

Kildare County Council

Proposed Variation No.5: Northwest Quadrant (Naas) to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029
(as varied)

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

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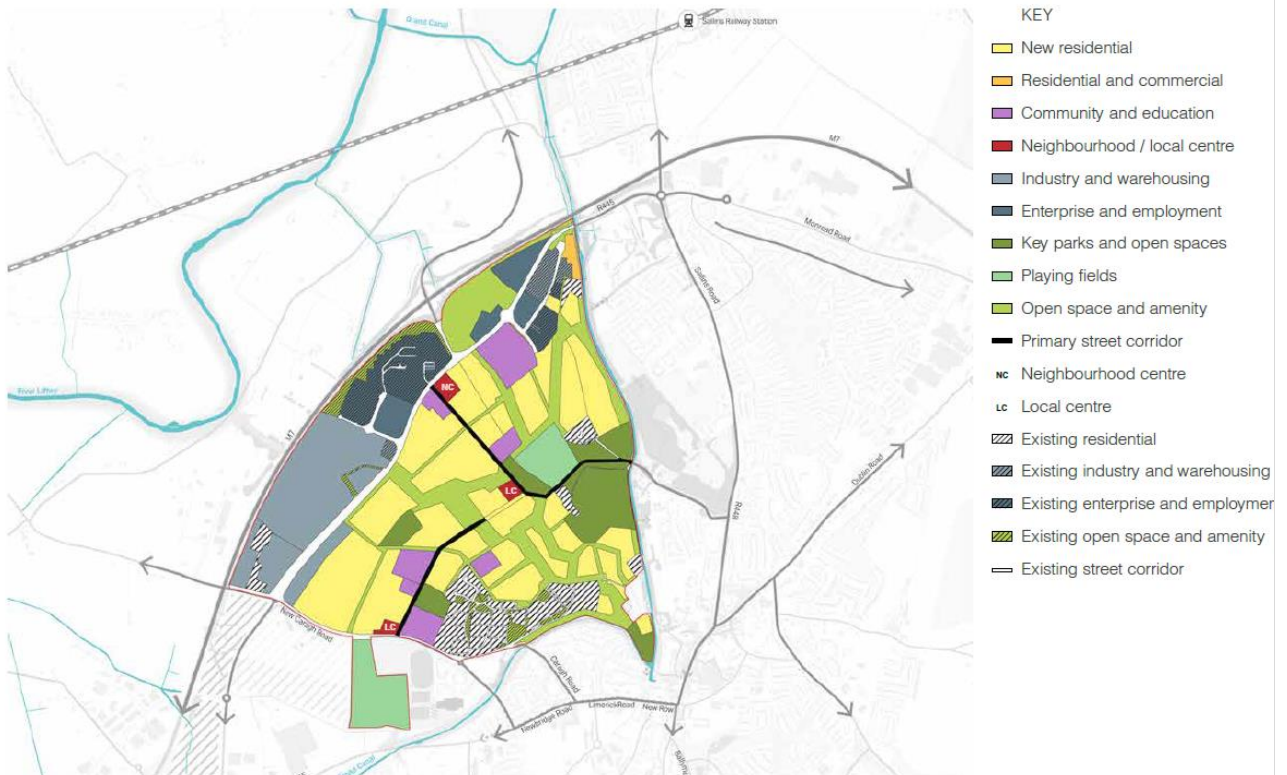
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Job number 312816 -02

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report has been prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd (Arup) on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC) with respect to the Proposed Variation No. 5 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (hereafter referred to as the ‘proposed Variation’).

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.

In April 2026, KCC, as the Planning Authority, gave notice pursuant to Section 58(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), of the proposed Variation of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied). The proposed Variation has been prepared to update the CDP by integrating the *Northwest Quadrant (Naas) Framework Masterplan* into the statutory planning framework to provide a development framework to enable its delivery, as an urban extension of c.300 hectares to Naas of strategic importance that will be one of Naas and County Kildare’s key locations for housing supply.

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

1.2 Report Aim

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

1.3 Legislative Context

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

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

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

1.4 Relationship with the SEA Directive

In the preparation of this AA Screening report, the approach has been conducted in parallel with the requirements of the SEA process (2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law by S.I. No. 456 of 2025). Article 3.2(b) of the SEA Directive expressly links to AA. The SEA process requires that an environmental report is prepared to accompany a draft plan for public consultation. Following the consultation period, the plan may be finalised in its issue form. To facilitate an informed assessment under both processes, it is necessary to consider both the draft and final versions of the plan.

1.5 Statement of Competency

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

Sinead Whyte holds a BSc and MSc from UCD. She has over 27 years' experience in the field of environmental assessment. She is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Water and Environmental Management for 20 years.

Namrata Kaile is a Senior Environmental Consultant at Arup and is a Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). She holds a BSc in Life Sciences from University of Delhi and a MSc in Environmental Sciences (with distinction) from Trinity College Dublin.

Alice Halpenny holds a BSc (Hons) in Zoology from University College Dublin and a MSc in Environmental Leadership from National University of Ireland, Galway. Alice is an associate member of ISEP with over 3 years' experience in environmental consulting.

1.6 Report Structure

The report is structured below:

- Section 2 provides an overview of the proposed Variation;
- Section 3 outlines the AA process and provides important information on definitions, guidance, data and methodologies informing the assessment;
- Section 4 details the assessment for effects and screening;
- Section 5 provides a concluding statement.

2. The Proposed Variation

2.1 Overview

As outlined in Section 1.1, the proposed Variation has been prepared to update the CDP by integrating the *Northwest Quadrant (Naas) Framework Masterplan* into the statutory planning framework to provide a development framework to enable its delivery, as an urban extension of c.300 hectares to Naas of strategic importance that will be one of Naas and County Kildare’s key locations for housing supply.

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, and Volume 2 sets out plans for settlements of various sizes. The proposed Variation comprises amendments to the CDP (as varied) as follows:

- Update Northwest Quadrant boundary in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Core Strategy by replacing Table 2.5 Map 2.8B with an updated version.
- Insertion of new sections within Volume 2: Settlement Plans.
- Insertion of section to enable the *Northwest Quadrant (Naas) Written Statement* (including appendices and supporting documents) to be included in Volume 2 of the County Development Plan under the proposed Key Towns Section.

2.2 Geographic Area

The proposed Variation covers the area to the north of Naas defined as the Northwest Quadrant and highlighted below in Figure 1.

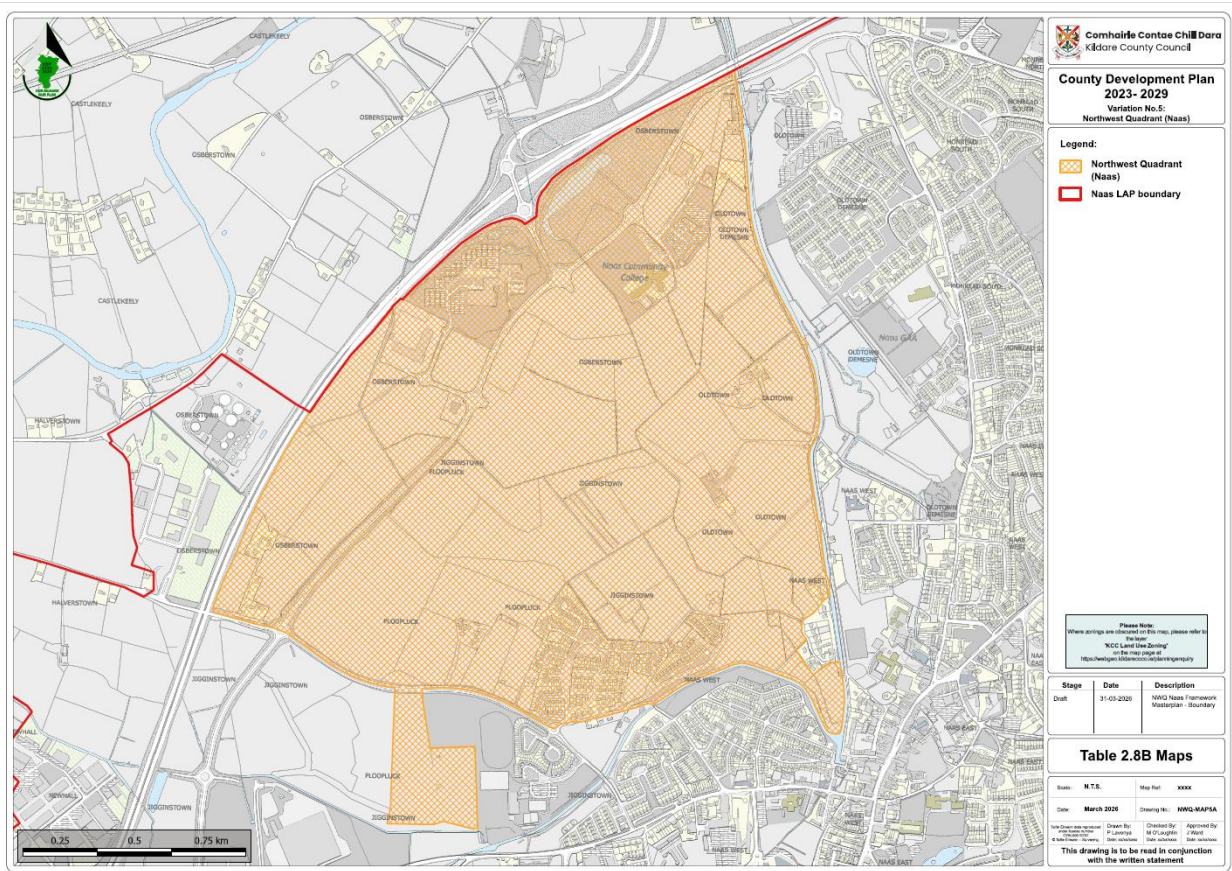


Figure 1 Northwest Quadrant boundary (Data Source: KCC)

2.3 Embedded Protective Policies and Draft New or Amended Policies and Objectives as Included in the Kildare CDP (as varied)

The CDP was subject to Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 Natura Impact Report (NIR) in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. The NIR included a suite of protective policies which were built into the published CDP (as varied) as a suite of embedded protective policies and objectives to avoid the potential for LSE on the integrity of European sites within the scope of the CDP (see Appendix A.1).

As the proposed Variation constitutes a variation of the CDP, accordingly, the embedded protective policies arising from the AA of the CDP are applicable in this context and are treated as such for the purposes of assessing the proposed Variation. While the proposed Variation is independently assessed for the potential for LSE, any embedded protective policies that apply are considered part of the baseline policy framework and not as mitigation measures specific to the CDP.

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

- BI O9: *‘Avoid development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive, to support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.’*
- BI O10: *‘Ensure an Appropriate Assessment Screening, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, Section 177A of the Planning and Development Act (2001-2022) or any superseding legislation and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to determine the likelihood of the plan or project having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects and to ensure that projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.’*

3. Guidance, Methodology and Data Sources

3.1 Appropriate Assessment Stages

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

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

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

3.2 Definitions

3.2.1 European Sites

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

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I¹ habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II² species (other than birds).

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

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

3.2.2 Conservation Objective

Conservation Objectives (COs) for the European sites are defined for the relevant QIs and SCIs. In its most general sense, a CO is the specification of the overall target for the species and/or habitat types for which a site is designated in order for it to contribute to maintaining or reaching favourable conservation status³.

3.2.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

The Source-Pathway-Receptor model (S-P-R model) is used to assess where a potential effect may result by examining the source, its pathway and the receptor. As per guidance from the OPR⁴ these can be defined as follows:

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

The S-P-R Analysis is presented in Appendix A.2 and A.3.

3.2.4 Zone of Influence

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

3.3 Guidance

The following guidance was used in carrying out the assessment:

- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 Sites: Methodical guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2021⁴);
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000);

¹ Annex I habitats are habitats whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

² Annex II species are animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

³ Commission Note on Setting Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites (November 2012) European Commission, Doc. Hab.12-04/06.

Accessed at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission_note/commission_note2_EN.pdf

⁴ OPR (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01

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

The requirements for Screening for AA, and AA, for European sites, are set out in Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 with numerous relevant rulings and opinions issues in both Irish and EU courts. AA is a process required under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive as transposed by the Planning & Development Act as stated within Section 1.3.

3.4 Data Sources

The ecological data reviewed to inform this report included:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Map Viewer⁵;
- NPWS (2025a) Conservation Objectives Series⁶;
- NPWS (2024) SAC and SPA Datasheets⁷;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Designations web viewer⁸;
- NPWS Protected Sites in Ireland⁹;
- NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland Web Viewer¹⁰;
- NPWS (2025b) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. Unpublished NPWS report¹¹;
- NPWS (2025c) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report¹². Edited by: Domhnall Finch, Aoife Delany, Fionnuala O' Neill and Deirdre Lynn; and

⁵ EPA Map Viewer accessed at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> accessed June 2026

⁶ NPWS Conservation objectives accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives> accessed June 2026

⁷ NPWS SAC and SPA Datasheets accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data/sac-and-spa-datasheets-downloads> accessed June 2026

⁸ NPWS Designations web viewer accessed at <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba> accessed June 2026

⁹ NPWS Protected sites accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> accessed June 2026

¹⁰ NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland web viewer accessed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1a721520030d404f899d658d5b6e159a> accessed June 2026

¹¹ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Volume 1 Summary Overview accessed at https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_Article17.pdf June 2026

¹² The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol2_Habitats_Article17.pdf June 2026

- NPWS (2019) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O’Neil¹³.

3.5 Methodology

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

1. **Impact Prediction:** Identify the aspects of the proposed Variation likely to affect the COs of European sites. The more general classification of impacts can include direct and indirect effects; short and long-term effects; construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and isolated, interactive and cumulative effects. A S-P-R model has been used to identify the zone of influence. This also includes transboundary considerations.
2. **Assessment of Effects:** The actions of the proposed Variation are assessed as to whether they are likely to result in significant effects on the integrity of European sites. This requires understanding of relevant QIs/SCIs and associated COs.

3.5.1 Impact Prediction: Identifying the Zone of Influence

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

For an effect to occur there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. construction works at a proposed development site), a receptor (e.g. QI or SCI of a European site), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse which connects a plan area to an SAC, ex situ foraging habitat for SCI birds). The principle for establishing ZoI, as outlined in the 2021 OPR Practice Note PN01⁴ applies equally to a plan level AA and so the S-P-R method has been used in this report.

The identification of the European sites within the ZoI has been carried out by utilising GIS datasets from NPWS including that of the European site network. The ZoI of the proposed Variation comprises the following protected sites:

- Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC
- South Dublin Bay SAC
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
- Mouds Bog SAC
- Pollardstown Fen SAC
- Ballynafagh Lake SAC
- Ballynafagh Bog SAC
- Red Bog, Kildare SAC
- Poulaphuca Reservoir SPA
- Wicklow Mountains SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SPA

¹³ NPWS (2019). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O’Neil

- Slaney River Valley SAC
- River Barrow and River Nore SAC

Refer to Appendix A.3 for more information on the protected sites.

3.5.2 Assessment of Effects

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

From establishing the ZoI using the S-P-R method, focusing on the relevant QIs and SCIs of European sites which may be at risk of likely significant effects arising from the proposed Variation. The potential impacts of the proposed Variation are assessed against the COs of the relevant QIs and SCIs to determine if a LSE may occur as a result of implementation. Within this assessment, factors such as type, extent, duration, intensity, timing, probability and in-combination effects of the potential impact, as well as the vulnerability of the QIs and/or SCIs concerned⁴.

4. Appropriate Assessment Screening Assessment

4.1 Overview

The scope of the proposed Variation has a scale of application across the Northwest Quadrant.

4.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor

Potential connectivity between the implementation of the proposed Variation and European sites and their respective QIs/SCIs is identified via the S-P-R model which highlights the potential impact pathways such as land, air, hydrological pathways etc. which may support direct or indirect connectivity. Where connectivity exists between the proposed Variation and receptors, these receptors are taken forward to the assessment of likely significant effects.

The S-P-R Analysis is presented in Appendix A.2 and A.3.

4.2.1 Identification of Potential Sources of Impacts

In identifying the potential sources of impacts of the implementation of the proposed Variation, it is important to note that this risk is an estimation based on scientific evidence and best practice. It does not constitute that an impact will occur or that it will result in ecological or environmental damage resulting in significant effects on European sites within the ZoI. The significance of the effect is dependent upon factors such as duration, magnitude and intensity of the project/plan in question and the existence of a credible S-P-R link. It is also determined by the extent of the exposure to the risk and the characteristics of the receptor.

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

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

All objectives of the proposed Variation have been reviewed for potential sources of impacts (see Appendix A.2). Future infrastructure development, related construction works and the operation of services will likely occur within the proposed Variation period however as the proposed Variation is designed to guide the development of the plan area through a series of projects, exact details regarding construction and operation are yet undecided. Furthermore, as the proposed Variation constitutes a variation of the CDP, accordingly, the embedded protective policies arising from the AA of the CDP are applicable in this context and are treated as such for the purposes of assessing the proposed Variation. As such, after examining all the draft objectives of the proposed Variation, it was concluded that there are no potential sources of impacts.

4.2.2 Identification of Potential Pathways

Appendix A.2 and A.3 outline full details of S-P-R Assessment undertaken. Given that there is no likely source of impacts from implementation of the draft objectives of the proposed Variation, based on information outlined in Section 4.2.1, there is no potential pathways to any receptors to be considered.

4.2.3 Assessment of LSE

The proposed Variation has been assessed for the potential to give rise to LSE on European sites. Appendix A.2 considers the potential for LSE from implementation of the draft objectives based on the potential for Habitat Loss, Disturbance to key species and habitat/species fragmentation. Changes to key indicators of environmental quality. The protective policies for European Sites (Section 2.3 and Appendix A.1) defined in the CDP will be applied in the context of the Northwest Quadrant Framework Masterplan to avoid any potential negative impacts which may arise as a result of implementation of the Framework Masterplan. As such, the S-P-R model (described in Appendix A.2 and A.3) concludes that there are no potential sources of impacts, therefore, no potential pathways to any receptors need to be considered. With that in mind, there is no potential for LSE on any European Site from implementation of the draft objectives.

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

The purpose of the in-combination assessment is to ascertain whether the proposed Variation may give rise to effects in-combination with other plans and/or projects. This report has found that no LSE exists for the proposed Variation due to the nature of the draft objectives and due to the protective policies in place for European sites (refer to Section 2.3, and Appendix A.1).

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

4.4 Summary

As stated in Section 4.2 and Appendix A.2 and A.3, there are no potential sources of impacts arising from implementation of the draft objectives of the proposed Variation and therefore, no potential pathway to any receptor exists.

Appendix A.2 considers the potential for LSE on European Sites from the implementation of the draft objectives of the proposed Variation. The proposed Variation is governed by the CDP and the Naas LAP 2021-2027, which have previously been subject to AA and SEA, and thereby protect European sites from LSE. Additionally, there is embedded mitigation and protection policies for European Sites in the CDP that provide sufficient safeguards for the implementation of the draft objectives of the proposed Variation.

Furthermore, it is embedded within the CDP that any projects or plans must be subject to an AA prior to their implementation of relevant objectives. As such, this embedded protective policy and objectives would negate the risk of LSE from occurring. Thus, overall, the potential for LSE to European sites, alone or in-combination, does not exist and an AA is not required.

5. Conclusion

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the best available information, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant effects on any European site can be excluded, for the reasons set out in Section 4 above. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the plan and its potential relationship with all European sites within the ZoI, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.

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

A.1 Embedded Protective Policies and Objectives Relevant to European Sites included in the Kildare CDP (as varied) (as taken from the NIR of the Kildare CDP)

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

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

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

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

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the CDP	
Chapter 3 – Housing	<p>HO P11 Facilitate, subject to all appropriate environmental assessments proposals for dwellings in the countryside outside of settlements in accordance with NPF Policy NPO 19 for new Housing in the Open Countryside in conjunction with the rural housing policy zone map (Map 3.1) and accompanying Schedule of Category of Applicant and Local Need Criteria set out in Table 3.4 and in accordance with the objectives set out below. Documentary evidence of compliance with the rural housing policy must be submitted as part of the planning application</p> <p>HO O52 Recognise the biodiversity and ecosystem services value of established hedgerows within rural and urban settings and where hedgerow must be moved to achieve minimum sight lines, a corresponding length of hedgerow of similar species composition (native and of local provenance) shall be planted along the new boundary, while allowing occasional hedgerow trees to develop</p> <p>HO P21 Consider the presence of bat species, all of which are listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive in the restoration/refurbishment of traditional structures and to ensure applications relating to the restoration and reuse of vernacular structures and houses in the countryside are accompanied by a bat survey report, as required and appropriate.</p>
Chapter 4 Resilient Economy & Job Creation	<p>RE P12 Ensure that economic and enterprise related development is provided in a manner which facilitates a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and accelerates the transition towards a sustainable, low carbon and circular economy. The following measures shall be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in employment densities within walkable distances of communities and on public transport routes.

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of walking and cycling and use of public transport through increased permeability and mobility management measures within and outside employment areas. • The sourcing of power from district heating and renewables including wind and solar. • Additional native tree planting and landscaping on existing and proposed enterprise zones and development sites to aid with carbon sequestration, contributing to the green infrastructure network of the County and promoting quality placemaking <p>RE P13 Support and facilitate sustainable agriculture, horticulture, forestry and other rural enterprises at suitable locations in the County where there will be no potential for likely significant effects on a European Site or on a site that shares a hydrological connection to a European Site.</p> <p>RE O121 Require the preparation of ‘Attraction Management Plans’ for new developments/projects which may impact on areas of ecological or heritage sensitivity in County Kildare. These plans should consider (but not limited to) potential for loss of habitat and disturbance by increased visitor numbers. Applications or proposals will be accompanied by a management plan indicating projected numbers of users, hours of operation, seasons of operation, and an undertaking to protect the natural environment in the form of a risk assessment with proposed amelioration measures in respect of flora, fauna, hydrology, geology and soils. The Attraction Management Plans should have regard to any mitigation as detailed within a Stage 2 AA or EcIA.</p> <p>RE O139 Require applicants to prepare a peatland stability assessment, carbon emissions balance assessment and hydrological and ecological impact assessments, as required, when developing project proposals for development on peatlands.</p> <p>RE P21 Work with the National Transport Authority (in conjunction with relevant objectives in Chapter 5), INTO Kildare, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and all stakeholders to develop a co-ordinated approach to the selection, delivery and servicing of future greenways, blueways, trails and routes throughout the county and region, subject to all relevant and cumulative environmental assessments and planning conditions. New trails and routes should first be subject to the undertaking of feasibility assessment. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new infrastructure in two stages”, Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>RE O145 Promote the development of existing and new walking and cycling routes throughout the county as an activity for both international visitors and local tourists, in a manner that is compatible with road safety, nature conservation and other environmental policies. Where developments of new and existing walking and cycling routes exist within 15km of a European Site, the project should be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p>
<p>Chapter 5 Sustainable Mobility & Transport</p>	<p>TM O11 Facilitate and secure the delivery/implementation of the public transport regional corridor proposals that relate to County Kildare and the County Kildare local route proposals as identified within the NTA’s ‘The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan’ (November 2021), specifically prioritising the proposed new local route from Naas to Newbridge. Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>TM O13 Promote and facilitate the implementation of public transport projects (bus and rail) and encourage transport providers and other agencies (e.g. NTA, developers etc.) to improve public transport (bus and rail) and to have regard to and support recently implemented and/or planned routes under NTA’s Bus Connects and proposed / planned routes under NTA’s Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan; Including: 1. Kilcock, Maynooth and Leixlip into Dublin; 2. Celbridge into Dublin; 3. Maynooth</p>

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to Naas; 4. Leixlip to Naas; 5. Celbridge to Naas; 6. Naas to Caragh. in addition to a range of rural transport routes. Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.

TM A19

Provide new or upgraded lighting for all footpath and cycle track schemes subject to the consideration of ecology and impacts on wildlife. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required and may result in unlit sections which may include some parts of the county's Greenways. Where applicable, all species-specific mitigation will be included within the relevant sections of the AA.

TM O88

Improve connectivity between the local road network and the national/regional road network. The Council will ensure that any future development in this regard complies with the guidance to safeguard the overall operational function of the national road network as set out in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, DECLG (2012). Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections

TM O96

Improve and re-align where necessary and as funds allow, the regional roads subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections

TM O102

Minimise the extent of hedgerow removal in order to achieve adequate sightlines. However, where it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that there is no other suitable development site (for planning reasons) any removed hedgerow shall be replaced with native hedgerow species. Opportunities should be sought to translocate existing species rich hedgerows, where possible, and subject to proper biosecurity protocols.

TM O119

Ensure car parking particularly parking associated with retail areas is designed in such a manner as to reduce visual impact and promote carbon sequestration, green infrastructure, and nature-based surface water drainage solutions by requiring:

The landscape design to include planting of trees and pollinator species to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified Landscape Architect and in collaboration with an appropriately qualified ecologist to ensure the biodiversity in the general area will support European Sites;

The construction details for the root zones of the proposed trees in accordance with best practice and to specify which locations utilise systems such as 'root barriers' to avoid future conflict between roots, roads, footpath surfaces and underground utility services; • The provision of not more than two parallel or five perpendicular spaces between trees/planting bays; and

The use of permeable paving, where appropriate.

TM O124

Expand the existing public lighting network and ensure that all new developments are provided with adequate public lighting for the safety of all pedestrians, cyclists and minority groups. Such lighting networks shall have regard for protected species such as bats which can potentially be affected by lighting systems. The Lux, wavelength and TTC28 (Total Transfer Capability) will be considered in the selection of appropriate lighting.

TM O125

Ensure that landscape proposals detail public lighting locations and that proposed street lighting is not compromised by tree planting. The landscape proposals should ensure that the trees are planted a sufficient distance from public lighting so that when the canopy matures it does not cover the light standard.

TM O126

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	<p>Remove all inappropriate and unnecessary street lighting and cabling and ensure future street lighting installations do not adversely impact sensitive physical, environmental, natural and heritage resources within the county.</p> <p>TM O130</p> <p>Ensure that the design of external lighting schemes minimises the incidence of light spillage or pollution in the immediate surrounding environment and has due regard to the residential amenity of surrounding areas and the need to mitigate adverse impacts on sensitive fauna and protected species.</p>
Chapter 6 Infrastructure and Environmental Services	<p>IN P2</p> <p>Ensure the protection and enhancement of water quality throughout Kildare in accordance with the EU WFD and facilitate the implementation of the associated programme of measures in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (and subsequent updates).</p> <p>IN O3</p> <p>Promote water conservation and best practice water conservation in all developments, including rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.</p> <p>IN O6</p> <p>Require an undisturbed edge or buffer zone to be maintained, where appropriate, between new developments and riparian zones of water bodies to maintain the natural function of existing ecosystems associated with water courses and their riparian zones, and to enable sustainable public access. The width of the edge or buffer zone shall be determined during the appropriate environmental assessment such as EcIA or AA.</p> <p>IN O7</p> <p>Protect recognised salmonid water courses in conjunction with Inland Fisheries Ireland such as the Liffey catchment, which are recognised to be exceptional in supporting salmonid fish species.</p> <p>IN P4</p> <p>Ensure adequate surface water drainage systems are in place which meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan in order to promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems.</p> <p>IN O21</p> <p>Facilitate the development of nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, including the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas. Culverting entire drains and streams will generally be prohibited; interference with natural drainage systems is to be minimised and the Council will explore opportunities to remove culverted drainage systems in favour of open, natural drainage systems.</p> <p>IN O22</p> <p>Require the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage as an integral part of all new development proposals.</p> <p>IN O25</p> <p>Promote the use of green infrastructure (e.g., green roofs, green walls, planting, and green spaces) as natural water retention measures.</p> <p>IN O34</p> <p>Recognise the important role of natural boglands and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidelines.</p> <p>IN O36</p>

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	<p>Require that development along urban watercourses comply with the Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance: Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment (2020), including the maintenance of a minimum riparian zone of 35 metres for river channels greater than 10 meters in width, and 20 meters for river channels less than 10 metres in width. Development within this zone will only be considered for water compatible developments as defined in the OPW Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009).</p> <p>IN P7 Support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan, and the Local Authority Waters Programme in achieving and maintaining at least good environmental status for all water bodies in the county.</p> <p>IN P8 Implement the provisions of EU and National legislation on air, noise, and light pollution and other relevant legislative requirements, as appropriate.</p> <p>IN O56 Protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources and to promote the use of good farming practices in accordance with the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme 2017- 2021 (including any subsequent update).</p> <p>IN O57 Assess applications for developments, having regard to the impact on the quality of surface waters and any targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan and any subsequent local or regional plans. Where developments have the potential to impact the water quality of surface waters and/or any of the targets and measures set out in the RBMP, such a project should be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>IN O58 Require development proposals which may have an impact on water quality to undertake site specific assessments to determine localised pressure</p> <p>IN O68 Require the design of external lighting schemes to minimise the incidence of light spillage or pollution into the surrounding environment having regard to the residential amenity of surrounding areas and the need to mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity, particularly on river corridors.</p> <p>IN O69 Investigate measures to improve the approach to street lighting and ensure new developments are lit appropriately protecting environmentally sensitive areas.</p>
Chapter 7 Energy and Communications	<p>EC O2 Adopt a positive approach to renewable energy proposals, having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including community, environmental and landscape impacts and impacts on protected or designated heritage areas / structures.</p> <p>EC O4 Support infrastructural renewal and development of electricity and gas networks in the county, subject to safety and amenity requirements, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable</p> <p>EC O5 Support and encourage the sustainable development of renewable energy auto production units (the production of energy primarily for on-site usage) for existing and proposed developments in line with relevant design criteria, amenity and heritage considerations and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status 224 of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.</p>

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EC O11

Encourage wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner whilst having regard to Government policy and the County Wind Energy Strategy, while being sensitive to the EU and national target of 30% of land for biodiversity. Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.

EC O12

Support small to medium scale wind energy developments within agricultural, industrial or business areas and support small community based proposals in urban and rural areas where they do not negatively impact upon the environmental quality (i.e. the habitats, species, hydrological connections and air quality of the area) and visual or residential amenities of the area, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable

EC O13

Support the repowering (by replacing existing wind turbines) of existing windfarm development and the extension of existing and permitted wind farms on a case-by-case basis subject to further appropriate public consultation and proper planning considerations and environmental considerations such as the movement of qualifying interest species of European Sites. Projects shall provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.

EC O16

Require comprehensive winter and summer bird and wildlife surveys for all proposed wind farms sites, so that impacts on wildlife can be fully assessed and evaluated and so that appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures can be considered, to include for example removal or repositioning of turbines, introducing one black painted rotor blade (to reduce motion smear and reduce incident of collision) or the provision of technologies that help minimize harm to birds and other wildlife.

EC O17

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

EC O21

Support the provision of solar farms in appropriate locations in accordance with the criteria as set out in Section 7.6 of the CDP and environmental considerations such as the movement of qualifying interest species of European Sites. Projects shall provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.

EC O26

Only permit the removal of hedgerow where the removal of same has been clearly demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, to be necessary for the development of a solar farm(s)

EC O27

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

EC O28

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

EC O30

Support the development of small-scale hydro-electricity projects in the county, in particular for on-site consumption to meet the electricity requirements of proposed new buildings, or refurbishment of existing buildings appropriate to their riverside location and setting. Such developments shall be subject to an AA Screening Report,

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and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.

EC P7

Facilitate large and smaller scale geothermal energy generating developments both standalone and in conjunction with other renewable energy projects, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and consideration of environmental and ecological sensitivities in particular the sensitivities of protected surface water or groundwater bodies and groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems and to have regard to the Draft Policy Statement on Geothermal Energy for a Circular Economy (2021) published by the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications (or any subsequent updates).

EC P8

Facilitate and support the development of projects that convert biomass to gas or electricity subject to national and regional policy. Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA

EC P10

Facilitate micro-renewable energy installations and auto-generator installations where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that they will not result in a significant adverse impact on residential, visual or environmental amenity. Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.

EC P17

Support the preparation of a comprehensive “after use” framework plan for the industrial peatlands and associated workshops, office buildings, industrial sites and power stations in Kildare, acknowledging the significant contribution that these expansive lands make towards the special landscape of the Bog of Allen and its potential to further the growth of tourism to and within the County including the creation of a National Peatlands Park, being a focal point for the environmental landscape, conservation and amenity.

EC O53

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

EC O54

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

EC A8

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

EC P19

Support the development, reinforcement, renewal and expansion of the electricity transmission and distribution grid to provide for the future physical and economic development of Kildare Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. The developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.

EC O67

Require that developments involving the siting of overhead cables shall minimise visual impact by avoiding areas of high landscape sensitivity, sites and areas important for biodiversity and/or archaeological, cultural or heritage interest.

EC O70

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	<p>Facilitate the development of grid reinforcements including grid connections and a trans-boundary network into and through the county and between all adjacent counties. Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. The developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.</p> <p>EC O73</p> <p>Consider the removal of trees (singular or in stands) and hedgerows (in part or in whole) only in circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated that the removal of hedgerow material and or tree(s) is essential for the provision of energy and cannot be designed out. Where proven, the vegetation is to be replaced with equivalent number, species, variety and size as was in situ. Where non-native species are removed, they will be required to be replaced with native species. In all cases, plants of local provenance are to be planted within 1 year of removal and maintained to establishment to negate the habitat and biodiversity loss within 3 years. Existing vegetative or ‘stepping-stone’ linkages are to be maintained and improved upon to increase wildlife corridors. Opportunities should be sought to translocate existing species rich hedgerows, where possible, and subject to proper biosecurity protocols.</p> <p>EC O75</p> <p>Promote and facilitate the provision of appropriate telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband connectivity and other technologies within the county. Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. The developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable.</p> <p>EC O80</p> <p>Ensure that the location of telecommunications structures minimises and/or mitigates any adverse impacts on communities, public rights of way, historical sites, or amenities, and the built or natural environment. Innovative design solutions will be encouraged</p> <p>EC O82</p> <p>Minimise the provision of overground masts and antennae within the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of high amenity/sensitive landscape areas. Areas within or adjoining the curtilage of protected structures. On or within the setting of archaeological sites. <p>EC P21</p> <p>Support the infrastructural renewal and development of the gas networks in the county, subject to proper planning, heritage, environmental and amenity requirements.</p> <p>EC O85</p> <p>Support and facilitate the production of low carbon renewable biogases such as hydrogen and biomethane, produced largely from agricultural organic matter, that can be exported to the National Grid, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.</p>
<p>Chapter 9 Our Rural Economy</p>	<p>RD O6</p> <p>Encourage the conservation and promotion of biodiversity in all rural development activities whilst supporting the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry.</p> <p>RD O10</p> <p>Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that the quality of the natural environment (watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance) is maintained and protected from the threat of pollution to support the achievement of climate targets.</p> <p>RD O12</p>

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Support the implementation of the draft objectives identified in the County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014 and any relevant local action plan.

RD O20

Support and encourage the work of the horticultural sector and third level institutions in the development of peat free media/compost to assist growers, producers, garden centres and homeowners with a sustainable alternative to peat-based compost and the negative environmental impacts associated with peat extraction.

RD O21

Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable horticultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.

RD P6

Increase forest cover in the county at appropriate locations while protecting sensitive landscapes, water bodies, all sites, habitats, and species of ecological importance including European sites and amenity areas

RD O26

Support new forestry plantation and works related to forestry, subject to protection of visually sensitive areas, ecology, water resources and abstractions, and compliance with national regulations with respect to protection of the environment.

RD O27

Support the development of forestry resources with several functions including, flood retention, biodiversity, water quality/catchment management, tourism and recreation in conjunction with Coillte and other relevant stakeholders.

RD O28

Discourage monocultural forestry and encourage a greater range of tree species in forestry plantations and promote, in particular, more native, deciduous hardwood woodlands. Such forestry plantations shall be subject to best practice and appropriate biosecurity measures and protocols.

RD O30

Ensure that development is appropriate in scale and character and does not have a negative visual impact on the countryside including public access, rights of way, walking routes and recreational facilities or cause degradation of wildlife habitats, nature conservation areas or areas of ecological importance.

RD P7

Support the appropriate and sensitive diversification of former cutaway peatlands, whilst ensuring the protection of their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational significance in line with the National Peatlands Strategy (DAHG 2015) the National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and the Peatlands & Climate Change Action Plan 2030.

RD O32

Encourage the re-wetting, restoring and/or re-wilding of former cutaway bogs and peatlands with an emphasis on maximising biodiversity and carbon sequestration to account for approximately 70% of cutaway bogs. Such projects shall be subject to AA; shall have regard to any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species; shall not adversely affect drainage of surrounding lands; and shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate.

RD O33

Work with all relevant stakeholders including Bord na Móna to support the sustainable re-use and sustainable development of up to approximately 30% of cutaway boglands (within County Kildare) for economic purposes, including inter alia renewable energy (wind and solar) in appropriate locations, subject to relevant environmental assessments. Such projects shall be subject to AA; shall have regard to any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species; shall not adversely affect drainage of surrounding lands; and shall account for any potential likely significant, cumulative and in combination effects

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RD O34

Proposals brought forward for any development on the county's cutaway peatlands shall be accompanied by an independent biodiversity profile of the landholding, setting out how the proposed development was formulated having regard to the following step by step, biodiversity-led process: 1. Identification of areas of greatest ecological value and how the proposal is compatible with peatland restoration. 2. Identification of areas of greatest carbon sequestration value. 3. Identification of areas of amenity value and potential, and incorporation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy (see Section 12.14.5). 4. Identification of the subject site as a percentage of the overall landholding and justification for the proposed use having regard to Objective RD O33.

RD O37

Recognise the importance of cutover and cutaway bogs in providing some critical ecosystem services such as potential carbon sinks. Cutover bogs should be identified for immediate management interventions to prevent further degradation, particularly the ongoing loss of their carbon store.

RD O38

Encourage, where possible, the return to a natural functioning peatland ecosystem in the first instance.

RD O39

Protect peatlands from inappropriate development having regard to the Wind Energy Strategy for County Kildare (see Appendix 2 of CDP).

RD O40

Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological and archaeological significance

RD O41

When developing project proposals for development on peatlands, undertake a peatland stability assessment, carbon emissions balance assessment and hydrological and ecological impact assessments, as required.

RD P8

Support and manage the appropriate future development of Kildare's natural aggregate resources in appropriate locations to ensure adequate supplies are available to meet the future needs of the county and the region in line with the principles of sustainable development and environmental management and to require operators to appropriately manage extraction sites when extraction has ceased

RD O32

Ensure that development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact the following:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)
- Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna.
- Zones of Archaeological Potential.
- The vicinity of a recorded monument.
- Sensitive landscape areas as identified in Chapter 13 of the CDP.
- Scenic views and prospects.
- Protected Structures.

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	<p>- Established rights of way and walking routes.</p> <p>- Potential World Heritage Sites in Kildare on the UNESCO Tentative List, Ireland.</p> <p>RD O44</p> <p>Require applications for mineral or other extraction to include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An AA under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive where any quarry / sand and gravel extraction are likely to have an impact on a Natura 2000 site (see Chapter 12); • An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR); • An Ecological Impact Assessment may also be required for sub-threshold developments to evaluate the existence of any protected species/habitats on site; • A detailed landscaping plan to be submitted indicating proposed screening for the operational life of the site. The predominant use of native plant species in the proposed landscaping plan will be expected; • Detailed landscaping and quarry restoration plans. Habitats and species surveying shall be carried out and shall influence the restoration plan for the site. • Comprehensive Site Restoration Plan and./or After-Use Strategy having regard to the principles of ‘Rehabilitation Ecology’ <p>RD O49</p> <p>Have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced, or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries, ancillary services, restoration and after-use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DEHLG (2004). • Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non-Scheduled Minerals), EPA (2006). • Archaeological Code of Practice between the DEHLG and ICF (2009). • Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry (2008). • Wildlife, Habitats, and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry, NPWS (2009). <p>RD O50</p> <p>Ensure the satisfactory and sensitive re-instatement and/or re-use of disused quarries and extraction facilities, where active extraction use has ceased. Future uses should include amenity, recreation and biodiversity areas shall be informed by an assessment of the specific site/lands and shall be subject to an ecological impact assessment or other environmental assessments as appropriate. Where it is proposed to reclaim, regenerate, or rehabilitate old quarries by filling or re-grading with inert soil or similar material, or to use worked-out quarries as disposal locations for inert materials, the acceptability of the proposal shall be evaluated against the criteria set out in Section 15.9.6 of this Plan. The Council will resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling/ reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts.</p> <p>RD O51</p> <p>Require that quarry remediation plans provide for environmental benefit, biodiversity and re-wilding in all instances. The 80% requirement for environmental/biodiversity may be waived at sites closer to urban areas where a significant portion of the site is being provided for sports, recreation, and amenity.</p>
<p>Chapter 10 – Community Infrastructure and Creative Places</p>	<p>SC O2</p> <p>Make provision, through appropriate land use zoning in the CDP settlement plans and Local Area Plans to deliver community infrastructure, supports and services in a planned and co-ordinated manner within the county, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>SC O25</p>

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	<p>Increase the quantity and improve the quality of children’s play facilities across the county particularly in areas where a lack of provision has been identified (e.g., play areas should be within a 10-minute walk of new and existing residential areas), subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA</p> <p>SC O28</p> <p>Support the provision of multi-purpose sports (to include minority sports, and arts / drama activities) halls, outdoor playing pitches, all-weather playing pitches, tennis courts, basketball courts, swimming pools, and associated facilities in appropriate locations and to particularly encourage flexibility in the design of sports facilities in order to accommodate a range of sporting activities, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA</p> <p>SC A8</p> <p>Continue to develop open spaces throughout the county which encourage a range of recreational and amenity activities that will cater for both active and passive recreation, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA</p> <p>SC O36</p> <p>Provide for nursing homes in urban and appropriately located rural settings in the county and to site residential care facilities for older persons close to community and social facilities (e.g., shops, health services etc.) ensuring older persons can remain part of and contribute to existing communities, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA</p> <p>SC O46</p> <p>Facilitate the development of new facilities in built up areas close to walking/cycling infrastructure and public transport links, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>SC O47</p> <p>Facilitate the expansion of existing facilities to cater for the needs of community groups and the growing population in Kildare, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA</p> <p>SC P10</p> <p>Develop and improve the physical infrastructure of arts and cultural facilities throughout the county particularly in areas where there is a deficiency in such provision, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA</p>
Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage	<p>AH O49</p> <p>Preserve, protect and where necessary encourage the use of heritage/traditional varieties of plants and trees that form part of the local/ regional biodiversity resource and that contribute to local identity.</p> <p>AH O51</p> <p>Require that planning applications take into consideration the impacts of the development on their landscapes and demonstrate that the development proposal has been designed to take account of the heritage resource of the landscape.</p>
Chapter 12 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure	<p>BI P1</p>

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Integrate in the development management process the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape features by applying the mitigation hierarchy to potential adverse impacts on important ecological features (whether designated or not), i.e. avoiding impacts where possible, minimising adverse impacts, and if significant effects are unavoidable by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate. Opportunities for biodiversity net gain are encouraged.

BI O1

Require, as part of the Development Management Process, the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessments that adequately assess the biodiversity resource within proposed development sites, to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation and to integrate this biodiversity resource into the design and layout of new development and to increase biodiversity within the proposed development. Such assessments shall be carried out in line with the CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine.

BI O6

Apply the precautionary principle in relation to proposed developments in environmentally sensitive areas to ensure that all potential adverse impacts on a designated NHA or Natura 2000 Site arising from any proposed development or land use activity are avoided, remedied, or mitigated.

BI P2

Seek to contribute to maintaining or restoring the conservation status of all sites designated for nature conservation or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.

BI O8

Support the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022.

BI O9

Avoid development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive, to support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.

BI O10

Ensure an AA Screening, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, Section 177A of the Planning and Development Act (2001-2022) or any superseding legislation and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to determine the likelihood of the plan or project having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects and to ensure that projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.

BI O11

Support the establishment of conservation measures and the preparation and implementation of management plans for the conservation of Natura 2000 sites by NPWS, as required by Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive.

BI P3

Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to a Natural Heritage Area (NHA), Ramsar Sites and Nature Reserves is designed and sited to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, ecological, geological and landscape value of the site, particularly plant and animal species listed under the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats and Birds Directive including their habitats

BI O12

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

Require the preparation of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) by a suitably qualified professional for proposals for development within or adjacent to a Natural Heritage Area (NHA)/proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), to ensure the development is designed and sited to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, ecological, geological and landscape value of the site, particularly plant and animal species listed under the Wildlife Acts. Such assessments shall be carried out in line with the CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine.

BI O13

Support the establishment of conservation measures and preparation and implementation of management plans for the conservation of NHA sites by NPWS.

BI O14

Conserve, preserve and protect the integrity of and maintain the favourable conservation value/status within or adjacent to Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature Reserves, Biogenetic Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, all existing and proposed NHAs. They should be designed and sited so as to minimise their impact on the ecological and landscape values of these sites under National and European legislation and International Agreements.

BI O22

Identify and protect areas of high nature conservation value (including but not limited to SAC / SPA / pNHA) and support the landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping-stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows, and road verges so as to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

BI A9

Undertake surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (

BI P4

Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation on plant, animal or bird species which are protected by law.

BI O15

Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2012, the Birds Directive 1979 the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species and any species listed under the national red lists or that could be listed on a national red list.

BI O16

Ensure appropriate species and habitat avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into all new development proposals.

BI O17

Require a derogation licence, where necessary, issued by the DHLGH, in the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Directive (Annex IV species).

BI O18

Require all applications for new developments to identify, protect and sensitively enhance the most important ecological features and habitats, and incorporate these into the overall open space network, keeping free from development and to provide links to the wider Green Infrastructure network as an essential part of the design process and by making provision for local biodiversity (e.g. through provision of swift boxes or towers, bat roost sites, hedgehog highways , green roofs, etc.).

BI O19

Require that all biodiversity data gathered in the preparation of planning applications will be made available to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC).

BI O20

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

Conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive (92/143/EEC) (as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), Directive Annex 2, the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2000, The Wildlife Acts 1976 (as amended) and the Flora Protection Order No 94 of 1999.

BI O21

Work with bodies such as the NPWS and National Biodiversity Data Centre to ensure that species for which Kildare is a national stronghold such as Green-Flowered Helleborine Orchid, Yellowhammer and Linnet, which are nationally rare or declining, are supported to flourish and seek to ensure the habitat conditions favourable to such species are retained in the county.

BI O22

Identify and protect areas of high nature conservation value (including but not limited to SAC/SPA/pNHA) and support the landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping-stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows, and road verges so as to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

BI A9

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

BI P7

Recognise and promote inland waters, natural environmental assets and to protect rivers, streams and other watercourses and, wherever possible, maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitats for fauna and flora while discouraging culverting or realignment.

BI O37

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

BI O38

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

BI O39

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

BI O40

Support Inland Fisheries Ireland's pilot projects to investigate the incorporation of habitat restoration measures on waters draining the Bog of Allen into flood management schemes.

BI O41

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

BI O42

Ensure that any proposals for a National Peatlands Park will consider the important rivers and populations of native fish and other species, when draining the Bog of Allen area.

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

BI O43

Consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and Waterways Ireland in relation to any structures designed for crossing fisheries waters. In this regard consideration must be given to the following biological criteria:

- species of fish required to safely pass
- size of fish required to pass (life stage)
- time of year in which fish passage is required
- high and low design passage flows etc.

BI O44

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

BI O45

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

BI O47

Ensure the protection, improvement or restoration of riverine floodplains and to promote strategic measures to accommodate flooding at appropriate locations including nature-based solutions, in order to protect ground and surface water quality and build resilience to climate change.

BI O48

Avoid developing walking/cycling trails through sensitive ecological habitats. A multi-disciplinary team including an ecologist and flood risk expert shall review all riverine sites to determine the appropriate zonation (ref Table 12.4 of CDP) and permissible uses.

BI P8

Ensure that Kildare's wetlands and watercourses are retained for their biodiversity, climate change mitigation properties and flood protection values and at a minimum to achieve and maintain at least good ecological status for all wetlands and watercourses in the county by, at the latest, 2027 in line with the Water Framework Directive and Ramsar Convention.

BI O49

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

BI O58

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

BI A27

Determine, as a priority, whether there is a potential threat of invasive species to the protected sites within the County, and to begin a dedicated programme of eradication, beginning with the Natura 2000 sites.

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the CDP	
	<p>BI O74 Strengthen ecological networks between urban areas to create greater linkages to Natura 2000 sites, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, parks and open spaces and the wider regional Green Infrastructure network.</p>
Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual Amenity	<p>LR O43 Normally only permit development proposals associated with water sports adjacent to waterways (including lakes) where the proposed facilities are compatible with the existing use of water including nonrecreational uses, which will not result in damage to important features of archaeological heritage or Natura 2000 sites and where they can be satisfactorily integrated into the landscape so that they will not have an unacceptable impact on visual or environmental amenities especially in areas of high amenity or scenic importance.</p> <p>LR O46 Lead and support the extension and interconnection of Greenways, Blueways, Peatways and trails within and outside County Kildare in consultation with Coillte, Bord na Móna and all other relevant stakeholders, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable.</p> <p>LR O51 Facilitate the development of a walking route between Ballymore Eustace, Golden Falls, Poulaphouca/Blessington Greenway, Russborough and Barrettstown, in cooperation with landowners and government agencies, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable.</p> <p>LR O69 Preserve, protect, promote and improve for the common good, existing rights of way which contribute to general amenity, particularly those which provide access to archaeological sites and National Monuments and amenities, including upland areas and water corridors, and to create new ones or extend existing ones where appropriate either by agreement with landowners or through the use of compulsory powers, without adversely affecting landscape conservation interests, subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable</p>

A.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor Analysis of Draft Objectives of the Proposed Variation

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
NWQ O1.1	<p>Northwest Quadrant Framework Masterplan</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to ensure the delivery of the Northwest Quadrant in accordance with its Framework Masterplan and supporting documents, including the Northwest Quadrant (Naas) Character Area Guidance, Sustainable Mobility Strategy and Surface Water Management Plan.</p>	<p>The CDP supports the Northwest Quadrant Framework Masterplan indirectly by identifying the growth potential of Naas as a Key Town.</p> <p>The CDP supports the Northwest Quadrant Framework Masterplan by defining an action to prepare the Framework Masterplan under Objective UD A2.</p> <p>The Naas Northwest Quadrant is currently identified and progressed through the Naas LAP 2021-2027, which also sets an action to establish a masterplan for the area.</p>	<p>This objective relates to the delivery of growth objectives for the Northwest Quadrant in accordance with its Framework Masterplan.</p> <p>While the Framework Masterplan defines some new zoning objectives for the Northwest Quadrant, it is aligned with and governed by the provisions of the Naas LAP 2021-2027 and CDP, respectively.</p> <p>With the implementation of mitigation measures set out in the SEA and AA prepared for the Naas LAP 2021-2027 and CDP, it is not expected that adverse impacts will arise as a result of the implementation of this objective.</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
NWQ O1.2	<p>Release of Phase 2 and Phase 3 Residential lands at the Northwest Quadrant</p> <p>The Core Strategy supports the orderly phased release of lands within the Northwest Quadrant according to the Phasing Strategy defined in the Framework Masterplan Report and summarised in Table NWQ17</p>	<p>This objective aligns with provisions set out in Variation 3 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied), which identifies delivery mechanisms for housing growth in Kildare. These delivery mechanisms relate to the release of appropriately zoned lands for development and the establishment of urban development zones.</p>	<p>This objective relates to the phasing of development set out in the CDP and the Naas LAP 2021-2027.</p> <p>It does not introduce new development proposals. Therefore, no significant impacts are expected to arise.</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Proposed Variation No.5: Northwest Quadrant (Naas) to the Kildare County
Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	<p>and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Lands with Phase 2 New Residential lands and Phase 2 New Residual with residual mitigatable flood risk LUZO will be safeguarded from inappropriate development to preserve their strategic function for the growth of Naas beyond the current development plan period.</p> <p>The completion of the delivery of Phase 1 will enable progression to Phase 2 without the need for a Variation to the development plan.</p> <p>The completion of the delivery of Phase 2 will enable progression to Phase 3 without the need for a Variation to the development plan.</p> <p>Kildare County Council will collaborate with state and semi-state agencies (infrastructure and utility providers) to ensure that land can be categorised as Tier 1 in time for the commencement of coherent phasing packages.</p>	<p>It aligns with Objective CS O29 of the CDP which facilitates development on appropriately zoned lands.</p> <p>It also aligns with provisions of the Naas LAP 2021-2027 which provides for the phased delivery of key measures.</p>					
NWQ O1.3	<p>Balanced communities and Social and Affordable Housing</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to ensure that the targets for below-market priced housing are</p>	<p>This generally aligns with Policy HO P3 and HO P9 of the CDP which aim to deliver affordable housing in line with population growth.</p>	<p>This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the CDP and Naas LAP 2021-2027. This provision does not introduce new development proposals but rather seeks to ensure</p>	<p>No potential source of impacts anticipated</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to</p>

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	met in the Northwest Quadrant, as defined in the latest version of the Housing Need and Demand Assessment. Kildare County Council will apply the Planning and Development Act 2024 and utilise its housing authority powers to work with its partners to utilise available measures and opportunities to provide below-market priced housing products to the defined targets.	This also aligns with Objective HCO 1.2 of the Naas LAP 2021-2027 which supports provision of diverse housing types.	that housing targets for below-market priced housing are met in the Northwest Quadrant. Therefore, significant environmental impacts are not expected to arise as a result of implementation.	arising from this objective.			arise from this objective.
NWQ O1.4	Urban Density It is an objective of this plan that the Northwest Quadrant is developed to the recommended residential density bands set out in Table NWQ 11: Urban Density Bands and spatial density strategy defined in the Framework Masterplan, and that these are applied in the consideration of individual planning applications.	This aligns with the CDP which sets out density ranges for different locations including urban extension areas in Naas, which includes the Northwest Quadrant. The CDP states that for Naas a density range of 30 - 100 dph (Table 2.8 Core Strategy) will apply, with a target density of 40 dph (Table 2.8B) for the Northwest Quadrant.	This objective relates to the development of housing in line with density bands already defined in the CDP. It does not introduce new development proposals. Therefore, it is considered that this objective aligns with the CDP and that the potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing CDP and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA.	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
NWQ O1.5A	Sustainable Mobility Strategy It is an objective of this plan that the Northwest Quadrant is developed as a sustainable urban extension according to the Framework Masterplan and the supporting Sustainable Mobility Strategy including delivery of the Sustainable Mobility Infrastructure set out in Table NWQ 14.	This generally aligns with Policy TM P1 of the CDP which promotes active travel infrastructure such as walking, cycling and use of public transport for sustainable development.	This objective introduces new infrastructure development to facilitate sustainable urban extension to the Northwest Quadrant. As some of these measures were not previously defined in the Naas LAP 2021 - 2027, their potential to give rise to environmental impacts has not been directly assessed. However, the CDP and Naas LAP	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
			<p>2021-2027 make provision for the inclusion of sustainable mobility in new developments. Implementation of existing mitigation measures defined in the SEA and AA for the CDP and Naas LAP 2021 – 2027 will be applied to this area to mitigate any impacts that may arise. Existing mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>Relevant policy and legislation, including air quality, noise, traffic, surface water and wastewater, amongst others, will be considered in implementation of this objective, to ensure that development does not give rise to negative environmental effects during both construction and operation.</p> <p>For development of infrastructure around the Grand Canal, KCC will actively promote the conservation and protection of designated areas.</p> <p>For development of infrastructure around green spaces, KCC will ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological networks/corridors of biodiversity value.</p> <p>Following application of existing mitigation measures defined in the CDP and Naas LAP 2021-2027, this objective is not expected to give rise to significant environmental impacts.</p>				

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
NWQ O1.5B	<p>Collaboration with key stakeholders to deliver a Northwest Quadrant sustainable mobility network</p> <p>Kildare County Council will support and collaborate with the National Transport Authority (NTA), Irish Rail, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and other key stakeholders to ensure the delivery of an excellent sustainable mobility network (infrastructure and services) that will meet the needs of the Northwest Quadrant, as well as Naas and the wider network. This will include collaborating on the delivery of measures outlined in the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 and the Naas Town Bus Network / Service complete with Bus Priority Corridors.</p>	<p>This objective generally aligns with multiple objectives of the CDP including Objective CS O3 and CS O5 which promote engagement for development of urban settlements and growth centres.</p>	<p>This objective relates to the continuing engagement to drive delivery of the Northwest Quadrant.</p> <p>It does not introduce new development proposals. Therefore, no significant impacts are expected to arise.</p>	<p>No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
NWQ O1.5C	<p>Second Sallins Rail Station</p> <p>To support and facilitate, in co-operation with Irish Rail and the National Transport Authority the delivery of a second railway station, sited to the west of Sallins, including a park and ride facility (1, 000 spaces), as per TM O54.</p>	<p>This Objective aligns with Objective TM O54 of the CDP which calls for the development of new facilities, including the new railway station, in co-operation with relevant parties.</p>	<p>This objective relates to the delivery of infrastructure which was a provision of the CDP. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing CDP (and subsequent variations) and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA.</p>	<p>No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>
NWQ O1.6	<p>Community Infrastructure and Community Hubs</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to ensure the development of</p>	<p>This generally aligns with Policy SC P2 which requires that a range of universally accessible social, community,</p>	<p>This objective relates to the development of community infrastructure in the Northwest Quadrant, which aligns with</p>	<p>No potential source of impacts anticipated</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source</p>

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	<p>community facilities to meet the needs of the Northwest Quadrant, including:</p> <p>Community Hub Facility in the Northwest Quadrant to meet the needs of the neighbourhood;</p> <p>During the lifetime of this Development Plan Kildare County Council will seek to prepare a Community Hub Feasibility Study to inform project development and delivery.</p>	<p>cultural and recreational facilities are provided in Kildare.</p> <p>This generally aligns with Objective SC O6 of the CDP which aims to protect and enhance social and community facilities.</p> <p>This is also generally consistent with Objective SC O8 of the CDP which promotes the clustering of community facilities to create multi-purpose community hubs.</p> <p>This also aligns with Objective HCO 4.1 of the Naas LAP 2021-2027 which supports provision of multi-functional community facilities at appropriate locations in Naas.</p>	<p>multiple provisions of the CDP and the Naas LAP 2021-2027.</p> <p>Any development that is carried out in relation to this objective will include implementation of existing mitigation measures defined in the SEA and AA for the CDP and the Naas LAP 2021-2027 to mitigate any potential impacts.</p> <p>Following application of existing mitigation measures defined in the CDP and Naas LAP 2021-2027, this objective is not expected to give rise to significant environmental impacts.</p>	arising from this objective.			of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
NWQ O1.7	<p>Educational and Training Facilities</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to ensure that the educational needs of the Northwest Quadrant are met within the Northwest Quadrant in collaboration with the Department of Education and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Kildare County Council will explore the feasibility of co-locating school facilities with other community facilities (adjacent or as combined facilities) in collaboration with the Department of Education,</p>	<p>This is generally consistent with Objective SC O67, SC O74 from the CDP, which relate to the provision of new schools and redevelopment and expansion of existing schools in line with Department of Education's School Building Programme.</p> <p>This is also consistent with Objective CS O27 of the CDP (as varied) which promotes working with the Department of Education to deliver new schools to meet the needs of the growing population.</p>	<p>This objective relates to continuing engagement to support the delivery of schools in the Northwest Quadrant. It also relates to the consideration of the location of new schools.</p> <p>It does not introduce new development proposals. Therefore, no significant impacts are expected to arise.</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	KWETB and school communities.	<p>This is also generally consistent with Objective SC O8 of the CDP which promotes the clustering of community facilities to create multi-purpose community hubs.</p> <p>This also aligns with various provisions of the Naas LAP 2021-2027, including HCO 3.1, HCO 3.5, HCO 3.6 which promote delivery and expansion of new and existing educational facilities as well as other social infrastructure, in collaboration with relevant bodies.</p>					
NWQ O1.8	<p>Active Recreational Infrastructure</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to ensure the delivery of the active recreational infrastructure set out in Table NWQ16, including their project briefs, design, responsibility, and delivery.</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to develop a Municipal Sports Grounds/Pitch Model for all sports grounds to provide the basis for operating pitches for the benefit of the whole community (including schools) and all sporting codes.</p>	<p>This objective generally aligns with various objectives of the CDP including Objectives SC O2, SC O9 and SC O10 which promote provision of sport facilities and participation in physical activities.</p>	<p>This objective introduces new infrastructure development to facilitate community recreation and sport and leisure infrastructure in the Northwest Quadrant. Much of the land designated under this objective was previously zoned as Strategic Reserve in the Naas LAP 2021 – 2027, to facilitate the orderly expansion of Naas.</p> <p>As some of these measures were not previously defined in the Naas LAP 2021 - 2027, their potential to give rise to environmental impacts has not been directly assessed.</p> <p>However, the CDP and Naas LAP 2021-2027 make provision for the provision of open space, amenity and recreation in the Northwest Quadrant. Mitigation measures already defined in the SEA and AA for the CDP and Naas LAP 2021 –</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
			<p>2027 will be applied to this area to mitigate any impacts that may arise. Existing mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>Relevant existing policy, including air quality, noise, traffic surface water and wastewater, amongst others, will be considered in implementation of this objective, to ensure that development does not give rise to negative environmental effects during both construction and operation.</p> <p>For development of infrastructure around the Grand Canal, KCC will actively promote the conservation and protection of designated areas.</p> <p>For development of infrastructure around green spaces, KCC will ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological networks/corridors of biodiversity value.</p> <p>Following application of existing mitigation measures defined in line with the CDP and Naas LAP 2021-2027, this objective is not expected to give rise to significant environmental impacts.</p>				
NWQ O1.9	Development Phasing Kildare County Council will work with its partners to seek to ensure that the Northwest Quadrant benefits from the development of coherent	This is generally consistent with various provisions of the CDP including Objective UD O5, UD O7, and SC O15 which promote the phased delivery of	This objective relates to the phasing of development and collaboration with relevant parties to facilitate phasing to support the delivery of the Northwest Quadrant development. It does not introduce new development proposals but	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	<p>development phases, complete with enabling and significant supporting infrastructure, that are delivered according to the Phasing Strategy (defined in Table NWQ17: Northwest Quadrant Development Phases) in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Kildare County Council will collaborate with developers of housing and enabling / supporting infrastructure to seek to ensure compliance with the Phasing Strategy. Development of the Northwest Quadrant will be in accordance with the Phasing Strategy, unless otherwise agreed with Kildare County Council.</p>	<p>facilities and infrastructure to benefit the county.</p> <p>It also aligns with provisions of the Naas LAP 2021-2027 which supports the phased delivery of key measures.</p> <p>With regard to collaboration, the CDP generally promotes collaboration between local government, landowners, government departments, infrastructure providers, etc. to ensure delivery of the objectives of the Plan.</p> <p>This objective generally aligns with multiple objectives of the CDP, including Objective CS O14 which promotes engagement with public infrastructure providers to ensure that developments are properly serviced.</p>	<p>rather seeks to ensure that delivery is informed by effective collaboration.</p> <p>Therefore, no significant environmental impacts are expected to arise as a result of implementation.</p>				arise from this objective.
NWQ O1.10	<p>Infrastructure Delivery Plan</p> <p>Kildare County Council will work with its partners to seek to ensure that the enabling infrastructure to unlock the potential of the Northwest Quadrant in each development phase is delivered in a timely fashion. Development phase timelines are indicative.</p> <p>To implement the Northwest Quadrant Infrastructure Delivery Plan set out in the Northwest</p>	<p>This is generally consistent with various provisions of the CDP including Objective UD O5, UD O7, and SC O15 which promote the phased delivery of facilities and infrastructure to benefit the county.</p>	<p>This objective relates to the phasing of development set out in the CDP and the Naas LAP 2021-2027.</p> <p>In relation to Table NWQ18 of the Framework Masterplan this objective introduces some new infrastructure development for the Northwest Quadrant. Some measures specific to the Northwest Quadrant were not defined in the Naas LAP 2021-2027, and therefore their potential to give rise</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	Quadrant Framework Masterplan and Table NWQ18.		<p>to environmental impacts has not been directly assessed.</p> <p>However, implementation of existing mitigation measures defined in the SEA and AA for the CDP and Naas LAP 2021 – 2027 will be applied to this area to mitigate any impacts that may arise. Therefore, no significant environmental impacts are expected to arise as a result of implementation.</p>				
NWQ O1.11	<p>Delivery and Funding</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to ensure that a delivery and funding strategy is defined that enables the delivery of the Northwest Quadrant as a new urban extension complete with all supporting and enabling infrastructure. The delivery strategy will clearly define responsibilities for all project partners.</p> <p>Kildare County Council will explore and seek to prepare a development contributions scheme specific to the Naas development lands at the Northwest Quadrant and Naas Canal Quarter under s584 of the Planning and Development Act 2024. The scheme will be designed to seek financial contributions towards the cost of funding public infrastructure and facilities necessary to unlock the</p>	This generally aligns with multiple Objectives including CS O12 of the CDP which supports seeking funding from relevant bodies for the delivery of projects across Kildare.	<p>This objective relates to establishing a strategy for the delivery and funding of development in the Northwest Quadrant. It does not introduce new development proposals but rather seeks to define how development will be delivered.</p> <p>Therefore, no significant environmental impacts are expected to arise as a result of implementation.</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	<p>development of the lands, including the provision of open spaces, drainage and ecosystem, recreational and community facilities, street corridor and transport infrastructure (e.g. bridges), public realm, acquisition of land and related ancillary infrastructure.</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to work with central government and state / semi state agencies to ensure that the infrastructure cost burden to deliver the enabling and supporting infrastructure can be met by a suitable funding strategy.</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to develop a suitable financial strategy to enable the delivery of infrastructure to be provided to an optimal timeline that aligns with the Phasing Strategy.</p>						
NWQ O1.12	<p>Collaboration</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to ensure that development partners collaborate effectively to deliver the Northwest Quadrant Framework Masterplan and achieve the comprehensive development of the urban extension. Kildare County Council will explore the utilisation of a range of mechanisms sufficient to meet the needs of accelerating delivery. Kildare County Council</p>	<p>In general, the CDP promotes collaboration between local government, landowners, government departments, infrastructure providers, etc. to ensure delivery of the objectives of the Plan.</p> <p>This objective generally aligns with multiple objectives of the CDP, including Objective CS O14 which promotes engagement with public infrastructure providers to ensure that developments are</p>	<p>This objective relates to continuing engagement that will drive delivery of the Northwest Quadrant development. It does not introduce new development proposals but rather seeks to ensure that delivery is informed by effective collaboration.</p> <p>Therefore, no significant environmental impacts are expected to arise as a result of implementation.</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	will seek to define the nature of this collaboration in a Northwest Quadrant (Naas) Delivery Strategy.	properly serviced, and Objective UD O6 which promotes active engagement between stakeholders to encourage successful renewal and enhancement of Kildare’s towns and villages.					
NWQ O1.13	<p>Land Acquisition</p> <p>Kildare County Council will seek to ensure that land is available to provide the infrastructure necessary to enable the unlocking of the Northwest Quadrant and to ensure that it is a successful place and neighbourhood with enabling and supporting infrastructure to meet its needs. This will include land for the purposes of:</p> <p>Public realm, Parks and active recreational infrastructure.</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Community Infrastructure (e.g. education, community hubs, etc);</p> <p>Street networks.</p> <p>Northwest Quadrant Bridges.</p> <p>Other enabling and supporting Public Infrastructure and Utilities.</p> <p>Kildare County Council may utilise its statutory powers.</p>	<p>This generally aligns with Objective CS O4 of the CDP which aims to ensure that sufficient lands are available to meet the planned population and housing growth of settlements in Kildare.</p> <p>This generally aligns with Policy UD P1 of the CDP which promotes urban design and healthy placemaking for realisation of more sustainable, inclusive, and well-designed settlements.</p> <p>This also aligns with the zoning designations from the Naas LAP 2021-2027. The LAP zoned ‘Strategic Reserve’ land in the Northwest Quadrant with the aim of “safeguarding their strategic value in accommodating the orderly sequential expansion of the urban settlement beyond the current Plan period” (Objective CSO 1.9).</p>	<p>This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the CDP and Naas LAP 2021-2027.</p> <p>The proposed Variation influences the location, nature and scale of future development by revising zoning provisions and updating the Northwest Quadrant boundary previously set out in the Naas LAP 2021-2027.</p> <p>However, this framework is ultimately governed by the CDP and aligned with the Naas LAP 2021-2027 and aligns its provisions with those frameworks.</p> <p>Any development that is carried out in relation to this objective will include implementation of existing mitigation measures defined in the SEA and AA for the CDP and the Naas LAP 2021-2027 to mitigate any potential impacts.</p> <p>Following application of existing mitigation measures, this objective is not expected to give rise to significant environmental impacts.</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
NWQ O1.14	Character Area Placenames Kildare County Council will develop a naming framework for the individual character areas that celebrates local heritage, cultural identity, historical context and will consider opportunities for use of the Irish language. This framework will support place-making, promote bilingualism, and foster a sense of belonging, while ensuring names are meaningful, legible, and appropriate for wayfinding.	This generally aligns with Policy UD P1 of the CDP which promotes urban design and healthy placemaking for realisation of more sustainable, inclusive, and well-designed settlements. It also aligns with Policy AH P1 of the CDP which aims to recognise and promote Kildare's unique heritage.	This objective relates to establishing placenames. It does not make provision for new development in the Northwest Quadrant. It is expected that the implementation of this objective will not result in significant negative impacts.	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
NWQ O1.15	Energy Resilience and Energy Infrastructure Kildare County Council will promote and encourage the development of energy resilience for the Northwest Quadrant by seeking energy provision including the utilisation of a district heating network, renewable generation and micro-generation over-and-above Building Regulations requirements to provide for the energy needs of individual buildings / developments, or the use of local-based and/or community-owned renewable energy technologies within and adjacent / outside the Northwest Quadrant lands.	This objective generally aligns with Policy EC P2 of the CDP which promotes renewable electricity use and generation. This objective is broadly consistent with Objective EC O36 of the CDP which supports the use of district heating where practicable. This also aligns generally with Objective WH 1.1 and IO 4.5 of the Naas LAP 2021-2027 which supports developments which deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy.	This objective aligns with multiple objectives of the CDP as well as aligning with objectives of the Naas LAP 2021-2027, which promotes renewable energy provision through district heating and micro-generation of electricity, particularly in the Northwest Quadrant. It is considered that the provisions made by this objective align with provisions already in place as part of the CDP and Naas LAP 2021-2027. Therefore, it is considered that the potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing CDP and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA carried out for these plans.	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
NWQ O1.16	<p>Northwest Quadrant Urban Development Zone</p> <p>Kildare County Council will explore the feasibility of progressing the designation of the Northwest Quadrant as an Urban Development Zone under the Planning and Development Act 2024 during the lifetime of the County Development Plan.</p>	<p>The Planning and Development Act 2024 introduced Urban Development Zones as a new mechanism to support the coordinated delivery of large-scale urban development of strategic importance.</p> <p>In response to this legislative reform, Variation No. 3 to the CDP makes provision for the future application of the UDZ process by updating the strategic policy context and housing growth framework.</p> <p>As a result, this Objective is consistent with Objective CS O32 of Variation 3 to the CDP which calls for the designation of the Northwest Quadrant as an Urban Development Zone.</p>	<p>This objective relates to designating the Northwest Quadrant as an Urban Development Zone in line with the CDP. It does not make provision for new development in the Northwest Quadrant.</p> <p>It is expected that the implementation of this objective will not result in significant negative impacts.</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.
NWQ O1.17	<p>Coherent development</p> <p>Kildare County Council will require all development proposals for land parcels within the Northwest Quadrant lands (or groups of land parcels) to be coherent in the way that they relate internally within their own site and to edge conditions. To demonstrate coherent design strategy and design responses applications should be supported by masterplans that including indicative proposals for sites and their contextual adjacent / contiguous land parcels and spaces (streets and public realm)</p>	<p>This objective generally aligns with the CDP, which promotes development on appropriately zoned lands and supports the colocation of new development with community and transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Further, the CDP requires design statements to be prepared for certain developments and sets out that design statements can be required at the discretion of the Planning Authority.</p>	<p>This objective relates to planning requirements in accordance with the CDP. It does not make provision for new development in the Northwest Quadrant.</p> <p>As such, it is expected that the implementation of this objective will not result in significant negative impacts.</p>	No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.	N/A	N/A	Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.

Objective No.	Objective	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Impact	Source	Pathway	Receptor	Potential for LSE
	in compliance with the Framework Masterplan.						
NWQ O1.18	<p>Noise and Air pollution</p> <p>In order to ensure that the impact of noise and air pollution on human health is appropriately mitigated Kildare County Council will require all development proposals to ensure that full account is taken of ambient noise pollution / air pollution affecting any location (see EPA Maps for indicative noise mapping) in selecting land uses and designing development proposals. INO 59 and IN067 (Chapter 6) provide the mechanism for compliance with this objective.</p>	<p>This objective aligns with Objectives INO 59 and INO 67 of the CDP, which require alignment of all developments with legal air quality and noise requirements.</p>	<p>This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the CDP. As such, no significant negative impacts are expected to arise as a result of its implementation.</p>	<p>No potential source of impacts anticipated arising from this objective.</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Potential for LSE does not exist as no potential source of impacts are anticipated to arise from this objective.</p>

A.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Analysis of Protected Sites

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	Approximately 19.8km northeast of the proposed Variation boundary.	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N
South Dublin Bay SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Approximately 32.8km northeast of the proposed Variation boundary via the River Liffey.	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	Approximately 32.8km northeast of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
	Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Mouds Bay SAC	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Approximately 7.5km west of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N
Pollardstown Fen SAC	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	Approximately 10.9km west of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N
Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Alkaline fens [7230] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	Approximately 8.7km northwest of the proposed Variation Boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
	Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) [1065]			
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Approximately 9.4km northwest of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	Approximately 10.1km east of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N
Poulnaphouca Reservoir SPA	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	Approximately 12km southeast of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N
Wicklow Mountains SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]	Approximately 15km southeast of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
	<p>Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</p> <p>Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</p> <p>Old <i>sessile</i> oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p> <p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</p>			
Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</p> <p>Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p>	Approximately 18.2km southeast of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N
Slaney River Valley SAC	<p>Estuaries [1130]</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p> <p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</p> <p>Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095]</p>	Approximately 24km south of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
	Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096] River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) [1103] (Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]			
River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-</i>	Approximately 22km southwest of the proposed Variation boundary	No viable source-pathway-receptor identified, therefore no potential for LSE.	N

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
	<p><i>Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae</i> [91E0]</p> <p>Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]</p> <p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</p> <p>White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)[1092]</p> <p>Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)[1095]</p> <p>Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)[1096]</p> <p>River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)[1099]</p> <p>Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) [1103]</p> <p>Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)[1106]</p> <p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</p> <p>Killarney Fern (<i>Vandenboschia speciosa</i>) [6985]</p>			