

Kildare County Council

Proposed Variation No.7 (Monasterevin Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Reference: 312816-04_AA Screening Report

Issue | 28 August 2026

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

Job number 312816-04

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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. 7 (hereafter referred to as the “Proposed Variation”) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) (hereafter referred to as ‘KCDP’).

KCC is proposing to introduce the Monasterevin Settlement Plan as the Proposed Variation No. 7 to the KCDP. KCC had initially undertaken work to prepare a replacement local area plan to the Monasterevin Local Area Plan (LAP) 2016-2022. However, as there is no longer a legislative provision for local area plans under the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) (PDA), this plan has subsequently been progressed as a Settlement Plan.

1.2 Purpose of the Report

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

The purpose of the screening is to determine, using the precautionary principle, whether the Proposed Variation, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, could have LSE on any European site having regard to the conservation objectives of that European site, see definitions in Section 1.6.

If, on the basis of the screening for appropriate assessment, the likelihood of the Proposed Variation, either individually or in combination with any project or other plan, having significant effects on a European site cannot be excluded, the competent authority shall carry out an AA in accordance with Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

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 (European site) network.

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 AA.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA whilst Article 6(4) sets out the Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and compensatory measures where LSE on European sites cannot be excluded. Article 7 of the Directive applies these obligations to SPAs designated under Birds Directive.

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

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

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. This AA screening report for the Proposed Variation has been prepared in accordance with the provisions set within Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act, 2024 (as amended).

Under Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, the competent authority shall carry out a screening AA of a proposed plan that is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of a European site, for the purpose of determining whether or not the proposed plan (either individually or in combination with any project or other plan) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site having regard to the conservation objectives of that European site.

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 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC), as transposed into Irish law. Article 3.2(b) of the SEA Directive expressly links to AA. The findings of the AA Screening Determination inform the SEA Screening process, as plans or programmes requiring assessment under Articles 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive are subject to SEA requirements. Therefore, where following AA screening, it is found that the Proposed Variation may have an impact on the conservation objectives of European sites or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach an appropriate assessment of the plan must be carried out and, in any case, where a SEA would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out.¹

Following the consultation period, the Proposed Variation may be finalised in its issue form. To facilitate an informed assessment under both processes, it is necessary to consider both the draft and final versions of the plan.

1.5 Report Structure

The report is structured below:

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

1.6 Definitions

1.6.1 European Sites

European sites, as defined under Part 1, Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 are part of the Natura 2000 network and include those designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), candidate SACs (cSACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or proposed SPAs (pSPAs).

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I habitats² (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II species³ as defined by the respective annexes of the Habitats Directive.

SPAs are selected for the conservation of Annex I birds and all migratory birds, and their habitats as defined by the respective annexes of the Birds Directive.

¹ Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 - <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

² Annex I habitats are habitats whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

³ Annex II species are animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

Candidate/proposed sites (i.e. cSAC or pSPA) have the same level of protection as fully designated sites under Irish Law⁴.

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.

1.6.2 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 status⁵.

The COs for a given site are underpinned by a list of attributes and targets for each QI/SCI, with those targets needing to be reached to maintain or restore favourable conservation condition of each QI/SCI.

1.6.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

The Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) model is used to assess where a potential effect may result by examining the source, its pathway and the receptor. As per guidance from the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)⁶ these can be defined as follows:

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

1.6.4 Zone of Influence

A 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. The ZoI is established using the SPR method.

2. Guidance, Methodology and Data Sources

2.1 Appropriate Assessment Stages

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

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive establish a three-stage assessment process for plans or projects that are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites but likely to affect Natura 2000 sites, comprising Stage 1 (screening for LSE), Stage 2 (AA of effects on European site integrity in view of that sites COs), and Stage 3 (derogation, where adverse effects remain,

⁴ OPR (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01 - *Candidate sites are those that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted under Ministerial Statutory Instrument (S.I.). Legal protection, and therefore, the requirement for AA, arises from the date that the Minister gives notice of his/her intention to designate the site.*

⁵ 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

⁶ OPR (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01

requiring the absence of alternatives, imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), and appropriate compensatory measures).⁷

An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. First of all, a plan or project must be screened to identify whether the potential for LSE on a European site(s) exists. If that possibility cannot be excluded, an AA 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.

2.2 Guidance

The following guidance was used in carrying out the assessment:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision)
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive; Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) 1/10 and PSSP 2/10
- 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)
- 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, 2021)
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000)
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2007)
- 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)
- 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).

The requirements for Screening for AA and AA for Plans (including the Proposed Variation) are set under Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

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

⁷ Commission notice Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC 2021/C 437/01 - <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/99a99e59-3789-11ec-8daf-01aa75ed71a1>

2.3 Data Sources

The data reviewed to inform this report included:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Map Viewer⁸
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Designations web viewer⁹
- National Biodiversity Data Centre map viewer¹⁰
- NPWS (2026) Conservation Objectives Series¹¹
- NPWS (2024) SAC and SPA Datasheets¹²
- NPWS Protected Sites in Ireland¹³
- NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland Web Viewer¹⁴
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. Unpublished NPWS report¹⁵. Edited by Domhnall Finch, Aoife Delaney, Fionnuala O'Neill and Deirdre Lynn. NPWS (2025)
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments.¹⁶ NPWS (2025)
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments.¹⁷ NPWS (2025).

2.4 Methodology

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

1. **Determination of whether the plan is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a European site:** The first step is to determine whether the Proposed Variation is directly connected with, or necessary to, the conservation management of any European site. Where this is not the case, the plan is then considered in terms of its potential to give rise to LSE on European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
2. **Impact Prediction (Source-Pathway-Receptor):** Identify the aspects of the Proposed Variation likely to affect the COs of European site. The more general classification of impacts can include direct and indirect effects; short and long-term effects; construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and isolated, interactive and cumulative effects. A Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) model has been used to identify the ZoI.

⁸ EPA Map Viewer accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

⁹ NPWS Designations web viewer accessed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1a721520030d404f899d658d5b6e159a?item=1> accessed August 2026

¹⁰ Biodiversity Maps – National Biodiversity Data Centre. Accessed at <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map> August 2026.

¹¹ NPWS Conservation objectives accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives> accessed August 2026

¹² NPWS SAC and SPA Datasheets accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data/sac-and-spa-datasheets-downloads> accessed August 2026

¹³ NPWS Protected sites accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> accessed August 2026

¹⁴ NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland web viewer accessed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1a721520030d404f899d658d5b6e159a> accessed August 2026

¹⁵ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Volume 1 Summary Overview accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2025> August 2026

¹⁶ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2025> August 2026

¹⁷ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2025> August 2026

3. **Assessment of Potential LSE:** The potential impacts of the Proposed Variation are assessed as to whether they are likely to result in potential LSE thereby undermining the COs for a European site. This requires understanding of relevant QIs/SCIs and associated COs. Where LSE cannot be excluded, those effects are subject to full AA.

2.4.1 Determination of whether the plan is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a European site

This step ascertains whether the plan or project is connected with, or necessary for, the management of a site, i.e. if it contributes to achieving the site's conservation objectives. The term 'management' refers to the conservation management of a site, i.e. it is to be understood within the meaning for which it is used in Article 6(1). Thus, if an activity is directly connected with, and necessary for, fulfilling the conservation objectives, it is exempt from the requirement for an assessment.¹⁸

2.4.2 Impact Prediction: Identifying the ZoI using SPR Model

The ZoI is established using the SPR method and takes into consideration the scale of the Proposed Variation. There is no overarching fixed or standard ZoI. The guidance from Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG)¹⁹ 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). In accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010), an initial distance of 15km from the boundary of Monasterevin town was selected for consideration of European Sites, with extension of this area where there are hydrological linkages or other pathways that extend beyond 15km. The ZoI has therefore been determined by the presence or absence of credible SPR linkages.

For an effect to occur there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. construction works at a proposed development site), a 'receptor' (e.g. QI or SCI of a European site), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse which connects a plan area to an SAC, ex situ foraging habitat for SCI birds). The principle for establishing ZoI, as outlined in the 2021 OPR Practice Note PN01, applies equally to a plan level AA and so the SPR method has been used in this report.

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

2.4.3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

2.4.3.1 Conservation Objectives (COs) of European sites

The COs of European sites are focused primarily on maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of the habitats and species of interest (i.e. the QIs and SCIs). European sites have Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs), which focus on the specific qualifying habitat or populations of species at each site by setting targets for appropriate attributes. The detailed SSCO area available from the NPWS website²⁰ and outline the attributes and targets for respective QIs and SCIs of European sites. Consideration of the implications of the Proposed Variation against the SSCO (where relevant) of European sites supports the assessment of whether the Proposed Variation would have a LSE on such sites.

¹⁸ Commission notice Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC 2021/C 437/01 - <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/99a99e59-3789-11ec-8daf-01aa75ed71a1>

¹⁹ Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision) - https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf

²⁰ NPWS Conservation Objectives. Accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives> November 2025

For example, where it can be demonstrated that the proposed plan/project would not impede any achievement of any SSCOs for a particular site, it would support a conclusion that the proposed plan/project would not be likely to have a significant effect on the relevant European sites.

2.4.3.2 *Assessment of Effects of the Plan*

Guidance documents listed in Section 3.2 provide proposed criteria to determine if a proposal is likely to have significant effects. A European site will only be at risk from LSE where the SPR link exists between the proposed plan/project and the European site.

The significance of the effect is dependent upon factors such as duration, magnitude and intensity of the plan in question and the existence of a credible S-P-R link. It is also determined by the extent of the exposure to the risk and the characteristics of the receptor. By establishing a credible source and pathway, the receptors i.e. the QI and SCI habitats and species are only considered where links are identified to be credible. Factors include the distance between receptors and sources and the means by which the pathway travels through air, water, ground etc., occurs.

2.4.3.3 *In-Combination Assessment of Effects*

The consideration of in-combination effects discusses the potential for other projects and/or plans that may spatially or temporally overlap with the proposed plan/project.

2.4.4 *Summary*

In summary, the DoEHLG and Office for the Planning Regulator (OPR) provides guidance on the Screening for AA process and is defined below in **Figure 2.1**:

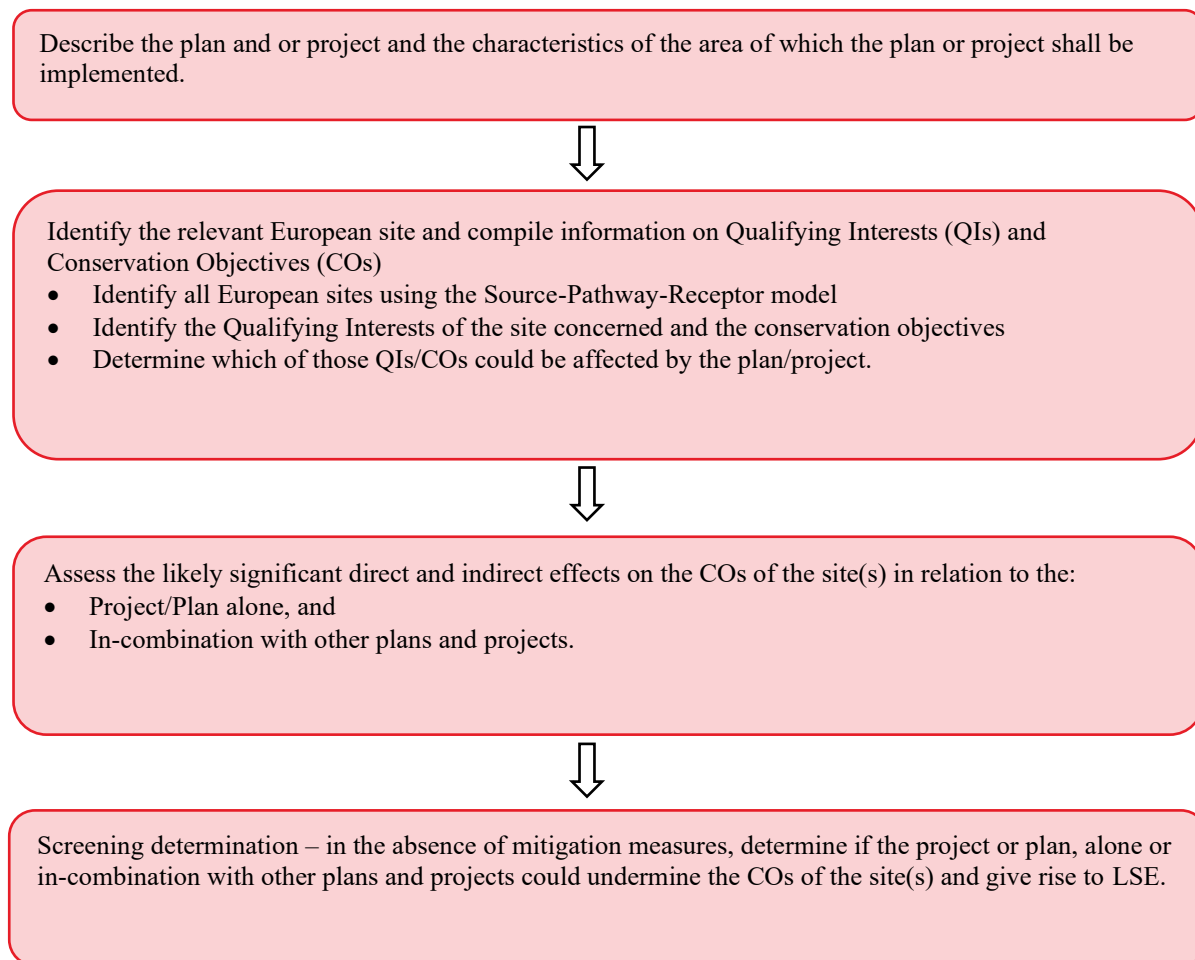


Figure 2.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Process

The guidance from DoEHLG (2010) states - *The key to deciding if an AA of a plan would be required is determined by an assessment of whether the plan and its policies and objectives are likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. The decision should not be determined by the size of the plan area alone. It will also be influenced by the nature and extent of the development likely to be proposed in the plan, and the plan areas in situ, ex situ and in combination relationship to adjoining Natura 2000 sites and the wider Natura 2000 network.* Additionally, screening should be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation.

The aforementioned process and guidance have been considered as part of this report.

3. Proposed Variation No. 7 (Monasterevin Settlement Plan)

3.1 Overview

KCC published the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (KCDP) in January 2023 which is the key strategy document which structures the proper planning and sustainable development of land-use across County Kildare over the six-year statutory time period of the plan. The KCDP has been subject to four adopted Variations since its publication.

The KCDP (as varied) consists of two volumes:

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

The Monasterevin Settlement Plan (MSP) is being prepared by way of Variation No. 7 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) under Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) and in accordance with Objective CS 09.²¹ It will replace the Monasterevin Local Area Plan (LAP) 2016-2022. KCC had initially undertaken work to prepare a replacement local area plan (2025-2031)²² to the Monasterevin Local Area Plan (LAP) 2016-2022. However, as there is no longer a legislative provision for local area plans under the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), this plan has subsequently been progressed as a settlement plan. The MSP sets out an overarching strategy to guide and manage the proper planning and sustainable development of Monasterevin over the remaining period of the KCDP.

The KCDP outlines a range of policies and objectives which support sustainable development across the county, many of which are applicable to Monasterevin. The MSP states that - *‘the role of the Settlement Plan is not to duplicate these but rather to build on them by providing for additional locally tailored and site-specific provisions and objectives, developed in response to the settlement’s unique development characteristics and requirements. Accordingly, to avoid unnecessary repetition, the overarching policies and objectives of Vol. 1 will not be restated in the Plan. It is therefore imperative that this Plan is read in tandem with Vol. 1 and any relevant appendix of the CDP’.*

²¹ Objective (CS 09) of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 (as varied) seeks to ‘ensure that up-to-date settlement plans (specifics to be determined through the County Development Plan review/variation) are in place for those County Kildare settlements in the Settlement Hierarchy in accordance with the obligations of the planning legislation and in accordance with relevant Ministerial Guidelines, regional planning objectives, and the County Development Plan.’

²² <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/LocalAreaPlans/CurrentLocalAreaPlans/MonasterevinLocalAreaPlan2025-2031/>

Additionally, KCC state that they will have regard to the Monasterevin LAP 2016-2022 until such time as it is reviewed or another plan made.²³

The previous Monasterevin LAP 2016-2021 was subject to screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) and established the land-use zoning and policies and objectives framework for the Monasterevin area.

3.2 Geographic Area

The Proposed Variation covers the area of Monasterevin settlement boundary. The settlement strategy of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly identifies Monasterevin as being located within the 'Core Region', surrounding the Dublin Metropolitan Area. Monasterevin has been designated as a Self-Sustaining Town under the KCDP. The area for MSP along with land-use zoning²⁴ is provided below in **Figure 3.1**.

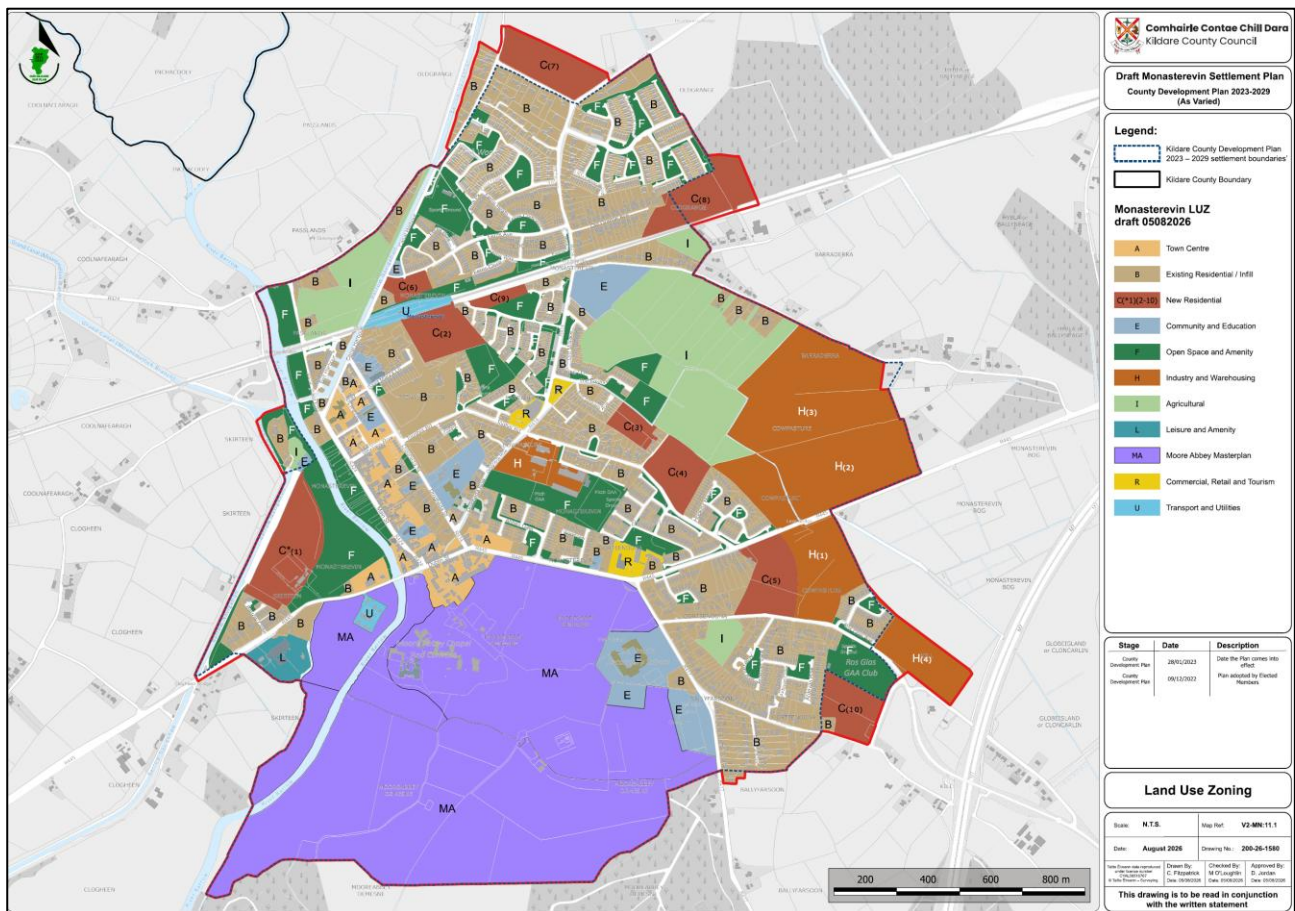


Figure 3.1 Monasterevin Settlement Plan

²³ <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/LocalAreaPlans/CurrentLocalAreaPlans/>

²⁴ Derived from Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2016-2022 (Part C) - <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/LocalAreaPlans/CurrentLocalAreaPlans/MonasterevinLocalAreaPlan2016-2022/>

3.3 Embedded Protective Policies / Objectives and Draft Objectives as included in the Kildare CDP (as varied)

Proposed Variation No. 7 does not operate as a standalone planning framework but instead forms an integral component of the KCDP (as varied). Accordingly, the Proposed Variation should be read and interpreted in conjunction with the provisions of the KCDP as a whole. All environmental protection policies, objectives, development management standards and mitigation measures contained within the KCDP continue to apply and provide the overarching framework for the implementation of the provisions introduced by Proposed Variation No. 7.

Furthermore, the KCDP was subject to SEA and AA, including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The findings, recommendations and mitigation measures contained within those assessments remain applicable to the KCDP (as varied) and, by extension, to Proposed Variation No. 7. The Proposed Variation does not remove, undermine or conflict with these measures and must be implemented in accordance with the environmental safeguards established through the adopted KCDP and its associated environmental assessments.

Accordingly, while the Proposed Variation is independently assessed for the potential for LSE, any embedded protective policies that apply are considered part of the baseline policy framework and not as mitigation measures specific to the Proposed Variation.

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

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

Other relevant embedded protective policies and objectives of the KCDP are included in Appendix B.

4. Screening Assessment

4.1 Overview

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

4.2 Determination of whether the plan is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a European site

The Proposed Variation is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the conservation management of any European site. The Monasterevin Settlement Plan (MSP) is being prepared by way of Proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) under Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended). It will replace the Monasterevin Local Area Plan (LAP) 2016-2022.

Thus, the Proposed Variation has been examined under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

4.3 Impact Prediction

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

4.3.1 Identification of the ZoI

European sites have been identified and are presented in **Table 4.1** below. The SPR method is utilised to assess whether the potential for LSE upon these European sites exists. The SPR method establishes the ZoI for the Proposed Variation and focuses the assessment to identify those relevant QIs/SCIs which are at risk of LSE.

Table 4.1 European sites considered within the SPR

European Site Name and Code	Distance from Monasterevin	Potential for SPR linkage	Considered further in screening?
River Barrow and River Nore SAC (site code: 002162)	Within the Proposed Variation/ MSP area	Based on the proximity of the SAC, there is potential hydrological, hydrogeological and ecological, aerial pathways during the construction, operational and / or decommissioning phases.	Yes
Mountmellick SAC (site code: 002141)	12.7km west	This SAC is designated solely for Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> with a range of up to a 100m only, therefore, based on the distance from the MSP area and no direct hydrological connection, it is considered that no pathway exists between this SAC and the MSP.	No
Pollardstown Fen SAC (site code: 000396)	12.8km north-east	The SAC is located approximately 26km upstream of the MSP area. The SAC is designated for species of whorl snail which have a range of on average 100m and are restricted to wetlands. The QI habitats are not ecologically or hydrologically connected to the MSP area, nor is there a risk, based on distance, of pathway through emissions to air. Therefore, it is considered that no pathway for effects exists from the MSP area to this SAC.	No
Mouds Bog SAC (site code: 002331)	15.2km north-east	There is no direct or indirect hydrological connection between the MSP area and this SAC. Designated for bog habitat, it is not considered that there is ecological or aerial pathway from the MSP area to this SAC, based on distance.	No

European Site Name and Code	Distance from Monasterevin	Potential for SPR linkage	Considered further in screening?
Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (site code 004160)	25km west	This is the closest SPA to the MSP area. This SPA is designated solely for hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> . The distance between the SPA and the MSP area is greater than the typical range of this species which is up to 11km. Therefore, it is considered that an ecological pathway does not exist.	No

Based on interrogation of the desk based resources, it is considered that one European site has potential for pathway for effects which is River Barrow and River Nore SAC (site code: 002162) based on the location of this SAC within the MSP area. The ZoI is the extent of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, for which hydrological, hydrogeological, ecological and aerial pathways exist for sources of impacts from construction, operation and decommissioning of relevant objectives of the MSP. Therefore, the ZoI has been concluded as being the extent of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC within the MSP area and downstream.

4.3.2 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 plan in question and the existence of a credible SPR link. It is also determined by the extent of the exposure to the risk and the characteristics of the receptor.

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

All objectives of the Proposed Variation have been reviewed for potential impacts (see **Appendix A.1**). 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, potential habitat loss, degradation / fragmentation as a result of construction activities, potential disturbance to species as a result of construction activities. Noise pollution from construction sites can result in disturbance and/or displacement of species. The generation of significant amounts of waste, if not properly disposed of or recycled, is another concern. Operational activities of wastewater treatment plants, recreation, transport, residential and industrial sectors can also contribute to similar inputs to the environment as construction.

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 not yet confirmed, therefore, specific details on these impacts cannot be assessed.

Furthermore, as the Proposed Variation constitutes a variation of the KCDP, accordingly, the embedded environmental protection policies, objectives, development management standards and mitigation measures contained within the KCDP continue to apply and provide the overarching framework for the implementation of the provisions introduced by Proposed Variation.

Further, the findings, recommendations and mitigation measures contained within the SEA Environmental Report and NIS for the KCDP (as varied) remain applicable to the KCDP (as varied) and, by extension, to the Proposed Variation. The Proposed Variation does not remove, undermine or conflict with these measures and must be implemented in accordance with the environmental safeguards established through the adopted KCDP (as varied) and its associated environmental assessments.

All objectives of the Proposed Variation have been reviewed for potential sources of impacts (see **Appendix A.1**) which found that there are no additional sources of impacts to be assessed in this report.

4.3.3 Identification of Potential Pathways and Receptors

The ZoI is the extent of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, for with hydrological, ecological and aerial pathways exist for sources of impacts from construction, operation and decommissioning of relevant objectives of the Proposed Variation.

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 4.3.2, there is no potential pathways to any receptors to be considered. **Appendix A.2** outlines full details of S-P-R Assessment undertaken.

4.4 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The Proposed Variation has been assessed for the potential to give rise to LSE on European sites. Appendix A.1 considers the potential for LSE from implementation of the draft objectives based on the potential for habitat loss, fragmentation, disruption, disturbance or any other change to key species and habitat/species of any European sites as a result of the Proposed Variation.

Furthermore, as the Proposed Variation constitutes a variation of the KCDP (as varied), accordingly, the embedded environmental protection policies, objectives, development management standards and mitigation measures contained within the KCDP (as varied) continue to apply and provide the overarching framework for the implementation of the provisions introduced by Proposed Variation. Further, the findings, recommendations and mitigation measures contained within the SEA Environmental Report and NIS for the KCDP (as varied) remain applicable to the KCDP (as varied) and, by extension, to the Proposed Variation. The Proposed Variation does not remove, undermine or conflict with these measures and must be implemented in accordance with the environmental safeguards established through the adopted KCDP (as varied) and its associated environmental assessments.

While the Proposed Variation is independently assessed for the potential for LSE, the above mentioned embedded protective policies and mitigation measures that apply are considered part of the baseline policy framework and not as mitigation measures specific to the Proposed Variation.

As such, the S-P-R model (described in Appendix A.2) concludes that there are no potential sources of impacts, therefore, no potential receptors for effects to be considered. With that in mind, there is no potential for LSE on any European Site from implementation of the draft objectives of the Proposed Variation.

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

The Proposed Variation has been assessed for the potential to result in effects on European sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. 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 within the KCDP (as varied). Arising from this, the consideration of in-combination effects is not required given that the Proposed Variation alone, shall not result in LSE.

4.6 Summary

As stated in Section 4 and Appendix A.1 and A.2, 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.1 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 KCDP (as varied) which has previously been subject to AA and SEA and thereby protects European sites from LSE. Additionally, there is embedded mitigation and protection policies for European Sites in the KCDP (as varied) that provide sufficient safeguards for the implementation of the draft objectives of the Proposed Variation.

Furthermore, it is embedded within the KCDP (as varied) 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 sites, whether arising from the Proposed Variation No. 7 (Monasterevin Settlement Plan) alone or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded, for the reasons set out in Section 4 above. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the plan and its potential relationship with all European sites within the ZoI, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.

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

Appendix A Assessment of LSE

A.1 List of draft Objectives from the Proposed Variation No.7 (Monasterevin Settlement Plan)

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
Core Strategy Objectives (CSO)				
CSO 2.1	Support and facilitate compact growth development in Monasterevin through the application of the 10-minute settlement concept, the consolidation of the existing urban form and the sequential approach to land use development.	This is consistent with Objective CS O5 and CS O13 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes compact growth and the renewal of towns.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
CSO 2.2	Monitor the level of residential development within Monasterevin during the lifetime of the Plan and apply appropriate development management prioritisation measures to ensure the delivery of strategic plan-led and coordinated balanced development within the town.	This is consistent with Objective MI O1 of Volume 1 and Policy STP 1 of Volume 2 of the KCDP (as varied) which supports monitoring of developments to ensure that appropriate development management measures can be applied as needed.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This provision does not introduce new development proposals but rather seeks to monitor the residential development and apply development management measures. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
CSO 2.3	Seek the delivery of new residential development in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure.	This aligns with Objectives HO O8, HO O9, HO O16, MI O1 and MI O2 of the KCDP (as varied) which promote urban renewal, regeneration areas and the provision of high-quality apartments and suitable social infrastructure.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This provision does not introduce new development proposals but rather relates to the timing of delivery of new residential development in tandem with supporting infrastructure as per the provisions set within the KCDP (as varied). No source of impact identified.	No
CSO 2.4	Promote the delivery of mixed use (including residential) or residential development on the infill and regeneration opportunity sites identified in Table 2.4 subject to future development proposals demonstrating due regard and adherence to the objectives and provisions of this Settlement Plan.	This generally aligns with Policy HO P6, Objectives HO O7, HO O8, and HO O9 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes compact and sustainable growth and regeneration areas.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This provision does not introduce new development proposals but rather seeks to promote compact settlement and regeneration opportunities. No source of impact identified.	No
CSO 2.5	Support and facilitate the delivery of the Key Development Areas identified in Table 2.4, subject to future development proposals demonstrating due regard to the relevant urban design briefs and frameworks, together with adherence to the Implementation and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule.	This generally aligns with Objectives CS O5, HO O2 and MI O1 which ensures that sufficient land is zoned at appropriate locations in compliance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of the Development Plan and also promotes compact growth and the renewal of towns.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP and assessed as part of the associated AA & SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
CSO 2.6	Support and facilitate the delivery of employment related developments on appropriately zoned lands in Monasterevin, subject to future development proposals demonstrating adherence to the Implementation and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule. Compliance with general development management standards and regard to environmental considerations will also be required.	This is consistent with Policy RE P1, Objectives RE O3, RE O35, RE O39 and CS O16 from the KCDP (as varied) which encourages employment development and enterprise on zoned and serviced lands at suitable locations. It also aligns with Objectives CS O5 and CS O13, which support compact, plan-led and balanced settlement growth.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
			There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	
Social Infrastructure Objectives (SIO)				
SIO 3.1	Support and facilitate improvements and expansion of the existing primary school facilities, including special needs education (SEN) and the provision of new schools and further educational opportunities which may arise, at appropriate 'E: Community and Education' zoned locations.	This is consistent with Policy SC P12, Objectives SC O6, SC O67 and SC O74 from the KCDP (as varied), which deal with the provision of new schools and redevelopment and expansion of existing schools in line with Department of Education and Youth's School Building Programme.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
SIO 3.2	Continue to engage with the Department of Education and Youth in respect of the phased delivery of 'E(3): Community and Education' zoned lands for an additional primary school.	This is consistent with Policy SC P12 and Objective SC O4 of the KCDP (as varied), which promotes government, youth and community engagement in local decision making. This is also consistent with Objectives SC O67 and SC O74 from the KCDP (as varied), which deal with the provision of new schools and redevelopment and expansion of existing schools in line with Department of Education and Youth's School Building Programme.	This objective relates to continuing engagement related to the phased delivery and does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No
SIO 3.3	Support the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities in tandem with and in the vicinity of all new and existing residential developments.	This is consistent with Objective SCO87 of the KCDP (as varied) which requires the provision of such facilities to address capacity issues.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This objective does not introduce new development proposals but rather supports the provision of childcare facilities alongside new and existing residential developments. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
SIO 3.4	Support and liaise with operators of public and private healthcare facilities by encouraging the provision of facilities in appropriate locations in Monasterevin to address the current deficit provision and to meet future needs during the lifetime of the Plan.	This is consistent with Policy SC P14 of the KCDP (as varied) which aims to support the HSE and other agencies in the provision of such facilities appropriate to the size and scale of each settlement. It is also consistent with Objective SC O88 and Action SC A20 of the KCDP (as varied), both of which endeavour to address deficiencies in healthcare services and facilities.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This objective relates to engagement with operators to encourage infrastructure provision and does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No
SIO 3.5	Support the provision of residential care facilities and services for older people and persons with disabilities, subject to appropriate siting and universal design considerations, including the development of individual housing units and/or a residential care home facility to provide for the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities.	This is consistent with Policy SC P6 of the KCDP (as varied) which aims to facilitate the provision of continuing care facilities for older persons across Kildare. It is also consistent with Objective SC O36 and SCO37 of the KCDP (as varied) which prioritise appropriate siting of such facilities to promote continued participation of residents with the community.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This objective does not introduce new development proposals but rather seeks to supports the provision of residential care facilities and services for older people and persons with disabilities. No source of impact identified.	No
SIO 3.6	Prioritise improving the existing Riverside Park and to carry out a feasibility study to extend the existing park to the north, in partnership with Iamród Éireann and other relevant stakeholders.	This is generally consistent with Action SC A8 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes development of open spaces throughout Kildare for recreational and amenity activities. It is also consistent with Objective LR O41 of the KCDP (as varied). This objective relates to the preparation of a feasibility study only.	This objective relates to the prioritisation of delivery of community infrastructure, rather than defining new development provisions. No source of impact identified.	No
SIO 3.7	Facilitate the development of a teen outdoor space or facility on appropriately zoned lands in the town, subject to funding.	This is generally consistent with Action SC A8 and Objectives SC O13 and SCO27 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes development of open spaces throughout Kildare for recreational and amenity activities for teens and youths. It is also consistent with Objective LR O41 of the KCDP (as varied).	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This objective relates to facilitate of development of community infrastructure. No source of impact identified.	No
SIO 3.8	Encourage recreational / amenity / community facilities in Monasterevin to be multi-functional, fully accessible and not used exclusively by any one group or club.	This aligns with Objectives SC O9, SC O11, SC O18, SC O20, SC O22, SC O30, SC O49, LR O89 and Policy SC P5 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes participation in sport and recreation through provision of a range of	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This objective relates to promoting multifunctional and accessible community facilities, rather than delivery of new	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
		sporting facilities and development of multi-purpose sport facilities.	infrastructure. No source of impact identified.	
SIO 3.9	Actively seek funding from relevant agencies and Government sources including the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) or other funding sources to secure financial support to develop sports and recreation facilities in Monasterevin, including within Moore Abbey Demesne.	This aligns with Objective CS O12 and SC O9 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes participation in sport and recreation through provision of a range of sporting facilities. This aligns with Objectives SC O20 and SC O28 of the CDP (as varied) which support development of multi-purpose sport facilities. This aligns with Objective LR O89 of the CDP (as varied) which encourages engagement with sporting organisations to facilitate the needs of clubs and communities.	This objective relates to securing funding for infrastructure development, rather than delivery of new infrastructure. No source of impact identified.	No
SIO 3.10	Support the development of the Monasterevin Water Sports Hub at Moore's Lock on lands zoned 'F(1): Open Space and Amenity' in partnership with Waterways Ireland, and all other relevant stakeholders.	This is generally consistent with Objective LR O41 and Policies LR P4, RE P26, RE P27 of the KCDP (as varied) which supports Waterways Ireland in exploring the provision of more recreational infrastructure at appropriate locations. Objective LR O43 is also relevant: <i>"Development proposals for water sports facilities adjacent to waterways will only be permitted where they are compatible with existing water uses, including non-recreational activities; do not adversely affect significant archaeological heritage features or Natura 2000 sites; and can be appropriately integrated into the landscape without causing unacceptable impacts on visual or environmental amenities, particularly in areas of high amenity value or scenic significance."</i>	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report. It is further noted that Planning permission was granted for the Water Sports Hub by Kildare County Council in February 2024 under planning reference 23/60116	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
SIO 3.11	Support the development of a kayak /canoe trail from the proposed Water Sports Hub at Moore's Lock to provide a loop route along the River Barrow and Grand Canal.	This generally aligns with Objective LR O41 and Policy LR P4 of the KCDP (as varied) which supports Waterways Ireland in exploring the provision of more recreational infrastructure at appropriate locations.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
SIO 3.12	Provide for the delivery of recreational and/or social infrastructure in tandem with new housing delivery through the application of a Special Development Contribution on all Key Development Areas where specific exceptional costs are not covered by the Council's Development Contribution Scheme or through developer-led provision.	This aligns with Objectives SC O9, SC P4, HO O16, Policy SC P17 and Action SC A8 of the KCDP (as varied) which aim to ensure that social infrastructure and other support facilities are available in the neighbourhood.	This objective relates to provision of special development contributions for infrastructure development, rather than delivery of new infrastructure. No source of impact identified.	No
Town Centre Regeneration and Delivering Place Quality Objectives (TRO)				
TRO 4.1	Promote the town centre as the primary focus for commercial, civic, social, cultural and tourism activity, including opportunities at the former Cassidy's Distillery complex, Market Square, Canal Harbour and north of Drogheda Street areas, by supporting the reuse and renewal of existing buildings, upper floors, backland areas, derelict sites and brownfield lands, ensuring high quality urban design and strong integration and linkages that reinforce compact growth and the vibrancy of the urban core.	This is consistent with RET O45 which states – <i>'Encourage the growth and development of retail and other town centre services/ functions in Monasterevin within the Core Retail Area (see Map V1 - 8.9), to enable the town to grow into a more self-sustaining town. While also progressing the redevelopment/regeneration of town centre sites, with the emphasis on consolidation of the town centre through mixed-use retail-led regeneration.'</i> Further RET O46 states – <i>'Develop and build on the tourism potential of Monasterevin's heritage, including distilling and brewing and its natural environments as part of an integrated strategy for raising their profiles and identities'</i> This is also generally consistent with Objective CS O5 of the CDP (as varied) which promotes compact growth through renewal and regeneration initiatives, Objective	This objective relates to promoting and supporting the reuse and renewal of existing spaces to facilitate the compact growth of the town centre. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
		RET O5 and RET O15 of the CDP (as varied) which promote town centres as priority locations for new retail development. This also aligns with Objectives RET O9, RET O18, RET O56, and Action RET A3 of the CDP (as varied) which promote the appropriate development of town centres by utilising underused spaces, including derelict brownfield land and vacant sites.		
TRO 4.2	Protect the vibrancy, ambience, quality and vitality of the town centre by: (i) Promoting an appropriate mix of day and night-time uses. (ii) Encouraging the regeneration and reuse of vacant units, including those on the Derelict Sites Register, for alternative functions and uses such as live-work units, residential units, remote working hubs, enterprise incubation, tourist spin-off enterprises, tourist accommodation, niche retail including food or craft enterprises.	This is consistent with Objective RET O18 and Policy UD P2 of the CDP (as varied) which encourage the re-use and regeneration of vacant spaces for alternative uses. This is consistent with Objective RET O45 of the KCDP (as varied) which encourages the development of retail and other town centres services/functions in Monasterevin within the Core Retail Area, to enable the town to grow into a more self-sustaining town. This is consistent with Objectives RE O43 and RE O53 of the KCDP (as varied) which promote live-work units to enliven streets and provide flexible accommodation options.	This objective relates to protecting and promoting the reuse and renewal of existing spaces to facilitate the compact growth of the town centre. No source of impact identified.	No
TRO 4.3	Require that all new development within the town centre enhances the quality of the public realm by facilitating a connected network of streets and spaces which prioritise pedestrians and cyclists and provides for the possibility of connections to future development on adjacent lands.	This aligns with Objective RET O63 of the CDP (as varied) which promotes public realm improvements in town centres to improve the overall experience for visitors and residents. It also aligns with Policy TM P2 and Objectives TM O20 and TM O21 which promote integration of active travel infrastructure in development.	This objective does not introduce new development proposals instead promotes integration of high-quality public realm. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
TRO 4.4	Support the implementation of the Monasterevin Town Renewal Masterplan (2023) by actively pursuing and securing funding and investment opportunities from relevant sources including the Historic Town Initiative and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), or any successor fund.	This generally aligns with Policy UD P2, Objectives UD O6, RET O45, RET O18 and RET O63 of the CDP (as varied) which promotes a Town Centre First Approach through a number of means, including the preparation of Town Renewal Masterplans. This generally aligns with Objective RET O7 of the CDP (as varied) which encourages universal accessibility of town centres, with particular emphasis on creating a high quality, safe and permeable environment that is easily accessible to pedestrians and cyclists. This aligns with Action UD A3 which focus on preparation and implementation of Town Renewal Masterplans for Monasterevin settlement. This objective relates to the securing of funding only.	This objective does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No
TRO 4.5	To support the establishment of a 'Town Team' in association with the Housing and Regeneration Department of Kildare County Council in consultation with Elected Members and community representatives.	This is consistent with Action UD A5 and Objective UD O6 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes a Town Centre First Approach through a number of means, including the preparation of Town Centre First Plan and Town Renewal Masterplans, respectively.	This objective does not introduce new development proposals only provides for the establishment of a 'Town Team'. No source of impact identified.	No
Economic Development Objectives				
EDO 5.1	Incentivise employment creation on lands zoned 'A: Town Centre' through the development of infill site and the redevelopment / renewal of underutilised sites and buildings as a key driver of regeneration, through the application of the Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme (2025), the Shopfront Improvement, Universal Accessibility and Age Friendly Grant Scheme or any successors to the same.	This is consistent with RET O45 which states – <i>'Encourage the growth and development of retail and other town centre services/ functions in Monasterevin within the Core Retail Area (see Map V1 - 8.9), to enable the town to grow into a more self-sustaining town. While also progressing the redevelopment/regeneration of town centre sites, with the emphasis on consolidation of the town centre through mixed-use retail-led regeneration.'</i> This is also generally consistent with Objective CS O5 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes compact growth through renewal and regeneration initiatives, Objectives RET O5 and RET O15 of the KCDP (as varied) which promote town centres as priority locations for new retail development. This also aligns with Objectives RET O9,	This objective relates to promoting and supporting the reuse and renewal of existing spaces to facilitate the compact growth of the town centre. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
		RET O18, RET O56, and Action RET A3 of the CDP (as varied) which promote the appropriate development of town centres by utilising underused spaces, including derelict brownfield land and vacant sites.		
EDO 5.2	Promote new employment development on lands zoned as 'H(1) – H(4): Industry and Warehousing' at Cowpasture and Kill, supported by the movement and active travel links detailed on Map V2-MN-8.1, Map V2-MN-8.2 and Map V2-MN-8.3.	This objective is consistent with RE O6 which supports provision of enterprises and industry at appropriate locations throughout the county. It also aligns with Policy TM P2 and Objective TM O20 that promotes active travel measures.	This objective relates to promoting new development for manufacturing, warehousing and industrial development supported by active travel links. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
EDO 5.3	Support the development and expansion of the Monasterevin Fashion and Textiles Design Hub and facilitate its remit to support newly graduated and established designers and SMEs in the fashion and textile industry through training, upskilling and employment opportunities, fostering an innovation-rich environment for the fashion and textile sector in County Kildare and the wider Mid-East Region.	This generally aligns with objectives RE O6, RE O56, RE O58 and Policy RE P7 which support small-medium enterprises.	This objective relates to promoting new development for fashion and textile sector. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
EDO 5.4	Promote the economic renewal and revitalisation of the former Cassidy's Distillery complex as a dynamic and sustainable employment cluster and a vibrant mixed-use quarter with a distinct spatial identity.	This is consistent with Objective RE O45 which states – <i>'Positively consider proposals and initiatives that seek to re-purpose and revitalise redundant or declining uses in important town centre locations and ensure that proposals for the reuse of buildings, introduces a greater diversity of daytime and night-time uses, while encouraging sustainable modes of transport/travel, and within the lifetime of the Plan, highlight the range of re-use achieved through the above proposals and initiatives.'</i>	This objective relates to promoting and supporting the reuse and renewal of existing spaces to support employment clusters and mixed-use development. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
EDO 5.5	Support Monasterevin as a key tourism destination by promoting and facilitating the development of tourism infrastructure and tourism-related enterprises, including additional tourist accommodation, while working with relevant stakeholders to utilise, enhance and sustainably manage the town's natural and built heritage assets, subject to planning and environmental considerations.	This objective is consistent with Objectives RE O99 which supports the expansion and development of tourism in County Kildare, RE O100 which supports additional and diversification of tourist accommodation, Policies RE P20 which supports development of Barrow Blueway for tourism and recreation, RE P22 supports development of heritage and cultural tourism, and PE P26 which supports the development of tourism activities on and adjacent to waterways, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.	This objective relates to promoting and supporting Monasterevin as a key tourism destination. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
EDO 5.6	Actively support and facilitate Waterways Ireland and relevant stakeholders in the sensitive enhancement, regeneration and provision of visitor, recreational and servicing facilities (including universally accessible public toilets) along the Grand Canal and Barrow Blueway at Bell Harbour or at another appropriate location, subject to planning and environmental considerations.	This is generally consistent with Policy RE P20 and Objectives REO140 and RE O141 which aim to develop the Barrow Blueway for tourism and recreation and commercial opportunities and ensure ease of access to this amenity, and Policies PE P26 and RE P27 which aim to support the development of tourism activities on and adjacent to waterways.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). This objective relates to support Waterways Ireland and other stakeholders to facilitate infrastructure provision. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
			beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	
EDO 5.7	Investigate the feasibility of a dry dock and service yard at an appropriate location adjacent to the Grand Canal in Monasterevin, in conjunction with Waterways Ireland and all other relevant stakeholders.	This is generally consistent with Objectives LR O41 and LR O42 and which supports Waterways Ireland in exploring the provision of more recreational infrastructure at appropriate locations.	This objective does not introduce new development proposals only provides for feasibility assessment. No source of impact identified.	No
EDO 5.8	Support and facilitate the development of an integrated network of waymarked greenways, heritage / tourist trails and looped walks (and associated facilities) in the town connecting various sites of natural, built and cultural heritage such as the Grand Canal, Barrow Blueway, the town centre, the Hulk and Moore Abbey Demesne, subject to planning and environmental assessments.	This objective aligns with Objective RE O99 which support the expansion and development of tourism in Kildare, investigating the feasibility of key opportunities such as those centred on heritage, historical heritage (both persons and places), geology, and eco-tourism etc. This also aligns with Objective AH O47 which aims to promote the conservation of demesnes and historic designed landscapes essential character, both built and natural, while allowing for appropriate re-use. It also aligns with Objective RE O148 which promotes towpaths along the Grand Canal, the Royal Canal, the Barrow Line as cycleways and walkways.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
EDO 5.9	Support and facilitate the provision of appropriate bespoke signage, mapping and interpretation of the town's tourist attractions, amenities and heritage assets at key gateways and nodal spaces, including Monasterevin Train Station, the Grand Canal and Barrow Blueway, Market Square, the Hulk, entrances to Moore Abbey Demesne and key areas within the town centre.	This objective aligns with Objective LR O58 to '<i>Support the development of ancillary infrastructure for Greenways and cycle routes (i.e. trailheads, signage, rest areas, parking, lighting, toilets, etc.)</i>'. It also aligns with Actions BI A12 which supports biodiversity awareness signage, and AH A3 which supports signage to publicly accessible recorded monuments.	This objective aligns with provision of appropriate bespoke signage, mapping and interpretation of the town's tourist attractions, amenities and heritage assets. This objective does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
EDO 5.10	Support tourism initiatives including Fáilte Ireland's 'Ireland's Ancient East' tourism marketing platform which promotes Monasterevin as a visitor destination, particularly for water-based activities linked to the Grand Canal and River Barrow and also initiatives which promote Monasterevin as a centre for distilling and brewing.	This objective aligns with Policy RE P17 which states – <i>'Continue to work in collaboration with other key stakeholders to implement the programmes and plans of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative over the lifetime of the plan to maximise the tourism potential of the county.'</i> This also aligns with Objectives RE O129 and RE O130 which aim to facilitate appropriate visitor infrastructure and facilities and signage programme in Kildare associated with Ireland's Ancient East sites. Furthermore, Objective RET O46 states – <i>'Develop and build on the tourism potential of Monasterevin's heritage, including distilling and brewing and its natural environments as part of an integrated strategy for raising their profiles and identities'</i>	This objective relates to promoting and supporting Monasterevin as a tourism destination. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
Green and Blue Infrastructure Objectives (GBIO)				
GBIO 6.1	Protect and enhance key Green and Blue Infrastructure (refer to Map V2-MN-6.1) and prohibit developments that would fragment or otherwise degrade the Green and Blue Infrastructure network. New developments shall appropriately utilise existing and new green infrastructure as an essential urban design and placemaking tool to integrate built form into their surrounding contexts. Site specific ecology surveys should be carried out to inform, assess and mitigate potential ecological impacts of any proposed development and its construction.	This is consistent with Objective BI O64 of the KCDP (as varied) which calls for the protection of green infrastructure in Kildare and Objective BI O1 of the KCDP (as varied), which requires Ecological Impact Assessments within development sites to avoid habitat loss and biodiversity fragmentation. This also aligns with Objective RE O140 which supports the development and marketing of the Barrow Blueway subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	This objective aims to protect and enhance key Green and Blue Infrastructure. It does not introduce new development proposals but rather seeks to ensure that new developments appropriately utilise existing and new green infrastructure as an essential urban design and placemaking tool. No source of impact identified.	No
GBIO 6.2	Support the full implementation of the targets and actions outlined in the Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 and any subsequent Local Biodiversity Action Plan prepared for Monasterevin.	This aligns with Objective BI O4 and Actions BI A1 and BI A4 of the KCDP (as varied), which support the implementation of the County Biodiversity Plan and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.	This is protective objective to support Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 and Local Action Plan and does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
GBIO 6.3	Support and facilitate opportunities for natural restoration initiatives within the grounds of Moore Abbey Demesne, as part of the preparation and implementation of the Moore Abbey Masterplan, and ensure that any landscaping scheme protects the existing riparian and woodland habitats and contributes to the enhancement of the demesne landscape as a significant Green and Blue Infrastructure asset for the town.	This Objective aligns with Policy AH P7 ‘<i>Promote appreciation of the landscape and historical importance of traditional and historic gardens, demesnes and parks within County Kildare and particularly where they constitute an important and intrinsic value to the setting of a protected structure.</i>’ It also aligns with Objectives AH O46, AH O47, AH O48 and AH O49. This aligns with Objectives BI O34, BI O35 and BI O41 of the KCDP (as varied) which calls for protection of existing woodlands which contribute to their landscape character, and maintenance of riparian buffer zones.	This objective only provides to support and facilitate nature restoration initiatives. No source of impact identified.	No
GBIO 6.4	Encourage state agencies and private entities to include tree planting measures and the restoration of hedgerow habitats when delivering key infrastructure or upgrading infrastructure works in the Plan area in order to increase the tree canopy cover in Monasterevin by 30% in accordance with Action BI A29 of Volume 1.	This Objective aligns with Policy BI P6 and Objective BI O28 ‘<i>Promote the integration of boundary hedges within and along development sites into development design so as to avoid “trapped hedges” located to the boundary of houses within the development layout. Encourage the planting of woodlands, trees and hedgerows as part of new developments and as part of the Council’s own landscaping works ideally using native plants of local provenance and origin.</i>’ This aligns with Actions BI A14 and BI A29 of the KCDP (as varied) which requires mapping and planning for increasing tree canopy coverage in urban areas and protection of trees and hedgerows. This aligns with Action BI A17 of the KCDP (as varied) which encourages development of a tree strategy for the county to include policies on tree planting, amongst others and Objectives BI O27 and BI O28 which aims at retention and management of hedgerows, woodlands and trees. This aligns with Objective BI O77 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes integration of nature-based solutions and considerations into the design/planning/implementation of infrastructure.	This objective only provides to encourage protection of trees and hedgerows. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
Built Heritage and Archaeology Objectives				
BHO 7.1	Strongly resist the demolition of any structure (or parts of any structure) that is registered on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) unless, on the basis of evidence provided as part of any planning application, the local authority is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist.	This is consistent with Policies AH P6, AH P9 and Objectives AH O20, AH O21, AH O22 and AH O55 which endeavour to protect heritage structures from unnecessary demolition.	This objective provides for protection of structures registered on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). No source of impact identified.	No
BHO 7.2	Preserve the character of the designated Monasterevin Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) by ensuring that new development within or in close proximity to the ACA is sympathetic to the distinctive character of the area and enhances the special character and visual setting of the ACA including inter alia vistas, streetscapes, established building lines, fenestration patterns and architectural features. Proposals for development shall include an analysis of how the new development complements the setting, character and appearance of the Monasterevin ACA referring to the findings of the ACA Statement of Character (2026) and the Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoAHG, 2011) (including ‘Advice Series’).	This is consistent with Objectives AH O20 and AH O21 of the KCDP (as varied) which relate to the protection of structures and their curtilage which are on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). This aligns with Objectives AH O50, AH O65 and AH O66 of the KCDP (as varied), which ensure development within or contiguous to an ACA includes an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment and Design Rationale.	This objective provides for protection of Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No
BHO 7.3	Reduce, prevent and encourage the removal of visual and urban clutter within the town centre including: – Excessive traffic management structures and related signage – Utility structures and signage – Commercial related signage (including signs protruding from the façade) at ground and upper floor levels – Obsolete/unnecessary lighting, electrics, cables and ducts – External roller shutters and shutter boxes	This aligns with Objective LR O17 of the KCDP (as varied) which endeavours to control development which will impair the visual integrity of areas, including items which introduce visual clutter to areas. This aligns with Objective UD O2 of the KCDP (as varied) which aims to ensure that town centres remain dynamic, attractive, resilient and inclusive. This aligns with Objective TM O126 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes removal of unnecessary lighting infrastructure.	This objective relates to the reduction and removal of visual and urban clutter within the town centre and does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
	Internally affixed stickers and internally illuminated signage, where planning permission is required			
BHO 7.4	Seek to protect and enhance important views connected to the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) as illustrated in Map V2-MN-7.1 by requiring a Visual Impact Assessment for developments which have the potential to impact on the character, value or sensitivity of the ACA. Where it is considered that a development may impact on a protected view, proposals must have regard to the significance of any such impact and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures.	This aligns with Objectives AH O21, AH O30, AH O31 and AH O33 of the KCDP (as varied) which requires the protection of the curtilage of protected structures when any development is proposed. This aligns with Objective AH O26 of the KCDP (as varied), which requires that planning applications in proximity to ‘Views to be Preserved’ are accompanied by a Visual Impact Assessment. This also aligns with Objectives AH O65 and AH O66 of the KCDP (as varied) which ensures protection of Architectural Heritage Areas.	This objective provides for protection of Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No
BHO 7.5	Support the sensitive and adaptive reuse of the buildings on the former Cassidy’s Distillery complex, in accordance with the outputs of the Conservation Management Plan (2024) commissioned by Kildare County Council. Any redevelopment must enhance the interpretation and appreciation of the site's unique built heritage while also making a meaningful contribution to the sustainable development and socio-economic revitalisation of the town centre.	This aligns with Objectives AH O40 and AH O55 of the KCDP (as varied) which encourages appropriate reuse of buildings of heritage interest, provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
BHO 7.6	Support the sensitive and appropriate development of Moore Abbey Demesne, having regard to its historic character, designed landscape, rich archaeological potential, and location within and adjoining the Monasterevin Architectural Conservation Area, as well as the concentration of protected structures and monuments across the estate.	This aligns with Objectives AH O46, AH O47, AH O50 and AH O52 of the KCDP (as varied) and Policy AH P7 which seek to conserve and enhance the character of historic demesnes and designed landscapes, ensure development takes account of heritage assets and landscape character, and protect the special character and visual setting of historic landscapes. This also aligns with Objectives AH O65 and AH O66 of the KCDP (as varied) which ensures protection of Architectural Conservation Areas.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
BHO 7.7	Support the sensitive and appropriate development of the former Monasterevin Charter School (The Hulk). The adaptive reuse of the building and the development of the surrounding landholding shall be guided by the findings and recommendations of a Conservation and Feasibility Report to be prepared by Kildare County Council. The local authority shall assist applicants developing the lands in securing funding for the restoration of The Hulk and its attendant grounds.	This aligns with Objectives AH O30, AH O35, AH O39 and AH O43 which support the appropriate re-use of heritage buildings, facilitate suitable changes of use that respect their special character, promote conservation best practice and ensure that a sustainable future use and maintenance strategy is in place for heritage assets.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
BHO 7.8	Ensure historic rubble-stone boundary walls, particularly those around Moore Abbey Demesne, the former Cassidy's Distillery complex and in front of the Church of St John the Evangelist, are preserved as far as practicable and ensure that the contribution they make to green infrastructure is also protected.	This aligns with Objectives AH O19, AH O31 and AH O41 of the KCDP (as varied), which seek to protect, conserve and retain features of historical interest, including historic walls, and with Action AH A19, which supports the retention of historic features in situ.	This objective seeks to preserve historic rubble-stone boundary walls and is a built heritage conservation objective. It does not itself consent development or introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No
BHO 7.9	Support measures to provide for the appropriate interpretation of Monasterevin's built heritage, including structures associated with Moore Abbey Demesne, the former Cassidy's Distillery complex, the former Monasterevin Charter School (The Hulk), and	This aligns with Objective AH O15 and Actions AH A2 and AH A6, which promote the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets, facilitate public understanding and appreciation of heritage, encourage heritage-led regeneration initiatives and support the	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
	the town's historic bridges, merchant houses and canal infrastructure.	appropriate management and promotion of the county's archaeological and built heritage resources.	beyond what is already assessed; therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report. This objective relates to the protection and appropriate management of built heritage and archaeological assets. There are no additional sources of impacts identified.	
BHO 7.10	Support the sensitive incorporation of public amenity and open spaces around monuments where appropriate, in a manner compatible with the protection, conservation and proper management of monuments.	This aligns with Objectives AH O21, AH O30, AH O31 and AH O33 of the KCDP (as varied) which requires the protection of the curtilage of protected structures when any development is proposed. This aligns with Objectives AH O23 and AH O36 of the KCDP (as varied), which call for an assessment of physical and visual impacts on protected structures and encourages uses compatible with the character of the structure. This also aligns with Objective LR O69 of the KCDP (as varied) which encourages enhancement of existing rights of way and development of new ones which preserve conservation interests.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
Movement and Active Travel Objectives				
MATO 8.1	Support and promote the use of sustainable transport modes in Monasterevin through the implementation of the measures detailed in Table 8.2 of the CDP and illustrated on Maps V2-MN-8.1, V2-MN-8.2 and V2-MN-8.3 in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders such as the National Transport Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Irish Rail and by actively seeking funding for the measures from relevant agencies and government sources. The indicative measures will form the basis for individual projects, which will be subject to a detailed design process, including environmental and/or ecological assessment, where applicable. All measures shall	This generally aligns with Policy TM P1 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes active travel infrastructure such as walking, cycling and use of public transport for sustainable development. This generally aligns with Actions TM A4 and TM A23 which encourage funding to be sought for sustainable and smart travel projects. This generally aligns with Objectives TM O16 of the KCDP (as varied) which supports the improvement of public transport in Monasterevin, and TM O5 and TM O119 of the KCDP (as varied) which require incorporation of sustainable drainage infrastructure as part of the development of transport solutions.	With regards to promoting seeking funding for initiatives, no sources of impact are considered. The development of infrastructure to support sustainable and active travel has been assessed through AA for the KCDP (as varied) and therefore, no additional sources of impact, at this stage, are considered, beyond what has already been addressed through AA and SEA. Indicative measures in MSP, while not already defined	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
	incorporate nature-based solutions to surface water management.		in the KCDP (as varied), align with existing policies already in place. Relevant protective policy and objectives (e.g. air quality, noise, traffic, surface water, groundwater and wastewater) of KCDP (as varied) will be considered in implementation of this objective, to ensure that development does not give rise to LSE during both construction and operation.	
MATO 8.2	Adopt a ‘whole journey approach’ to delivering transport and active travel infrastructure in Monasterevin, to ensure universal accessibility is integrated into all stages of a person’s journey from starting point to destination. This includes making all footpaths, tactile paving, cycle paths, roads, pedestrian crossings, greenways and bus stops/shelters fully accessible to older people, people with disabilities and people with young children.	This is consistent with Objective TM O2 of the KCDP (as varied), which promotes adoption of a whole journey approach to transport to improve accessibility and seamlessness.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
MATO 8.3	Ensure that all developments allow for universally accessible connectivity for active travel modes to adjacent lands, in accordance with Reimagining Permeability in Kildare – Reconnecting Our Communities: Permeability Guidelines (2024), or any updated version of same, and in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS).	This is consistent with Objective TM O3 and Actions TM A20 and TM A21 of the KCDP (as varied) which promote the use of universal design principles and accessible infrastructure for all transport modes, including pedestrians, cyclists and users of mobility aids.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated SEA and AA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
MATO 8.4	Support and facilitate the delivery of the Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme, including the provision of new or improved footpaths, cycle lanes and traffic calming measures along Drogheda Street, Dublin Road, Togher Road, Cowpasture and Athy Road.	This Objective aligns with Policy TM P2. This aligns with Objectives TM O20, TM O36 in relation to the feasibility of providing for footpaths / cycleways from towns and villages to nearby services and amenities, as appropriate. This aligns with Action TM A2 of the KCDP (as varied) which requires implementation of Local Transport Plans which endeavours to improve public transport capacity across the county, and within and between specific settlements.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
MATO 8.5	Actively engage and co-operate with the Department of Transport, National Roads Authority (NTA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), Irish Rail, Transport for Ireland (TFI) Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport services, including upgrades to the Monasterevin Train Station.	This is consistent with Objective TM O10 and TM O16 of the KCDP (as varied) which supports the implementation of public transport projects in County Kildare, particularly the improvement of public transport for Monasterevin.	This objective relates to the continuing engagement and co-operation and does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No
MATO 8.6	To support the enhancement of existing bus services (including commercial operators and TFI Local Link) by supporting increased service frequency at peak periods, improved evening and weekend provision, and timetable coordination to facilitate convenient transfers with rail services at Monasterevin train station. This includes supporting the development of necessary ancillary infrastructure, including bus shelters, seating, accessible boarding areas, clear signage and Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI).	This Objective aligns with Objective TM O16 of the KCDP (as varied) which supports the improvement of public transport in Monasterevin. This is consistent with Objective TM O14 of the KCDP (as varied) which supports the implementation of the Bus Connects projects in County Kildare and those that connect towns in Kildare with towns in adjoining counties.	This objective only provides to support and enhance existing bus services with the provision of minor works. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
MATO 8.7	Investigate the feasibility of providing secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities at appropriate locations in Monasterevin, including at Monasterevin Train Station, Canal Harbour, town centre / Market Square area, schools and community facilities and public transport stops.	This is consistent with Objective TM O38 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes the development of cycling infrastructure throughout the county.	This objective only provides to support bike parking facilities with the provision of minor works. No source of impact identified.	No
MATO 8.8	Support and facilitate improved pedestrian and cyclist connectivity from Monasterevin town centre to Ballykelly GAA grounds to the northeast and to Rosglas GAA grounds in the southeast.	This is generally consistent with Objective TM O21 of the KCDP (as varied) which encourages improved permeability between existing and proposed developments to facilitate a '10-minute settlement'. This aligns with Action TM A12 of the KCDP (as varied) which seeks to develop Local Permeability Schemes to maximise access to amenities.	While this objective is not directly aligned with the provisions of the KCDP (as varied), it is partially aligned with some objectives. This objective relates to facilitating pedestrian and cyclist connectivity, rather than introducing new development. No source of impact identified.	No
Infrastructure and Environmental Services Objectives				
IEO 9.1	Work in conjunction with ESB Networks to prioritise and facilitate the provision of adequate electricity in a manner that will support the demand of existing and future population growth in Monasterevin.	This aligns with Policy EC P19 and Objectives EC O64 and EC O65 of the KCDP (as varied) which promote the development, strengthening and expansion of the electricity network for current and future population and business growth in County Kildare.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
IEO 9.2	Work in conjunction with Uisce Éireann to prioritise and facilitate the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure in Monasterevin to ensure that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with new development in accordance with the Implementation and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule	This is consistent with Policy IN P3 and Objective IN O12 and RE O10 of the KCDP (as varied) which supports the provision of water infrastructure to accommodate future economic growth of Kildare.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
			identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	
IEO 9.3	Ensure Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) surface water management areas, as indicatively illustrated on Map V2-MN-9.1, are integrated into development proposals at appropriate locations within their respective sites for nature-based surface water drainage purposes.	This aligns with Objectives IN O20 and IN O22 of the KCDP (as varied) which require the maintenance, protection and enhancement of surface water drainage system capacity and the implementation of SuDS as an integral part of new development proposals.	This objective supports sustainable drainage, nature-based surface water management and flood risk considerations. It does not introduce new development proposals. No source of impact identified.	No
IEO 9.4	Incorporate nature-based solutions as part of all plans and projects in the subject area, as outlined in the Monasterevin Surface Water Management Strategy and Kildare County Council's Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance document (2024).	This aligns with Objectives IN O21 and IN O22 of the KCDP (as varied) which promotes nature-based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), as part of new development proposals and in established urban areas. This is also consistent with Action IN A3 which aims to develop a 'Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Guidance Document' for County Kildare. This aligns with Objective TM O119 which promotes nature-based surface water drainage in the design of parking.	This objective supports sustainable drainage, nature-based surface water management and flood risk considerations. The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
IEO 9.5	Ensure all development proposals are the subject of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).	This aligns with Objective IN O33 of the KCDP (as varied) which requires a site-specific flood risk assessment to an appropriate level of detail to be conducted when preparing plans, programmes and addressing development proposals.	This is a protective objective relating to flood risk management and supports the avoidance and appropriate management of flood risk in accordance with the KCDP (as varied) framework. No source of impact identified.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
IEO 9.6	Promote and encourage the use of local-based and/or community-owned renewable energy technologies within existing and proposed building stock and in commercial developments, including district heating, micro-generation (solar, photovoltaic, micro-wind, micro-hydro and micro combined heat and power), and other renewable energy technologies.	This aligns with Objectives EC O31, EC O35, EC O38 of the KCDP (as varied) which relate to identifying Strategic Energy Zones for community, micro energy production, the provision of hydro-electric energy schemes and promoting district heating proposals. This aligns with Policy EC P10 of the KCDP (as varied) which encourages micro-renewable energy installations and auto-generator installations.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
IEO 9.7	Maintain existing recycling facilities and secure the provision of additional universally accessible facilities, in conjunction with new development as required.	This aligns with Objectives IN O41 and IN O52 of the KCDP (as varied) which support the provision of public recycling facilities and examining the potential provision of a recycling facility in each Municipal District. This aligns with Action IN A7 of the CDP (as varied) which will provide each town, village, or settlement as necessary with appropriate recycling facilities in the form of a kerbside collection, civic sites, and bring bank recycling facilities.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
IEO 9.8	Support the development of dedicated green waste composting areas in Monasterevin integrated into the public open space provision of existing and future residential developments, where appropriate, for the purposes of composting grass cuttings and other organic material generated within public open space areas.	This generally aligns with objectives IN O42 and IN O47 of the KCDP (as varied) which aim to divert waste from landfill for other waste management streams, including composting and which aim to provide accessible waste infrastructure to communities.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No
Moore Abbey Masterplan Objectives				

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
MAO 10.1	Prepare a comprehensive masterplan for Moore Abbey (as outlined on Map V2-MN-10.2: Implementation) to guide the future regeneration, conservation and sustainable use of Moore Abbey House and demesne. The masterplan shall be subject to the considerations and requirements outlined in Section 10.1 of this Plan and be developed in conjunction with the relevant environmental assessments. The masterplan shall inter alia: – Establish a clear vision for the future role of Moore Abbey as an important asset for the town and residents of Monasterevin which will contribute positively to the long-term social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the community; – Provide a framework for the sensitive conservation and adaptive reuse of Moore Abbey House and associated structures; – Protect and enhance the architectural, archaeological and landscape heritage of the estate; – Integrate green and blue infrastructure principles, biodiversity enhancement / nature restoration and climate-resilient design; – Improve public access, connectivity and permeability between Moore Abbey and the wider settlement; – Identify appropriate future uses that support community benefit, sustainable regeneration and the long-term stewardship of the estate; and – Incorporate a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment (SSFRA) to inform the masterplan with water compatible uses only proposed for lands identified as at risk of flooding (Map V2-MN.9.2), in accordance with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk	This aligns with Objective AH O15 and Actions AH A2 and AH A6, which promote the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets, facilitate public understanding and appreciation of heritage, encourage heritage-led regeneration initiatives and support the appropriate management and promotion of the county's archaeological and built heritage resources.	This objective aligns with provisions already in place as part of the KCDP (as varied). The potential effects of this provision were assessed and mitigated by the existing KCDP (as varied) and assessed as part of the associated AA and SEA. There are no additional sources of impacts identified beyond what is already assessed and mitigated, therefore, it is considered that there is no source of impacts for assessment in this report.	No

No.	Proposed Updates to Policies and Objectives as part of proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)	Are similar provisions included in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 (as varied)?	Potential Source of Impact	Is there potential for LSE as a result of the objective?
	Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG and OPW, 2009). The preparation of the Masterplan shall include appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders and the local community to ensure that the future development of Moore Abbey reflects local needs, aspirations and the unique character of the estate.			
MAO 10.2	Support the implementation of the Moore Abbey Masterplan over the life of the plan and beyond by actively pursuing and securing funding and investment opportunities from relevant sources including the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), or any successor fund.	This aligns with Objective AH O15 and Actions AH A2 and AH A6, which promote the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets, facilitate public understanding and appreciation of heritage, encourage heritage-led regeneration initiatives and support the appropriate management and promotion of the county's archaeological and built heritage resources.	This objective supports the coordinated implementation of the Moore Abbey Masterplan and relates to securing funding, rather than delivery of new infrastructure. No source of impact identified.	No

A.2 Source Pathway Receptor Analysis

European Site	QIs/SCIs	Appropriate Distance and Distance from proposed works	S-P-R Assessment	Screened in for further consideration (Y/N)
River Barrow and River Nore SAC (site code 002162)	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>Ranunculum 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-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)* [91E0] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)[1092]	Within the Proposed Variation/ MSP area, refer to Figure 5.1 .	The draft objectives are not anticipated to give rise to any sources of impact on European sites. In the absence of a viable S-P-R link, there is 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)
	Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)[1095] 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] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] Killarney Fern (<i>Vandenboschia speciosa</i>) [6985] <i>*denotes priority habitat</i> According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 2, dated 06 June 2025), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat and Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.			

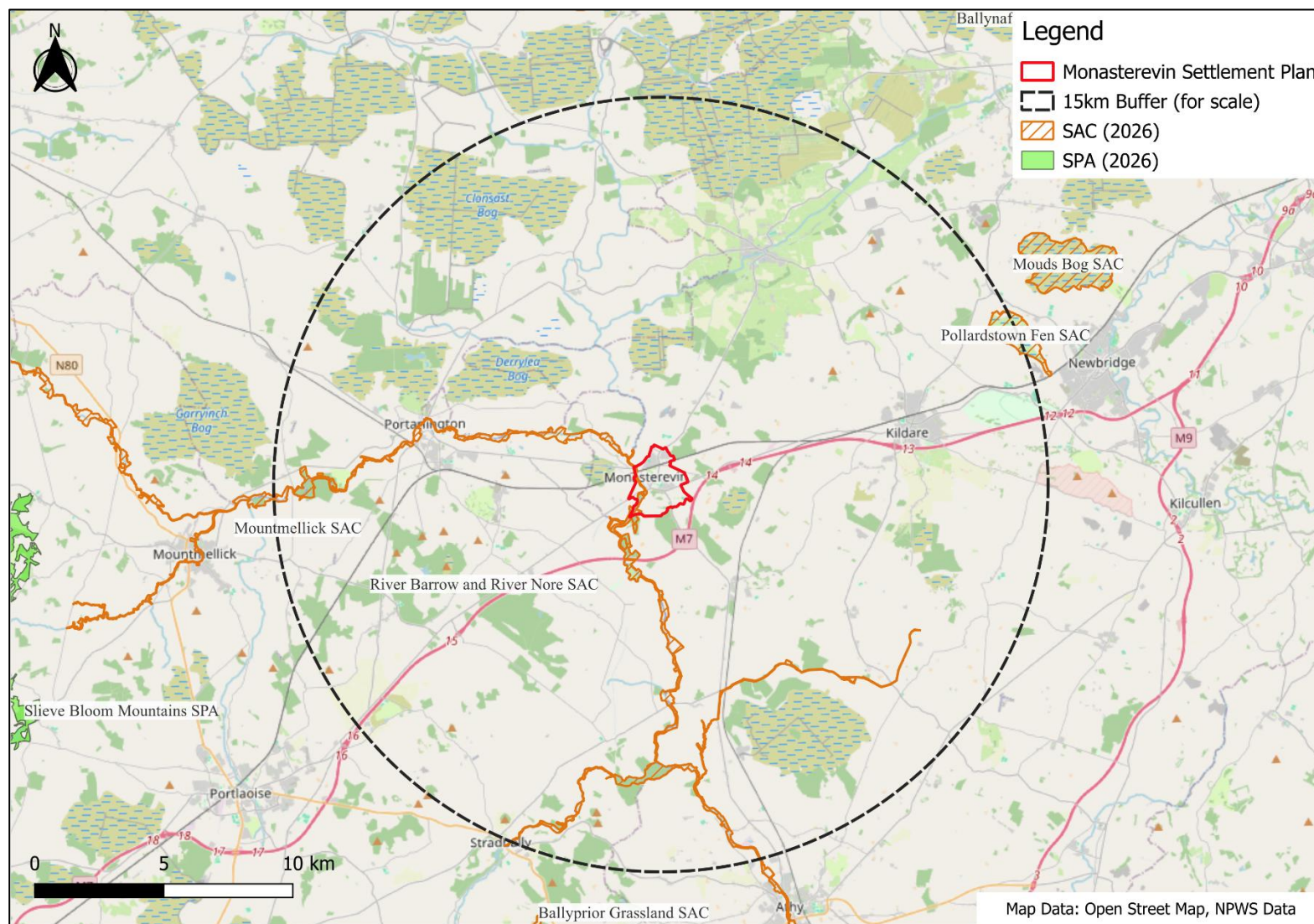


Figure 5.1 Designated sites - Monasterevin

Appendix B Embedded Protective Policies and Objectives Relevant to European Sites included in the Kildare CDP (as varied) (as taken from the NIS 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.

The existing provisions and embedded mitigation within the KCDP (as varied) serve to prevent and minimize the potential for LSE on any European site. These measures provide for appropriate and adequate safeguards for the implementation of the Proposed Variation and also maximise potential environmental benefits within the County.

Of specific relevance to the potential for impact on European sites, the following environmental commitments and objectives as set out in the NIS for the KCDP (as varied), are contained within the KCDP (as varied) and underpin the assessment which follows.

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)	
Chapter 3 – Housing	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 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 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.
Chapter 4 Resilient Economy & Job Creation	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: • An increase in employment densities within walkable distances of communities and on public transport routes. • Promotion of walking and cycling and use of public transport through increased permeability and mobility management measures within and outside employment areas.

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)

	• 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 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. 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. 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. 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. RE O140 Support the development and marketing of the Barrow Blueway, including the Barrow Blueway Economic Plan, and facilitate related commercial opportunities throughout the county, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive. Considering the River Barrow is a designated European Site, all developments within and adjacent to the Barrow Blueway should be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA. 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. RE P26 Support the development of tourism activities on and adjacent to waterways, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and in accordance with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant European Directives.
Chapter 5 Sustainable Mobility & Transport	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. TM O13

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)

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 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 Appropriate Assessment.

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

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)	
	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. TM O130 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.
Chapter 6 Infrastructure and Environmental Services	IN P2 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). IN O3 Promote water conservation and best practice water conservation in all developments, including rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling. IN O6 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. IN O7 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. IN P4 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. IN O21 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. IN O22 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. IN O25 Promote the use of green infrastructure (e.g., green roofs, green walls, planting, and green spaces) as natural water retention measures. IN O34 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. IN O36 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

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)	
	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). 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. IN P8 Implement the provisions of EU and National legislation on air, noise, and light pollution and other relevant legislative requirements, as appropriate. 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). 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. IN O58 Require development proposals which may have an impact on water quality to undertake site specific assessments to determine localised pressure and demonstrate suitable mitigation measures to protect water quality. 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. IN O69 Investigate measures to improve the approach to street lighting and ensure new developments are lit appropriately protecting environmentally sensitive areas.
Chapter 7 Energy and Communications	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. 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 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. 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

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)

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 O29

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, 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

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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, Including the creation of a National Peatlands Park and Peatland Centre of Excellence

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

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.

EC O73

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

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	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. EC O75 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. EC O80 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 EC O82 Minimise the provision of overground masts and antennae within the following areas: – Areas of high amenity/sensitive landscape areas. – Areas within or adjoining the curtilage of protected structures. – On or within the setting of archaeological sites. EC P21 Support the infrastructural renewal and development of the gas networks in the county, subject to proper planning, heritage, environmental and amenity requirements. EC O89 Support and facilitate the production of low carbon renewable biogases such as hydrogen produced using renewable electricity, and biomethane, produced largely from agricultural organic matter, and food waste, that can be injected into the national gas network, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.
Chapter 9 Our Rural Economy	RD O6 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. RD O10 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. RD O12 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

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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 5 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

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

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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 O42

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.
- Established rights of way and walking routes.
- Potential World Heritage Sites in Kildare on the UNESCO Tentative List, Ireland.

RD O44

Require applications for mineral or other extraction to include (but not limited to):

- 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'

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	RD O49 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: • 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). RD O50 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. RD O51 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.
Chapter 10 – Community Infrastructure and Creative Places	SC O2 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. SC O25 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 SC O28 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 SC A8 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 SC O36 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 SC O46

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)	
	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. SC O47 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 SC P10 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
Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage	AH O49 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. AH O51 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.
Chapter 12 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure	BI P1 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

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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

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 (92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish Law, subject to available resources.

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

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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

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.

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)

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).

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.

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

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European sites in the KCDP (as varied)	
	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). Any development within the zone of influence of these listed wetland sites should be subject to EclA and where appropriate, hydrological impact assessment. 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. 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.
Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual Amenity	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. 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. 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. 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