

Kildare County Council

Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening

Reference: 01

Issue | 10 February 2026

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

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1. Introduction

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

- Volume 1 Written Statement: The main body of the document which comprises the Vision, Core Strategy, development management standards and the overarching policies and objectives of the CDP; and
- Volume 2 Part 1 (Small Towns and Environs Plans) and Part 2 (Villages Plans and Rural Settlements): A coherent planning framework for the small towns, environs of Ladytown and Blessington, villages, and rural settlements across the county. The Strategy includes land use zoning maps (for small towns, villages and the environs of Ladytown and Blessington) and specific objectives which are underpinned by the strategic vision and the overarching guiding principles of the CDP.

In February 2026, KCC, as Planning Authority, gave notice pursuant to Section 58(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), of Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). Proposed Variation No. 4 has been prepared to update the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) by replacing the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (2004) with the recently completed LCA (2025), which was carried out in response to Action *LR A1* of the CDP, which seeks to review and update the LCA 2004 within two years of the adoption of the CDP (as varied), as follows:

LR A1: *Review and update the County Landscape Character Assessment, within two years of the adoption of this Plan, having regard to the European Landscape Convention Florence 2000, in accordance with all relevant legislation and guidance documents and to ensure consistency with the forthcoming National and Regional Landscape Character Assessment. All landscape character designations will be fully reviewed having regard to updated best practice guidance, LCAs of adjoining Local Authorities and other local relevant considerations, including clusters of biodiversity rich areas and the Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy.*

Arup has been commissioned by KCC to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening of Proposed Variation No. 4 of the CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) (hereafter referred to as the ‘Proposed Variation No. 4’).

2. Proposed Variation No. 4 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)

As outlined in Section 1, Proposed Variation No. 4 has been prepared to update the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) by replacing the LCA (2004) with the recently completed LCA (2025), which was carried out in response to Action *LR A1* of the CDP, which seeks to review and update the Landscape Character Assessment (2004) within two years of the adoption of the CDP (as varied), as follows:

LR A1: *Review and update the County Landscape Character Assessment, within two years of the adoption of this Plan, having regard to the European Landscape Convention Florence 2000, in accordance with all relevant legislation and guidance documents and to ensure consistency with the forthcoming National and Regional Landscape Character Assessment. All landscape character designations will be fully reviewed having regard to updated best practice guidance, LCAs of adjoining Local Authorities and other local relevant considerations, including clusters of biodiversity rich areas and the Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy.*

The CDP (as varied) consists of two volumes, of which Volume 1 – Written Statement sets out the strategic framework, policies, and objectives guiding sustainable development, land use, urban design, infrastructure, and environmental management across the County Kildare. Proposed Variation No. 4 comprises amendments to the written statement of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) as follows:

- Update Chapter 13 (Landscape, Recreation & Amenity) to replace the Landscape Character Assessment (2004) with the Landscape Character Assessment (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and updated policies and objectives, where relevant;
- Update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment (2025); and
- Include Landscape Character Assessment (2025) as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).

It should be noted that the Updated Chapter 13 (Landscape, Recreation & Amenity) includes revisions to the following existing objectives and policies: LR02, LR06, LR07, LR011, LR012, LR013, LR014, LR015, LRP2, LR017, LR018, LR030, LR031 and LR O38.

3. SEA Screening

3.1 Legislative Overview

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, (also known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive), requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Ireland made the decision to transpose the SEA Directive into Irish law in 2004 through two separate statutory instruments or regulations as follows:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations (S.I. 435/2004) as amended; and
- Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2025. (S.I. 456/2025).

As the relevant plan relates to a Proposed Variation No. 4 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), S.I. 456/2025, as amended, is the applicable legislation.

Thus, KCC, as the planning authority is required to determine whether Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) needs to be subject to SEA. This process is referred to as ‘SEA Screening’.

Under S.I. No. 456 of 2025, the definition of ‘plan’ has the meaning assigned to it in section 198(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2024, included as follows:

“*plan*” means—

(a) *National Planning Framework or a revision to a National Planning Framework,*

(b) *National Planning Statement, an amendment to a National Planning Statement or a revocation of a National Planning Statement,*

(c) *a revocation of guidelines issued by the Minister under section 28 of the Act of 2000 and continued in force by virtue of section 27,*

(d) *a regional spatial and economic strategy or a revision to a regional spatial and economic strategy,*

- (e) an amendment to a regional spatial and economic strategy as provided for in subsection (2) of section 37,
- (f) a development plan or a variation of a development plan,
- (g) an amendment to a development plan as provided for in subsection (2) of section 62,
- (h) an urban area plan, an amendment to an urban area plan or a revocation of an urban area plan,
- (i) a priority area plan, an amendment to a priority area plan or a revocation of a priority area plan,
- (j) a coordinated area plan, an amendment to a coordinated area plan or a revocation of a coordinated area plan other than a revocation in accordance with subsection (3) of section 77,
- (k) a direction in respect of a regional spatial and economic strategy as provided for in section 40,
- (l) an order under subsection (3) of section 68,
- (m) a direction in respect of a development plan as provided for in section 65,
- (n) a direction in respect of an urban area plan, a priority area plan or a coordinated area plan as provided for in section 80, and
- (o) an urgent direction in respect of a development plan as provided for in section 67;')

For the purposes of this SEA Screening report ‘plan’ is defined as part (f) above ‘*a development plan or a variation of a development plan*,’.

3.2 SEA Screening Methodology

SEA Screening is the process for determining whether a particular plan, or variation to a CDP, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA. Such a determination is required to take account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2, ‘Criteria for Determining Whether a Plan is Likely to Have Significant Effects on the Environment’ of the SEA Regulations, as amended, and submissions or observations from relevant environmental authorities. The criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment set out in Schedule 2 of S.I. 456/2025, as amended is outlined below:

1. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to:
 - The degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
 - The degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy;
 - The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
 - Environmental problems relevant to the plan; and
 - The relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:
 - The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
 - The cumulative nature of the effects, – the transboundary nature of the effects;
 - The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);
 - The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
 - The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

- a. Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage
- b. Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values
- c. Intensive land-use.

– The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.

4. SEA Screening of Proposed Variation No. 4

Table 4.1 sets out the criteria for determining whether a development plan (or as it relates to this Screening, a variation to a development plan) is likely to have significant effects on the environment set out in Schedule 2 of S.I. 456/2025, as amended. A response to each of the individual criterion, as they pertain to the Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied), is also included.

Table 4.1 Criteria for Determining Whether a Plan is Likely to have Significant Effects on the Environment

Schedule 2 Criteria for Determining Whether a Plan is Likely to have Significant Effects on the Environment	
The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to:	
The degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	
Proposed Variation No. 4 aims to update Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some updated policies and, objectives, where relevant. In addition, Proposed Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied). Although Proposed Variation No. 4 does introduce new objectives and minor textual amendments/ changes to the existing objectives and policies in Chapter 13, as shown in Appendix A, all changes include minor textual amendments and text deletions. Accordingly, the extent to which Proposed Variation No. 4 sets a framework for projects or other activities—whether in terms of location, nature, size, operating conditions, or resource allocation—is considered to be limited.	
The degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy	
Proposed Variation No. 4 aims to update the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) by replacing the LCA (2004) with the recently completed LCA (2025), which was carried out in response to Action LR A1 of the Plan. Proposed Variation No. 4 introduces new objectives and minor textual amendments and text deletions to the existing objectives and policies of Chapter 13 in the CDP (as varied) (as shown in Appendix A).. As the proposed amendments are related to the existing objectives, policies and more generally, the content included in Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) and noting that the CDP (as varied) is within the existing planning and development framework, Proposed Variation No. 4 is not considered to have potential to influence other plans. The existing framework is already governed by the CDP (as varied), thus, the degree to which the variation will influence other plans is considered to be minor.	
The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	
The CDP (as varied) is the principal strategy guiding the proper planning and sustainable development of land use across County Kildare over its six-year statutory period. Proposed Variation No. 4 aims to update Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some updated policies and objectives where relevant. In addition, Proposed Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).	
The relevant textual updates made as part of Proposed Variation No. 4 aim to ensure the landscape in Kildare is protected and managed in a sustainable and coherent manner. In this context, Proposed Variation No. 4 contributes positively to the promotion of sustainable development.	
Environmental problems relevant to the plan	
Proposed Variation No. 4 aims to update Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some	

Schedule 2 Criteria for Determining Whether a Plan is Likely to have Significant Effects on the Environment

updated policies and objectives, where relevant. In addition, Proposed Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).

As such, the Proposed Variation No. 4 primarily addresses the problem of landscape and visual amenity issues that may occur as a result of inappropriate development, by introducing guidance principles for development, and some updated policies and objectives, to ensure the landscape in Kildare is protected and managed in a sustainable and coherent manner.

The relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste management or water protection)

Proposed Variation No. 4 aims to align Volume 1 of the CDP (as varied) to new sustainable development and planning design standards.

The CDP (as varied) includes objectives that support the implementation of European Union environmental legislation, including those relating to waste management, water protection, and broader environmental governance. These objectives, set out in Volume 1 of the CDP (as varied), will remain unchanged as part of Proposed Variation No. 4.

Accordingly, Proposed Variation No. 4 is relevant to the implementation of European Union environmental legislation, as it continues to ensure that the strategic planning framework for County Kildare aligns with these legislative requirements.

Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:

The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,

An environmental screening of the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) is contained in Appendix A.

The detailed provisions, including new objectives and textual amendments to existing objectives and policies mainly relate to updating Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some updated policies and objectives, where relevant. In addition, Proposed Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).

As identified in Appendix A, the proposed amendments do not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Accordingly, the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 are not likely to result in, or introduce, significant environmental effects.

The cumulative nature of the effects,

An environmental screening of the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) is contained in Appendix A.

The detailed provisions including new objectives and textual amendments to existing objectives and policies, relate to updating Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some updated policies and objectives, where relevant. In addition, Proposed Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).

As identified in Appendix A, the draft updates do not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Accordingly, the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 are not likely to result in, or introduce, significant environmental effects, including significant cumulative effects.

The transboundary nature of the effects,

Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) is limited in its influence on the area of County Kildare. The scale and character of Proposed Variation No. 4 therefore precludes the possibility of transboundary effects.

The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),

An environmental screening of the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) is contained in Appendix A.

The detailed provisions, including new objectives and textual amendments to existing objectives and policies, relate to updating Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some updated policies, and objectives, where relevant. In addition, Proposed Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).

As identified in Appendix A, the draft updates do not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Accordingly, the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 are not likely to result in, or introduce, potential significant effects on human health or the environment.

The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),

Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) is limited in its influence to the area of County Kildare.

An environmental screening of the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) is contained in Appendix A.

Schedule 2 Criteria for Determining Whether a Plan is Likely to have Significant Effects on the Environment

The detailed provisions, including new objectives and textual amendments to existing objectives and policies, relate to updating Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some updated policies and objectives, where relevant. In addition, Proposed Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).

As identified in Appendix A, the draft updates do not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Accordingly, the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 are not likely to result in, or introduce, potential significant effects on human health or the environment.

The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

- a. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
- b. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
- c. intensive land-use

The detailed provisions including new objectives and textual amendments to existing objectives and policies, relate to updating Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some updated policies and objectives, where relevant. In addition, Proposed Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).

As identified in Appendix A, the draft updates do not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Accordingly, the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 are not likely to result in, or introduce, potential significant effects on the environment, including those related the value and vulnerability of the area of Kildare. The relevant textual updates made as part of Proposed Variation No. 4 aim to ensure the landscape in Kildare is protected and managed in a sustainable and coherent manner. In this context, it is considered that Proposed Variation No. 4 contributes positively to the value and vulnerability of the area in Kildare.

The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.

An environmental screening of the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) is contained in Appendix A.

The detailed provisions, including new objectives and textual amendments to existing objectives and policies, relate to updating Chapter 13 of the CDP (as varied) to replace the LCA (2004) with the LCA (2025). The changes include new landscape character types, landscape character areas, guidance principles for development, and some updated policies and objectives, where relevant. In addition, Draft Variation No. 4 will update the Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix 2 of the CDP (as varied)) to have regard to the LCA (2025) and the LCA (2025) will be included as a new Appendix (Appendix 13) to the CDP (as varied).

As identified in Appendix A, the proposed amendments do not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. The relevant textual updates made as part of Proposed Variation No. 4 aim to ensure the landscape in Kildare is protected and managed in a sustainable and coherent manner, including those recognised at national, European Union or international protection status. In this context, it is considered that Proposed Variation No. 4 contributes positively to areas or landscapes which have been recognised with a national, European Union or international protection status. Accordingly, the detailed provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4 are not likely to result in, or introduce, potential significant effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.

5. Appropriate Assessment

The EU Habitats Directive, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2024 provide the requirement to screen for effects on Natura 2000, or ‘European Sites’. These sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain then an Appropriate Assessment (AA) must be undertaken.

Proposed Variation No. 4 was subject to a screening process to establish whether or not an AA is required. The AA Screening identified that additional draft objectives and updates to existing objectives in the Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied), individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a likely significant effect on European Sites.

Therefore, at this stage, AA is not required. Any proposed amendments to Proposed Variation No. 4 will be subject to further screening for AA.

6. Conclusion

SEA Screening is the process for determining whether a particular plan, or as the regulation relates to this Screening a variation to a plan, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of the report is to evaluate if an SEA is required to be undertaken of Proposed Variation No. 4 of the CDP (as varied).

The assessment of Proposed Variation No. 4 provided in this report (against the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of S.I. No. 456/2025 - Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025 has found that Proposed Variation No. 4 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

The AA Screening of Proposed Variation No. 4 undertaken has likewise determined that no AA is required.

Therefore, on the basis of the above assessment, including consideration of the criteria as set out in Schedule 2 of S.I. No. 456/2025 - European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025), the Proposed Variation No. 4 to the CDP (as varied) does not require full SEA. A determination will be made by KCC on the requirement for SEA. This determination will be based on the contents of this report and responses received by relevant environmental authorities in accordance with Section 4(5), 4(6) and 4(7) of the S.I. No. 456/2025. Relevant environmental authorities shall be notified of this determination once finalised.

Appendix A

Environmental Screening of Provisions of Proposed Variation No. 4

Draft Updates to Policies and Objectives of CDP as part of Variation No. 4 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029	Is there potential for significant effects on the environment?
<p>LR 02 Require a Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment to accompany proposals that are likely to significantly affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Landscape Sensitivity Factors; ● A Class 4 or 5 Sensitivity Landscape (i.e. within 500m of the boundary); ● A route or view identified in Map V1-13.3 (i.e. within 500m of the site boundary). ● All Wind Farm development applications irrespective of location, shall be required to be accompanied by a detailed Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment including a series of photomontages at locations to be agreed with the Planning Authority, including from scenic routes and views identified in Chapter 13. <p><i>Require a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to accompany significant development proposals in areas of High landscape character sensitivity. A LVIA should also accompany applications for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>significant development proposals in other parts of the county, on a case-by-case basis (e.g., housing development, wind turbine and solar array developments, extractive industry, telecommunications infrastructure, afforestation and replanting of commercial forestry proposals);</i> – <i>and smaller scale developments taking account of the landscape sensitivity of an area and/or concerns regarding potential negative landscape or visual impacts.</i> 	<p>No.</p> <p>Draft update relates to text removal and alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development.</p> <p>Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.</p>
<p>LR 06 Investigate the feasibility of preparing a Landscape Conservation Area Assessment within the county to identify any area(s) or place(s) within the county as a Landscape Conservation Area, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).</p> <p><i>Kildare County Council will have regard to the landscape character of adjoining counties, and any relevant regional strategies, when considering projects which may have a material impact on the landscape character of the adjoining counties.</i></p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Draft update relates to text removal and alteration. Draft update does not include any provisions which will result in new development.</p> <p>Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.</p>
<p>LR 07 Restrict the quarrying of sensitive sites within the Landscape Character Areas in line with Table 13.3 and Table 13.4 above in line with the LCA Sensitivity Map V1-13.2A and Table 13.4 above and to protect and conserve the ecological, archaeological, biodiversity and visual amenity surrounding quarry sites, in identifying sites for restriction.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Draft update relates to minor text removal and alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development.</p> <p>Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.</p>
<p>LR 011 Support collaboration between Kildare County Council, the Midlands Regional Transition Team and all other relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates the management, rehabilitation and restoration/re-wetting of significant tracts of peatlands in</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Draft update relates to minor text alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development.</p>

Draft Updates to Policies and Objectives of CDP as part of Variation No. 4 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029	Is there potential for significant effects on the environment?
conjunction with appropriate development after uses, in accordance with the <i>guidance and recommendations for peatlands contained in Appendix 13 Landscape Character Assessment (2025) for the county</i> .	Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR 012 Recognise that boglands, including cutaway and cut-over bogs, are critical natural resources for ecological and environmental reasons, particularly for climate mitigation and adaptation. <i>Have regard to relevant peatland landscape character areas (LCAs) and sensitivity classes in evaluating all project proposals</i> . Development proposals for boglands that reduce biodiversity and increase greenhouse gas <i>emissions</i> will not be considered. Appropriate environmental assessment should be carried out for any development proposals which impact on boglands.	No. Draft update relates to minor text alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR013 Recognise that some cutaway and cut-over boglands may represent degraded landscapes and/or brownfield sites and thus are potentially fit to absorb a variety of development provided that the development proposals does do not increase greenhouse gas emissions or damage protected habitats or species. <i>Refer to peatland landscape character areas (LCAs) and sensitivity classes in evaluating all project proposals</i> . Projects or developments which would result in increased ammonia emissions to watercourses shall not be considered.	No. Draft update relates to minor text removal and alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR014 Maintain the visual integrity of Eastern Transition lands the Naas and Liffey Foothills and the South Eastern Kildare Hills landscape character areas, Transition lands which have retained an upland character.	No. Draft update relates to minor text removal and alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR015 Continue to facilitate appropriate development in the Eastern Transition Lands Naas and Liffey Foothills and South Eastern Kildare Hills landscape character areas, in an incremental and clustered manner, where feasible, that respects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape, recognizing the need for sustainable settlement patterns and economic activity within the county.	No. Draft update relates to minor text removal and alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR P2 Protect High Amenity Areas/ <i>Areas Protected under International, European and National legislation identified in Section 13.4 of this Plan</i> from inappropriate development and reinforce their character, distinctiveness and sense of place.	No. Draft update relates to minor text alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR 017 (a) Control development that will adversely affect the visual integrity of Areas of High Amenity/ <i>Areas Protected under International, European and National</i> legislation by restricting the development of incongruous structures that are out of scale with the landscape within these Areas including advertising signs, hoardings, fencing, etc., which create visual clutter and disrupt the open nature of these areas.	No. Draft update relates to minor text alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development.

Draft Updates to Policies and Objectives of CDP as part of Variation No. 4 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029	Is there potential for significant effects on the environment?
(b) <i>Require development in Areas of High Amenity/Areas Protected under International, European and National to employ high standards of design and creativity in mitigating impact on the environment.</i>	Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR O18 Facilitate appropriate development in Areas of High Amenity/ <i>Areas Protected under International, European and National legislation</i> that can utilise existing structures, settlement areas and infrastructure, taking account of the visual absorption opportunities provided by existing topography and vegetation.	No. Draft update relates to minor text alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR O30 Sensitively consider development in the Upland Character Areas including East Kildare Uplands <i>the Naas and Liffey Foothills and the South Eastern Kildare Hills Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)</i> that have a functional and locational requirement to be situated on steep or elevated sites (e.g. reservoirs, telecommunications masts or wind energy structures) where it can be explicitly demonstrated that residual adverse visual impacts are minimised and mitigated.	No. Draft update relates to minor text alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR O31 Have regard to the potential for screening vegetation when evaluating proposals for development within the Upland Character Areas including East Kildare Uplands <i>Naas and Liffey Foothills and the South Eastern Kildare Hills</i> .	No. Draft update relates to minor text alteration. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.
LR O38 Ensure unenclosed land which has not been fenceed in the last 10 years remains not fenceed as per the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Art 9 (1)(a)(x) – Restrictions on exemption. a. <i>To protect designated views of special amenity value identified in the Plan [see Tables 13.5 / Scenic Routes, Table 13.6: Hilltop Views, Views from Bridges / Table 13.7 Views from Bridges or other land use plans and ensure that development proposals do not have an undue detrimental impact on these views.</i> b. <i>Development proposals will be assessed against their impact on the designated view if it falls within the foreground, middle ground or background of that view. New development should not harm, and where possible, should make a positive contribution to, the characteristics and composition of the designated views and their landmark elements.</i> c. <i>Development proposals that could affect a designated view should be accompanied by an assessment that explains, evaluates and justifies any visual impact on the view affected. The scoping process for determining whether a development proposal is likely to affect a designated view should be completed in consultation with Kildare County Council. The assessment should demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with the relevant objectives of this Plan. The assessment should form part of a landscape and visual impact assessment, design statement or townscape and visual impact assessment submitted with a planning application.</i>	No. This objective replaces the existing LR 038 and relates to the protection and adequate assessment of designated views of special amenity value. Draft update does not include any new provisions and will not result in any new development. Thus, it is not considered likely to give rise to any significant negative effects on the environment.

Draft Updates to Policies and Objectives of CDP as part of Variation No. 4 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029	Is there potential for significant effects on the environment?
<p><i>d. Development in the foreground and middle ground of a designated view should not be overly intrusive, unsightly or prominent to the detriment of the view. Most designated views are seen in a 120-degree field of view. It is not expected that the view outside of this field of vision should be assessed unless specified by Kildare County Council.</i></p> <p><i>Designated views of special amenity value and views of local landmark buildings / other local views of significance will need to be considered in the scoping of views to identify the potential impacts of development proposals.</i></p>	



Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) to give effect to an updated Landscape Character Assessment (2025) to replace the Landscape Character Assessment (2004)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination under Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2025. (S.I. 456/2025) for the Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied).

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening determination has been made by Kildare County Council regarding Proposed Variation No. 4 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied). The SEA Directive as transposed by the Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2025. (S.I. 456/2025), provide requirements in relation to SEA.

SEA Screening must be undertaken on Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied) in order to establish whether the plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment and would necessitate full SEA.

Following a detailed examination of the Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029 (as varied) provided in the SEA Screening Report (that accompanies and has informed this determination) taking into account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2 of Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2025. (S.I. 456/2025) and any submission or observation received from environmental authorities, it is determined that the Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029 (as varied) would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore the Proposed Variation No.4 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied) does not require a full SEA.

A SEA Screening Report on the Proposed Variation No. 4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 (as varied) accompanies this determination.

Signed:

[Alan Dunney]

Alan Dunney

Signatory (Approved Officer):

Date

11/2/2026 | 4:58 PM GMT