stones' within the landscape, to maximise proper connectivity between urban and peri-urban parks and the surrounding rural landscape.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 4.4

Promote a network of paths and cycle tracks to enhance accessibility to the Green Infrastructure network, while ensuring that the design and operation of the routes responds to the ecological protection needs of each site.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Green Infrastructure – New Developments**Objective NE 5.1**

Ensure that new development proposals protect and enhance the identified habitats detailed in the Green Infrastructure Map (Map 7.1). Site specific ecology surveys should be carried out to inform proposed developments and assess and mitigate potential impacts.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 5.2

Require proposals for development to demonstrate how they integrate/respond to Green Infrastructure and contribute to the development and protection of overall Green Infrastructure assets.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 5.3

Encourage the use of Green Roofs such as residential, industrial, civic, commercial and leisure buildings.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NE 5.4

Ensure new development proposals have regard to the future function and variety of open spaces with a view to making provision for new areas of biodiversity, tree planting and / or pollinator friendly planting.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy WH1: Waste Heat</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to promote the development of waste heat technologies and the utilisation and sharing of waste heat in new or extended industrial and commercial developments, where the processes associated with the primary operation onsite generates waste heat..</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective WH1.1</u> <i>Support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted through the use of district heating systems, particularly in the Northwest Quadrant and sites designated specifically for Data Centres, ensuring such developments will not negatively impact upon the surrounding landscape, environment, biodiversity or local amenities.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective WH1.2</u> <i>Ensure that all significant development proposals on the sites, designated for Data Centres carry out an Energy Analysis and explore the potential for the development of low carbon district heating networks.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy BH1: Protected Structures</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to preserve and enhance the buildings identified on the Record of Protected Structures and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of such structures, including their historic curtilage, both directly and indirectly.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 1.1</u> <i>Ensure the protection and conservation of all protected structures, (or parts of structures) including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures contained in the Record of Protected Structures as listed in the Kildare County Development Plan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 1.2</u> <i>Support the sensitive conservation of protected structures, their curtilage and attendant grounds, and to operate flexibility with regard to the use of these buildings to facilitate their ongoing use, subject to good conservation principles.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 1.3</u> <i>Raise awareness of the unique built heritage of Naas by facilitating conservation interpretation and management projects; such as 'Open House Tours'.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 1.4</u> <i>Proactively address dereliction, endangerment, neglect and vacancy in the town centre through the use of the Council's legal process and through the promotion of appropriate uses and the sensitive conservation of historic buildings.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy BH 2: Architectural Conservation Area</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to protect the character of the Architectural Conservation Area and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of the ACA, while having regard to the guidance contained in the ACA Statement of Character which provides information to support property owners located within the ACA.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 2.1</u> <i>Ensure that new development, extensions and renovation works within or adjacent to Naas ACA is sympathetic to the distinctive character of the area and enhances the special character and visual setting of the ACA including vistas, streetscapes, building line, fenestration patterns and architectural features.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 2.2</u> <i>Have regard to the Naas ACA Statement of Character and Kildare Shopfront Guidelines (2013) in the consideration of any shopfront or commercial proposals within the ACA. All proposals (contemporary or traditional) must be of a high quality of design and finish, contributing positively to the established pattern, scale, materials and proportions of buildings.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 2.3</u> <i>Support the retention, repair and re-use of materials which characterise the vernacular architecture of the ACA including stone, slate, decorative render, timber windows and doors.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 2.4</u> <i>Conserve and enhance the unique characteristics of the laneways of Naas, their place, scale, material elements and form and promote their overall enhancement within the context of a Public Realm Strategy.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 2.5</u> <i>Protect and conserve important heritage items such as, gates, street furniture, post boxes and other significant historic features of interest.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 2.6</u> <i>Encourage the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular and industrial heritage of Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 2.7</u> <i>Promote the use of planned maintenance programmes and the preparation of conservation management plans of historic buildings within the ACA e.g. St David's Castle.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 2.8</u> <i>Reduce and prevent visual and urban clutter, where appropriate, within the ACA including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Utility structures;</i> • <i>Traffic Management Structures;</i> • <i>Obsolete/unnecessary lighting, electrics, cables, ducts;</i> • <i>Signage (including sign protruding from the façade) at ground and upper floor levels;</i> • <i>Internally affixed stickers; and</i> • <i>Internally illuminated signage traffic management structures.</i> 	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

<u>Policy BH 3: Protected Views</u>	
<i>It is the policy of the Council to ensure that the proposed location, siting and design of buildings and structures, protect the special character of protected views.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 3.1</u>	
<i>Protect the visual amenity and character of protected views in Naas as identified in this Plan and the Kildare County Development Plan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 3.2</u>	
<i>Require a Visual Impact Assessment of proposals/planning applications for development that may impact on the special character and visual amenity of protected views as part of the development management process.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy BH4: Archaeological Heritage</u>	
<i>It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the archaeological heritage in Naas and avoid negative impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 4.1</u>	
<i>Protect and preserve in situ (or upon agreement preservation by record) items of archaeological interest provided for on the Sites and Monuments Record (www.archaeology.ie) from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 4.2</u>	
<i>Protect the historic core of Naas and retain where possible the existing street layout, historic building lines, traditional plot widths and medieval walls where these derive from medieval origins.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 4.3</u>	

<i>Progress in conjunction with the OPW the preservation and development of Jigginstown Castle (National Monument) as an attraction and training facility and make it and the surrounding area accessible to the public as a tourist/training/open space attraction and to support the preparation of a Conservation Plan for Jigginstown Castle.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 4.4</u> <i>Ensure proposals contribute to the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of sites including underwater sites associated with the Grand Canal..</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 4.5</u> <i>Provide for the protection of historic burial grounds within Naas, in co-operation with agencies such as the Office of Public Works and the National Monuments Section of the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective BH 4.6</u> <i>Seek the implementation of heritage-led regeneration including that of the public realm, in Naas's historic core, through funding sources such as the Historic Towns Initiative and the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy I1: Water Supply and Wastewater</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and wastewater infrastructure in Naas, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 1.1</u> <i>Work in conjunction with Irish Water to promote the development and maintenance of water supply and wastewater services to meet the future needs of Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 1.2</u> <i>Seek to ensure that development proposals comply with the standards and requirements of Irish Water in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure..</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 1.3</u> <i>Support Irish Water to reduce leakage, minimising demand for capital investment.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy I2: Surface Water and Groundwater</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in Naas and to protect surface and ground water quality in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 2.1</u> <i>Carry out an audit of an existing surface water infrastructure to identify improvement works as required.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 2.2</u> <i>Ensure that all new development maintain surface water discharge at greenfield run-off rate, including an allowance for climate change.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 2.3</u> <i>Incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage solutions as part of all plans and development proposals in Naas. Priority shall be given to SuDS that incorporate green infrastructure and promote biodiversity including green roofs, walls and rain gardens. Proposals for development in the Key Development Areas, Core Regeneration Areas and Masterplan areas must consider the potential for SuDS to control surface water outfall and protect water quality, with underground retention solutions only being considered when all other options have been exhausted.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 2.4</u> <i>Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in Naas in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency and in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 2.5</u> <i>Require applicants, where necessary, to demonstrate that proposals will not negatively impact on any groundwater or surface water body and be compliant with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and measures to protect and improve our water bodies set down in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 and future cycles of this Plan..</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 2.6</u> <i>Ensure that development along urban watercourses comply with, Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment (IFI, 2020), including the maintenance of a minimum riparian zone of 35 metres for river channels greater than 10 metres in width, and 20 metres for rivers channels less than 10 metres in width. Development within this zone will only be considered for water compatible developments.³⁵</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy I3: Flood Risk Management</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to manage flood risk in Naas in conjunction with the OPW and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 3.1</u> <i>Ensure all development proposals within the areas where Justification Tests have been carried out as part of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and where residual flood risk remains as outlined on SFRA map (Map Ref. 9.1), are the subject of site specific flood risk assessment appropriate to the nature and scale of the development being proposed.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 3.2</u> <i>Progress and co-operate with the OPW in delivering the Flood Relief Scheme for Naas.</i>	

³⁵ Water compatible developments as defined in the OPW Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009).

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 3.3</u> <i>Maintain all existing overland flow routes.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 3.4</u>	All development proposals should apply the use of the sequential approach in terms of the site layout and design and, in satisfying the Justification Test (where required), the proposal will demonstrate that appropriate mitigation and management measures are put in place. The development proposals should ensure that no encroachment onto, or loss of, the flood plain, only water compatible development such as Open Space would be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site.
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 3.5</u>	Following the completion of the flood mapping stage of the River Liffey and Dublin Flood Risk Management Plan a review of the flood extents will be undertaken and if required Kildare County Council will carry out an update to the SFRA and an amendment of the Plan. The updated SFRA would be prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009). The SFRA would enable Kildare County Council to carry out a review of strategic land-use planning decisions with respect to flood risk and to update flood risk policies if required.
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy I4: Energy and Communications</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to promote and facilitate the development and renewal of energy and communications networks in Naas, while protecting the amenities of the town.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 4.1</u> <i>Support the statutory providers of national grid infrastructure by safeguarding existing infrastructure and strategic corridors from encroachment by development that might compromise the operation, maintenance and provision of energy networks.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

<u>Objective IO 4.2</u> <i>Support and facilitate the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in Naas, subject to safety and amenity requirements.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 4.3</u> <i>Seek the undergrounding of all electricity, telephone and television cables in the town including the town centre and in residential and amenity areas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 4.4</u> <i>Discourage a proliferation of above-ground utility boxes in the town and to seek screening measures and discreet locations in conjunction with the provision of such structures.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 4.5</u> <i>Promote and encourage the use of renewable energy technologies for small, medium and large developments of existing and proposed building stock, such as district heating, micro generation (photovoltaic, micro-wind, micro hydro and micro combined heat and power) and other renewable energy technologies.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy I5: Pollution and Environmental Services</u> <i>It is the policy of the Council to protect environmental quality in Naas through the implementation of European, national and regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 5.1</u> <i>Maintain recycling facilities and secure the provision of additional facilities, as required, including in conjunction with new developments.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 5.2</u> <i>Avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and on the environment as a whole through promoting the preservation of best ambient air quality with sustainable development.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 5.3</u> <i>Support local schools, town and community groups such as Naas Tidy Towns through education and awareness programmes and where available, through the provision of grant aid.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 5.4</u> <i>Support the take-up and use of ultra-low emissions vehicles and encourage through the development management process the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, where appropriate.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective IO 5.5</u> <i>Support the development of a green waste composting site in Naas for the sustainable disposal of green waste biodiversity enhancement.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Policy CQ1: Canal Quarter</u> <i>It is the policy of the council to protect and enhance the amenity of the lands located within the Canal Quarter through sensitive interventions to improve the existing amenity and to encourage and promote appropriate development and regeneration of this area in a sustainable manner.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective CQ 1.1</u> <i>Provide for the alignment of the boulevard from the Northwest Quadrant to the Canal with bus priority and a bus terminus/mobility hub at the Canal Bank.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective CQ 1.2</u> <i>Commission a feasibility, design and cost appraisal study for a pedestrian/cyclist bridge over the canal to connect the Harbour area with the Canal Bank area subject to project specific environmental assessments.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

Objective CQ 1.3 <i>Complete design and Part 8 approvals for the Canal Greenway from the Harbour to Sallins and south to Jigginstown and pursue funding for the development of the greenway to Corbally Harbour.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
Objective CQ 1.4 <i>Ensure as part of any future development proposal for the Canal Bank that there is provision for a public car park at the northern end of the site – ideally, underground or multi-storey and screened by buildings and integrated into future design layout subject to project specific environmental assessments.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
Objective CQ 1.5 <i>Commission the detailed design of a 'shared space' road layout for this area.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
Objective CQ 1.6 <i>Maintain the riparian corridors within the 'Canal Bank' area - including the Rathasker stream corridor, free from development, except where strategic infrastructure may be required to provide access (in which case, a solution with minimal impact will be sought).</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
Objective CQ 1.7 <i>Investigate and consider, as part of a future development layout and architectural design solution of the Canal Quarter, the possibility of revealing the portion of the stream that has been culverted at the Harbour-Basin Street Site (Refer to Figure 10.26 of the LAP).</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
Objective CQ 1.8 <i>Provide a public plaza/square in the immediate vicinity of the Harbour's south and east sides, with an animated active frontage along its south and east sides.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
Objective CQ 1.9 <i>Continue to support and encourage local festivals, events and markets (seasonal/farmers) in the vicinity of the Harbour Area.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective CQ 1.10</u> <i>Explore, in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, the feasibility of re-establishing a water feed to the canal to assist with navigation to encourage its use for recreational water sports.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective CQ 1.11</u> <i>Redesign and rationalise the proliferation of white bollards, chain links and seating at the Harbour, with the possibility of reconfiguring this area as part of the public realm design of public spaces.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective CQ 1.12</u> <i>Consider the possibility of limiting vehicular access to the Harbour with the exception of emergency vehicle access and for the purposes of organising festivals/events.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective CQ 1.13</u> <i>Consider an artistic lighting plan/feature to transform the area as a 'Harbour of Lights' as a means of animating the area and encouraging evening and night-time use.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective CQ 1.14</u> <i>Promote the Rathasker Stream as a key architectural and environmental feature of interest within any redevelopment proposal of the Healy Site.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective CQ 1.15</u> <i>Prepare a public realm plan to review and examine the configuration of spaces, hard and soft landscaping, paving materials and the provision of street furniture around the Harbour Area. The laneways on either side of Market House should included in any public realm design.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified

Objective CQ 1.16

Prepare a traffic and transport assessment to inform the future desired vehicular ingress and egress to the Healy Site from New Row..

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Policy NWQ1: Northwest Quadrant

It is the policy of the council to ensure that the lands located within the Northwest Quadrant (NWQ) are developed in a sustainable manner and the future development strategy should recognise the strategic location of the lands proximate to the existing town centre and the unique opportunities presented by the unique environmental and landscape features.

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Objective NWQ 1.1

To require the preparation of a masterplan (to be developed in conjunction with relevant environmental/flood risk/transport assessments) for the NWQ giving full consideration to the type and intensity of development relative to future transport options and in particular public transport. The masterplan shall be subject to the considerations and specifications outlined in the Urban Development Strategy detailed in Chapter 10, to ensure that the future development of the Northwest Quadrant takes place in a co-ordinated and integrated manner.

- a) *No development shall take place on the lands identified within the Northwest Quadrant (zoned Strategic Reserve or New Residential) until such time as a masterplan is prepared and integrated into the Naas Local Area Plan by way of a statutory amendment to the Local Area Plan, pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).*
- b) *No masterplan shall be completed until the OPW Flood Study has been finalised for the lands in the Northwest Quadrant.*
- c) *The masterplan shall include (but not be restricted to):*
 - i) *A phasing infrastructure programme including physical, social, transport and economic infrastructure.*
 - ii) *Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment for the masterplan lands.*
 - iii) *Transport Impact Assessment.*
 - iv) *Water and wastewater network requirements including assessments regarding the capacity of receiving environments.*
 - v) *Associated Environmental Assessments and appropriate climate proofing measures*
- d) *Individual applications for smaller sections of the Northwest Quadrant masterplan lands shall not be considered by the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála until the masterplan is integrated into the Local Area Plan in accordance with (a) above.*

AA Determination

No likely significant effects identified

Policy URD1: Urban Regeneration and Development

It is the policy of the Council to promote the implementation of the Regeneration and Urban Development Strategy to ensure that planned growth for the town occurs in a sustainable and sequential manner while prioritising a low carbon, compact, consolidated and connected pattern of development in order to realise a vibrant and regenerated town centre; a prosperous, enterprising, dynamic and green economy; supported by an inclusive and age friendly community.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.1</u> <i>Promote the town centre as the priority location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development and to promote new infill and backland development that consolidates and regenerates the existing urban core.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.2</u> <i>Ensure that regeneration and new development enhances the character of the townscape and the quality of the public realm. Such development shall also be in keeping with the relevant Urban Design Principles outlined in Section 10.3.2.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.3</u> <i>Encourage full utilisation of buildings and sites, in particular use of upper floors and backlands where appropriate, with due cognisance to quality of urban design, integration and linkages</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.4</u> <i>Require that new development facilitates 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.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.5</u> <i>Support and facilitate the implementation of the Urban Development and Regeneration Strategy by actively seeking funding from relevant agencies and Government sources including the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) to secure financial support for all regeneration and urban development projects in Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.6</u> <i>Actively engage with the community, landowners, developers and other agencies to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of Naas Town Centre.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.7</u> <i>All development proposals within designated Core Regeneration Areas, Key Development Areas and Northwest Quadrant must, as far as practicable, comply with the relevant development objectives and design frameworks set out in this Plan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.8</u> <i>Actively seek the regeneration of St David's Castle, the Canal Harbour and Abbey Street areas as key visitor and community destinations within Naas Town Centre..</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.9</u> <i>Promote and facilitate the re-use of the existing Naas Library (once vacated) by the occupation of an active community use that will complement the vision for the Canal Harbour.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.10</u> <i>Prepare a masterplan for the Canal Quarter in co-operation with relevant stakeholders and actively secure its implementation through phased development and timely delivery of necessary physical, social and community infrastructure during the lifetime of this Plan and beyond.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.11</u> <i>Prepare a Public Realm Strategy for Naas, such a strategy shall focus on the identified Core Regeneration Areas and seek to implement its provisions on a phased basis over the life of the Plan and beyond.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.12</u> <i>Carry out preliminary traffic modelling and to produce an Access Strategy for lands zoned Commercial at the Junction 9 (Maudlins) Key Development Area in consultation with relevant stakeholders including Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the National Transport Authority (NTA). These will identify the quantum of development that can be facilitated at the location complementary to safeguarding the strategic function and safety of the national road network, in accordance with the</i>	

<i>provisions of official policy outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). The study will also identify any improvements required to the local transport network to accommodate the extent of development proposed.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective URD 1.13</u> <i>Require that any application for development within the Junction 9 (Maudlins) Key Development Area (KDA) be accompanied by a shared/agreed vision for the KDA and by a comprehensive Traffic and Transport Assessment.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified
<u>Objective 1.14</u>	<i>Require the completion of the Gallops Avenue (MTO 3.2) in advance of or in tandem with the development of the new residential lands, C (16) to the west of Naas Racecourse.</i>
AA Determination	

5.5.2 Land Use Zoning Assessment

The aim of the land use zoning objectives within the Draft LAP is to manage and deliver new development to ensure that it occurs in an orderly and efficient manner, in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. The likely significant effects of implementing the land-use zonings of the Naas LAP on Natura 2000 sites are assessed in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Potential impacts as a result of land use zoning objectives.

<u>A: Town Centre</u> <i>To protect, improve and provide for the future development of the town centre.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>B: Existing Residential/Infill</u> <i>To protect and enhance the amenity of established residential communities and promote sustainable intensification.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>C: New Residential</u> <i>To provide for new residential development.</i> <u>Specific Objective</u> <i>Key Development Area - Devoy Barracks (refer to LAP Chapter 10).</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>C: Phase 2; New Residential</u> <i>To protect future development lands from inappropriate forms of development which would impede the sequential expansion and consolidation of the town in terms of providing for new residential development for future plans.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>E: Community and Educational</u> <i>To provide for education, recreation, community and health.</i> <i>Sites for new and extended facilities include:</i> <i>E (1) – New Caragh Road – site of a potential new post-primary / primary school.</i> <i>E (2) – Lands south of the South Ring Road – site of a potential new post-primary / primary school.</i> <i>E (3) – Millennium Park – site of a post-primary school under construction.</i> <i>E (4) – Site at Jigginstown (adjacent to Castle Farm) – potential site for new primary or post-primary school.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>F: Open Space and Amenity</u> <i>To protect and provide for open space, amenity and recreation provision.</i>	

Specific Objectives:

F (1): Jigginstown Linear Park – These lands comprising of 21 ha are identified for the development of a linear park/neighbourhood park providing for active and passive recreation adjacent to an expanding residential area. A 50 metres setback is required from the bank of the Grand Canal. It is envisaged that this site could also provide for approximately four soccer pitches, two rugby pitches and two GAA pitches.

F (2): South of Kilcullen and Ballymore Eustace Roundabouts: These lands comprising 11.94 ha are identified for the development of a proposed active recreation area catering for the future population of this area of town. The development of such facilities shall include the provision of strong links to existing and future residential lands in the surrounding area, as well as the development of the old Naas-Baltinglass/Tullow railway line Greenway.

F (3): New Caragh Road: These lands have been identified to expand on the existing sports facilities, including sports fields and other facilities at the Naas Sports Centre. It is envisaged that the expansion of such will serve the residents of Naas and that of the surrounding area.

F (4): Killashee: The lands at this location extend to 44.6 ha. A Centre of Excellence for equine or sport will be considered on these lands.

F (5): Kerdiffstown Park: These lands comprise of 31.25 ha and will provide two full size pitches, three 5 a-side pitches, running track, playground and changing facilities, alongside an extensive parkland area for the residents of both Naas, Sallins and Johnstown.

F (6): Naas Racecourse: The lands located at the centre of the racecourse extending to ca. 11 hectares, have been identified to provide for playing pitches.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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F2: Strategic Open Space

To preserve, provide for and improve recreational amenity, open space and green infrastructure networks.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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G: Green Belt

To maintain the settlement character and protect, from inappropriate development, the greenbelt between Naas and Johnstown.

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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H: Industry and Warehousing

To provide for industry, manufacturing, distribution and warehousing.

Note: Where employment is a high generator of traffic, the location of new employment facilities at an appropriate scale, density, type and location will be encouraged to reduce the demands for vehicular travel

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
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I: Agricultural

To retain and protect agricultural uses.

Specific Objective:

<i>Investigate the feasibility of providing a connection to Kerdiffstown Park through the lands zoned for agricultural use (and Open Space and Amenity) to the north of the M7 motorway.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>K: Commercial/Residential</u> <i>To provide for commercial and appropriate residential mixed-use developments.</i> <u>Specific Objectives</u> <i>K (1): Dublin Road: Any development of this site shall be of a high standard of design and quality having regard to its strategic location off the Maudlins Interchange (Junction 9) and gateway into the town.</i> <i>K (2): Newbridge Road: Any development of this site shall be of a high standard of design and quality having regard to its strategic gateway location at the junction of the Newbridge Road and the South Ring Road and its proximity to Jigginstown Castle.</i> <i>K (3): Junction 9 (Maudlins): No residential development is permitted.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>L: Leisure and Amenity</u> <i>To provide for leisure and tourism facilities within the town.</i> <i>L (1): Jigginstown Castle: To support the development of this site as a public tourist/training/open space attraction subject to a Conservation Plan.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>N: Neighbourhood Centre</u> <i>To provide for new/existing neighbourhood centres and associated facilities.</i> <i>Note: 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.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
P: Data Centre / Warehouse	<i>To provide for Data Centre development and their associated infrastructure only.</i>
AA Determination	
<u>Q: Enterprise and Employment</u> <i>To provide for and facilitate the provision of high job-generating uses.</i>	

AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>R: Retail/Commercial</u> <i>To support continued operation of existing commercial uses.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>SR: Strategic Reserve</u> <i>To protect the integrity of the lands within the Northwest Quadrant to provide for the future strategic expansion of the town. To ensure no inappropriate forms of development impede the orderly expansion of the Key Town of Naas.</i> <i>No development shall take place on these lands until a masterplan is prepared and integrated into the Local Area Plan by way of a Statutory Amendment under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) which shall be finalised on completion of the OPW Flood Study for Naas.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.
<u>U: Utilities/Services</u> <i>To provide for and improve public utilities.</i>	
AA Determination	No likely significant effects identified.

6 Screening Statement and Conclusions

The likely impacts that will arise from the draft Naas LAP 2021-2027 alone and in combination with other plans and projects have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.

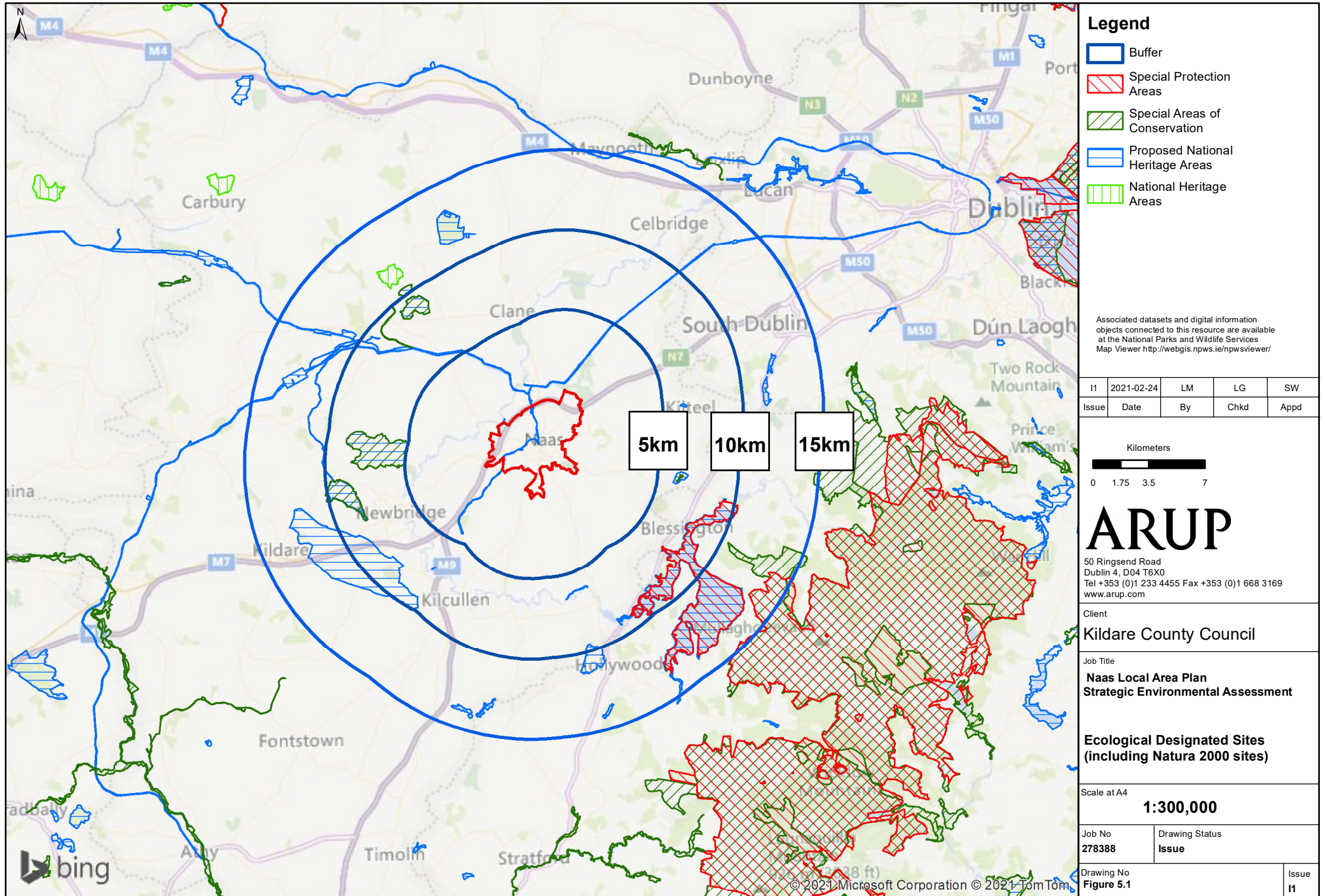
Eight Natura 2000 sites were identified within 15km of the LAP boundary however there is no pathway for impacts between the LAP and those Natura 2000 sites or their qualifying features.

It is considered that significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 sites arising from the implementation of the LAP are extremely unlikely.

On the basis of the findings of this Screening Report to inform Appropriate Assessment by the competent authority, it is concluded that the proposed draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027 will not have any likely significant effect on the Natura 2000 network and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Appendix A

Figures





Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination in accordance with the EU's Habitats Directive Article 6(3) and the 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 Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027.

The Draft Naas Local Area Plan, through a series of Objectives and Policies, will set out the vision and direction for the future development of the Naas area up to 2027. Proposed land use plans and proposed variations must undergo a formal 'test' or 'screening' to ascertain whether they are likely to result in any significant adverse effects on specific sites designated for their nature conservation importance. These sites are those designated under the European Commission's Natura 2000 network of sites (hereafter 'European sites'). These sites are designated on the basis of the presence of certain habitats and species that are deemed to be of international importance. The Irish Government and local planning authorities have a legal obligation to protect these sites. The EC Habitats and Birds Directives are the framework for the designation of these sites. The EC Habitats Directive requires the 'screening' of plans and projects under Article 6(3). If the screening process results in a judgement that likely significant effects may occur or cannot be ruled out, then a more detailed 'appropriate assessment' (AA) is required.

Determination

Having regard to the content of the Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 and consideration of the potential for significant impacts arising from its implementation which may have the potential to adversely affect any Natura 2000 site; with regard to their Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives, it was determined as part of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment on the basis of the findings of the report for Appropriate Assessment Screening, it is concluded that the Draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027 will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of European Sites. This decision has been informed by analysis prepared by ARUP in addition to the Issues Paper and other material pertinent to the European Sites held by the Council.

It was also determined as part of this screening that there was no potential for effects or in-combination effects on European sites as a result of the implementation of the LAP.

In conclusion, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Section 177U of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 (as amended), taking into account all matters relevant it has been determined that, on the basis of objective information available at this stage, that the Draft LAP, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European site.

A final AA determination will be made on the LAP before adoption takes place. This determination will take into account any other documents prepared and submitted during the plan preparation process and any written submissions made on the draft plan and associated documents while they are on public display.

Signed

Date

8th of March 2021

Signatory (Approved Officer):

Director of Services, Planning and Strategic Development