

NATURA IMPACT REPORT

IN SUPPORT OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

FOR

RELEVANT PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS

TO THE

DRAFT ATHY LOCAL AREA PLAN 2021-2027

for: Kildare County Council

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of Proposed Material Alterations the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027 in accordance with the requirements of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive") and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

This report is part of the ongoing and overall AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats¹ and Birds Directives² with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated respectively to afford protection to the most valuable and threatened of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites and Natura 2000 sites.

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site.

1.3 Approach

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects³. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of the Plan and Proposed Material Alterations comprised the following elements:

¹ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

² Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds

³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

- Identification of European sites within 15km of the Plan boundary with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the Plan boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European sites with identification of potential pathways from the Plan area; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

There are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

Stage One: Screening

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Ecological impact assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source (e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works) – pathway (e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats) - receptor (e.g. qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites) model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

This report has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002; and
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000.

Section 2 Description of the Plan and Proposed Material Alterations

Kildare County Council intends make a new Local Area Plan (LAP) for Athy under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Plan will set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development over the years 2021-2027.

LAPs are required to be consistent with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan and its Core Strategy, as well as the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial Economic Strategy.

The Draft LAP should be read in conjunction with the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied), which sets out the overarching development strategy for the county. Where any provisions of the LAP conflict with the provisions of the County Development Plan, the provisions of the LAP shall cease to have effect.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁴.

The Draft Plan comprises a Written Statement (including written policies and objectives) and associated maps (including land use zoning). The Plan will contribute towards the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Chapters 1 to 3 of the Plan (*Introduction and Context; Spatial Planning Context and Vision for Athy; Compliance with the Kildare County Core Strategy*) provide an overview of the LAP. Chapters 4 to 11 cover the specific subject areas as follows:

- *Homes and Communities*
- *Urban Centre and Retailing*
- *Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism*
- *Movement and Transport*
- *Built Heritage and Archaeology*
- *Natural Heritage, Green Infrastructure and Strategic Open Space*
- *Infrastructure and Environmental Services*
- *Implementation*

Appendices include the Athy Urban Regeneration Framework, this SEA Environmental Report, an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

The Plan's Vision Statement is:

"To successfully fulfil Athy's role as a self-sustaining growth town by embracing the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient model of development which seeks to utilise and invest in the town's existing economic, social and environmental assets to generate sustainable economic development and job creation, thereby enhancing its status as the main economic and services centre of South Kildare.

The vision for the Local Area Plan will ensure that growth planned for the town over the life of the Plan and beyond occurs in a sustainable and sequential manner, characterised by a compact, consolidated and permeable pattern of development linked by sustainable modes of

⁴ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

transport including a robust network of pedestrian and cycle routes, providing a high level of connectivity; facilitating and enabling the creation of a healthy, safe and age-friendly community.

In essence, by 2027 a series of concerted steps will have been taken to 'future proof' Athy and create a more sustainable inclusive settlement centred around a regenerated and vibrant town centre providing important retail and commercial services and hosting an improved tourist offer. The town will not only be more resilient to the effects of climate change but will also have adapted to the needs of a growing and aging population, through the development of integrated communities, served by an enhanced level of social infrastructure and an expanded green infrastructure network."

The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes and is subject to a number of high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply (including those detailed throughout this report). The Plan may, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. In this regard, Appendix II of this report includes statutory provisions, plans, policies and strategies that set the context within which the Plan is framed and which have influenced the provisions of the Plan.

The Plan is accompanied by a land use zoning map that directs land uses towards compatible locations in the town and surrounding area.

The Proposed Material Alterations are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alteration document.

The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027, including those relating to transport, environmental and land use zoning provisions.

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant affects to European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. An important element of this process is the identification of the “conservation objectives”, “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/ or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment. The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening: For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat⁵ or species⁶ at that site have been considered.

Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. A review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Proposed Material Alterations will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer. It is noted that the River Suir SAC is situated downstream of the Plan area; however, it is not required to be consider as part of the AA Screening process as there is no potential for effects to occur; the River Barrow joins the River Suir over 100 km downstream from Athy where there is a significant mixing between these two rivers, other water courses and the sea.

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km of the Plan area are listed in Table 3.1. European sites and EPA Rivers and Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3.1 overleaf. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following NPWS/ Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage documents:

- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Ballyprior Grassland SAC [IE0002256] Version 6.

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the Proposed Material Alterations against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

⁵ Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

⁶ The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

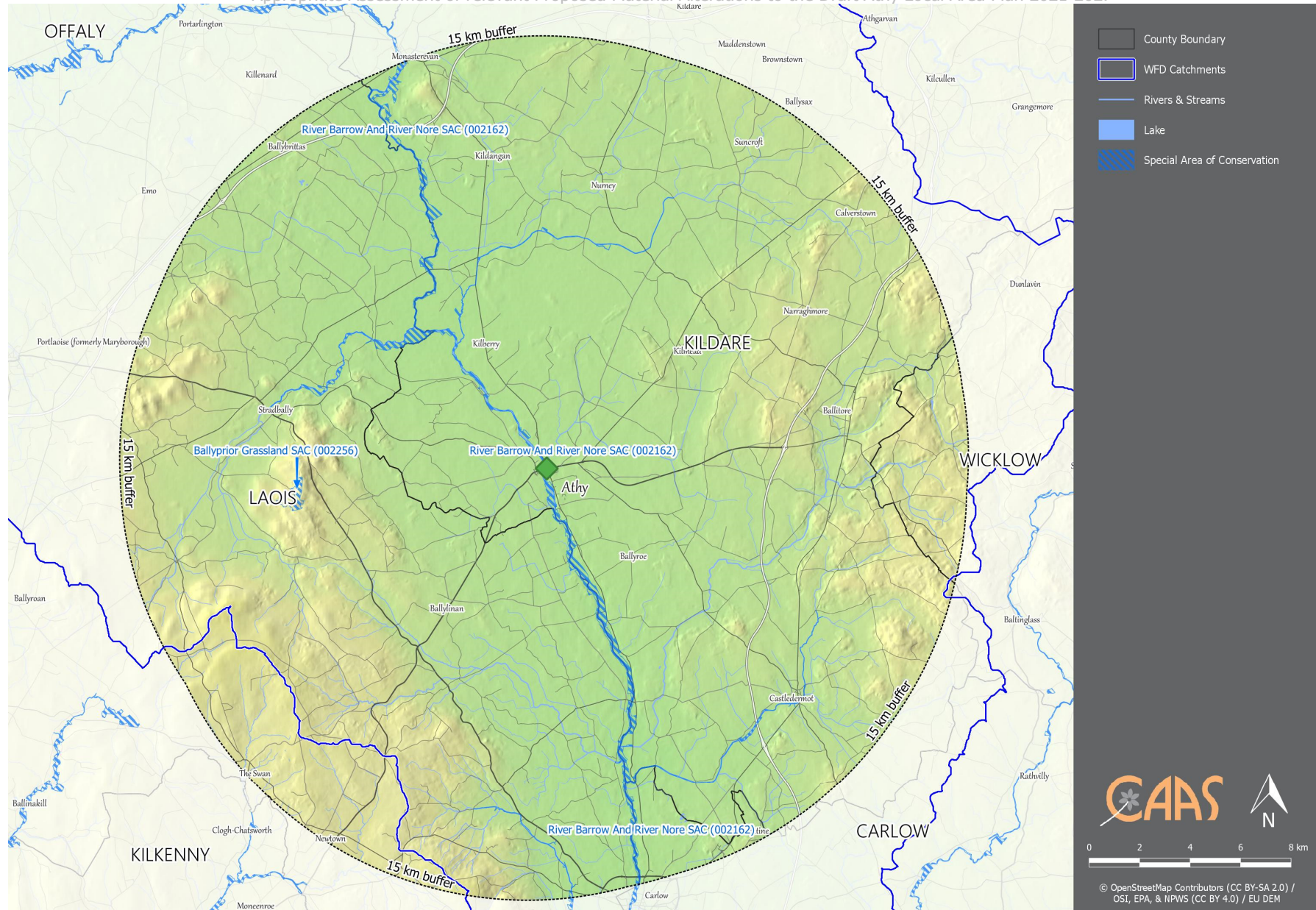


Figure 3.1 European sites within 15 km of the Plan area⁷

⁷ Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded December 2020)
CAAS for Kildare County Council

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

3.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

The overarching objective of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but the coordinated planning and ongoing development of Athy. Therefore, the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

3.3.2 Elements of the Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of Athy. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan include:

- Provisions for sectors such as climate action, urbanisation including residential and economic development, streetscape works, community facilities, transport, green infrastructure, energy, environmental infrastructure, recreation and tourism, which introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁸.

The potential for Proposed Material Alterations to result in effects on designated European sites is examined on Table 3.1.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European sites considering information provided above. Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account. Detailed information on European sites is provided at Appendix I.

⁸ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Table 3.1 Screening of Proposed Material Alterations

No.	Proposed Material Alteration ⁹	AA Screening Consideration
1	Amend all reference from Tegral to <i>Etex Ireland</i> throughout the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021 - 2027.	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have potential for affecting the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
2	Amend the third paragraph of Section 2.1.2 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy by deleting the text ' Hinterland Areas ' and replacing it with ' <i>Core Region</i> '. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan, including the replacement of Figure 2.3 with an updated map.	This Proposed Alteration ensures consistency with the terminology of the RSES and includes changes to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have potential for affecting the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
3	Insert the following new objective after objective CSO1.2 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly: CSO1.3 <i>Provide for serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure in accordance with Objective 18(b) of the National Planning Framework (2018), as denoted on Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map.</i> Amend Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map to denote objective CSO1.3.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
4	Insert the following additional objective after objective CSO1.7: CSO1.8 <i>Ensure that projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan¹⁰.</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions for the protection of ecology already included within the Draft Plan. The AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan (see Section 3.3.2), further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (this site has been brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan), it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. Stage 2 AA is required.
5	Amend text of objective HCO4.6, as follows: HCO4.1 Support and facilitate the provision of <i>both indoor and outdoor</i> multi-functional community facilities to meet the needs of the population of Athy.	This amendment adds more detail to an existing objective but would not have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
6	Include the following new objective after objective HCO4.5: HCO4.6 <i>To support the provision of new postal facilities and the enhancement of existing facilities, including for operational requirements in Athy, and to facilitate the provision of postal infrastructure at suitable locations within the town, subject to planning and design considerations.</i>	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
7	Insert an additional sub objective under objective UCRO1.10, as follows: UCRO1.10 Commence the preparation of a Public Realm Strategy for Athy within twelve months of the adoption of this plan. The strategy should be developed in accordance with the provisions of the Athy Urban Regeneration Framework and implemented on a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond. The Strategy should also address the following issues: (i) Ensure that the town centre is accessible to all members of the community, including people with disabilities, the elderly and people with young children. (ii) Support and facilitate the delivery of age friendly seating, bus stops and other public realm initiatives identified in the Athy Public Realm Strategy. (iii) Develop a comprehensive car parking plan for the town which will balance the needs of vehicular access to the town centre without compromising the overall quality and visitor experience of the public realm. (iv) Seek to reduce the use of line marking, signage and overhead wiring in the town centre of Athy. (v) Investigate the feasibility of the development/redevelopment of the backlands of the town centre area of Athy in conjunction with the formulation of the Public Realm Strategy.	An investigation of feasibility would not have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site and the preparation of the Public Realm Strategy is already provided for by the Draft Plan. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.

⁹ Proposed text deletions are shown in ~~strikethrough blue~~ and proposed new text is highlighted in *italics red*.

¹⁰ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

No.	Proposed Material Alteration ⁹	AA Screening Consideration
8	<p>Inserted the following new objective after objective UCRO2.3 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly:</p> <p><i>UCRO2.4 Any proposal on the land zoned 'R: Retail' shall be subject to a Retail Impact Assessment, which shall be prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines, pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This shall include, but not be limited to, demonstrating compliance with the County Development Plan and that there will be no material and unacceptable adverse impacts on the vitality and viability of the town centre through the consideration of alternatives and after the examination of all other town centre sites is exhausted.</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
9	<p>Amend the third paragraph of Section 6.5.1 of the draft Plan, as follows:</p> <p><i>It is considered that a longstanding obstacle to achieving improved utilisation of the waterways in the town is the deficit in safe and convenient mooring facilities. Boats and barges are being restricted in their ability to moor in Athy and this is a major disincentive to considering the town as a stopover location. Athy has witnessed substantial growth in boating tourism in recent years. This regularly results in over demand for berths on all town centre mooring facilities. To accommodate this demand, and the predicted future growth, a major upgrade of the current in-place facilities is needed. In addition, investment to dramatically expand the number of berths and moorings available is essential.</i> The development of a marina, or at least the expansion of the existing mooring facilities is <i>considered</i> an essential <i>requirement</i> <i>piece of infrastructure that is required</i> in order to maximise the possibilities presented by the increase of tourism activities based around Athy's waterways with the completion of the Barrow Blueway.</p>	<p>This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have potential for affecting the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
10	<p>Inserted the following new objective after objective EDTO3.3 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly:</p> <p><i>EDTO3.4 Support and facilitate the development of angling activities and supporting infrastructure, including the provision of wheelchair friendly stands in Athy, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.</i></p>	<p>The potential effects - direct and indirect - of the development of the Barrow Blueway route as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities, the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, and water sports and leisure fishing have already been considered by the AA for the Draft Plan. This alteration would further contribute towards provisions relating to these issues already contained within the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration.</p> <p>However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan (see Section 3.3.2), further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (this site has been brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan), it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. Stage 2 AA is required.</p>
11	<p>Amend Section 6.5.4 of the draft Plan as follows:</p> <p>This Plan has identified a number of projects and proposals which, if realised, over the life of the Plan and beyond have the potential to have a transformative effect in the improvement of Athy's tourist offer in the town and the promotion of the town as a <i>Blueway tourism key visitor destination town</i>.</p> <p>The Plan, through its various policies, objectives and actions supports and promotes the following tourism development projects/proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the Barrow Blueway, subject to the appropriate environmental considerations and assessment. <i>The development of new waterways amenities infrastructure including pontoons, kayak friendly jetties, triathlon/swim entry/exit points and other waterways amenities infrastructure, subject to the appropriate environmental considerations and assessment.</i> The rejuvenation of Athy's public realm as part of an overall Urban Regeneration Framework (see Appendix 1) The delivery of the masterplan proposals for the Dominican Square and Blueway Sports Hub / Education Centre. The enhancement of the walking routes and trails in the town including Athy Slí Na Sláinte route and the creation of other dedicated Tourist Trail(s). The redevelopment and expansion of Athy Heritage Centre – Shackleton Museum 	<p>This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for and provides commentary on Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have potential for affecting the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

No.	Proposed Material Alteration ⁹	AA Screening Consideration
12	<p>Amend objective EDT03.2 as follows: EDT03.2 Support and facilitate the development of Athy as <i>a Blueway destination town and an 'activity hub'</i> for water-based sports and associated recreational activities including the development of a Blueway Sports Hub / Education Centre within the Dominican lands, subject to the required environmental assessments.</p>	<p>The potential effects - direct and indirect - of the development of the Barrow Blueway route as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities, the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, and water sports and leisure fishing have already been considered by the AA for the Draft Plan. This alteration would further contribute towards provisions relating to these issues already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
13	<p>Amend objective EDT03.3 as follows: EDT03.3 <i>Acknowledge the importance and potential of Athy's waterways and its water sports clubs by supporting</i> Support the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, subject to the required environmental assessments.</p>	<p>The potential effects - direct and indirect - of the development of the Barrow Blueway route as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities, the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, and water sports and leisure fishing have already been considered by the AA for the Draft Plan. This alteration would further contribute towards provisions relating to these issues already contained within the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
14	<p>Amend text in objective MTO1.5, as follows: MTO1.5 Support the creation of new pedestrian and cycle links across the River Barrow that enhance connectivity in the area and link residential areas, the town centre, community facilities and public spaces/amenities as proposed under the Athy Area Based Transport Assessment. <i>In particular, WN6 (as outlined in Table 7.1 and Map 1.1), which provides for a bridge over the River Barrow at Barrack Lane/Woodstock to Stanhope Street/R417, should be prioritised for delivery.</i> The final design details of all new links across the River Barrow shall be subject to the appropriate environmental assessment and public consultation.</p>	<p>This Objective prioritises a provision of the Plan - the potential effects of which have already been considered by the AA for the Draft Plan. This prioritisation would not result in additional potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. The change relating to all new links across the River Barrow being subject to environmental assessment and public consultation does not change the meaning of the existing Draft Plan Objective. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
15	<p>Insert the following new objective after objective MTO 1.8: MTO1.9 <i>Protect, maintain and upgrade the existing pedestrian connection between St John's Lane and Greenhills (WE6 and CL19) as identified on Map 1.1 and 1.2. Where redevelopment of the lands is proposed, priority shall be given in the overall design to the maintenance and upgrade of this route with maximum passive supervision, including lighting as appropriate, addressing its full length.</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
16	<p>Insert the following text as a final paragraph under Section 7.8 Roads and Streets Network: <i>"The Plan will seek to safeguard the development and carrying capacity of the national road infrastructure along the existing N78 corridor. New development along this route will be required to accord with policies of the County Development Plan and official policy, which seeks to safeguard these routes from development, which would compromise the safety, integrity or capacity of these routes."</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
17	<p>Insert the following new section after Section 7.8.1: 7.8.2 Employment Lands to the East of the Town <i>With regard to the employment lands zoned 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' to the east of the town (identified as Gallowhill in Table 6.3), it is considered that their strategic location, adjacent to the N78 (motorway link) and straddling the Athy Distributor Road, necessitates the preparation of a Strategic Transport Assessment (STA) of the subject lands to be carried out prior to their development. This assessment should demonstrate the quantum of development that can be facilitated at the location complementary to safeguarding the strategic function and safety of the national road network, in accordance with the provisions of official policy outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Such an assessment will also need to identify an</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

No.	Proposed Material Alteration ⁹	AA Screening Consideration												
	<i>Access Strategy and any improvements required to the local transport network to accommodate the extent of development proposed. The STA should undertake relevant stakeholder consultation including with TII, the NTA and landowners and shall be considered in the context of any development proposals for this location.</i>													
18	Amend text of objective MTO4.1, as follows: MTO4.1 <i>(a) Maintain and improve, as required, the local road network to ensure a high standard of road quality and safety in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation.</i> <i>(b) Safeguard the development and carrying capacity of the national road infrastructure along the existing N78 in accordance with the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012)."</i>	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.												
19	Amend text of objective MTO4.6, as follows: MTO4.6 Ensure that development proposals within Athy Town Centre are subject to a Traffic <i>Transport</i> Impact Assessment (TIA), to be carried out in accordance with the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014). The requirement for all other developments will be determined on a case-by-case basis. <i>Transport Impact Assessments will also be required in the following cases:</i> <i>(a) Development on all lands zoned C: New Residential and;</i> <i>(b) All other lands for which significant development is proposed within the Local Area Plan boundary.</i>	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.												
20	Insert the following new objective after objective MTO4.9 (along with any consequential amendments): MTO4.10 <i>To carry out a Strategic Transport Assessment (STA) and to produce an Access Strategy for lands zoned 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' situated to the east of Athy in consultation with relevant stakeholders including TII and the NTA, as well as landowners. This will identify the quantum of development that can be facilitated at the location complementary to safeguarding the strategic function and safety of the national road network, in accordance with the provisions of official policy outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). The STA will also identify any improvements required to the local transport network to accommodate the extent of development proposed.</i>	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.												
21	Delete the following Walking and Connectivity Measures from Table 7.1 Walking and Connectivity Measures and Map Ref. 1.1 Movement and Transport (Walking and Connectivity Measures) : Extract of Table 7.1: refer Proposed Material Alteration document (Measures to be deleted: WN8 WN9 WN11 WN13 WN14 WN15 WN16 WN17 WN18 WN19 WN20)	Such a deletion would remove the potential for negative effects relating to construction of infrastructure, for example, to occur as a result of these measures; however, the deletion would not result in any potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.												
22	Replace Walking and Connectivity Measures WN18 with proposed connectivity measure WN18a in Table 7.1 Walking and Connectivity Measures and Map Ref. 1.1 Movement and Transport (Walking and Connectivity Measures) , as follows: <table border="1"><tr><th colspan="4">B: Walking / Connecting Options – New Infrastructure</th></tr><tr><th>Option</th><th>Description</th><th>Type</th><th>Timeframe</th></tr><tr><td>WN18a</td><td><i>Link to provide for an additional access point to Ardscoil na Tríonoide.</i></td><td><i>New Link</i></td><td><i>MT</i></td></tr></table>	B: Walking / Connecting Options – New Infrastructure				Option	Description	Type	Timeframe	WN18a	<i>Link to provide for an additional access point to Ardscoil na Tríonoide.</i>	<i>New Link</i>	<i>MT</i>	<p>The deletion of WN18 would remove the potential for negative effects relating to construction of infrastructure, for example, to occur; however, the deletion would not result in any potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise.</p> <p>The addition of WN18a would further contribute towards the transport provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. WN18a could be interpreted as a new crossing of the Moneen River however a new crossing at this location would be highly unlikely and it would be most likely that the existing road and bridge would be used. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
B: Walking / Connecting Options – New Infrastructure														
Option	Description	Type	Timeframe											
WN18a	<i>Link to provide for an additional access point to Ardscoil na Tríonoide.</i>	<i>New Link</i>	<i>MT</i>											
23	Insert the following new objective after BH1.8: BH1.9 <i>Explore the feasibility of restoring the dry dock in Athy, in consultation with Waterways Ireland.</i>	Exploring feasibility would not have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site and the preparation of the Public Realm Strategy is already provided for by the Draft Plan. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.												
24	<p>(a) Include a new View/Prospect in Figure 8.1 and Table 8.2, along with consequential amendments to the Athy Architectural Character Areas Statement of Character, as follows: <i>View H: View towards Horse Bridge and River Barrow Sluice Gate</i></p> <p>(b) Include a new View/Prospect in Figure 8.1 and Table 8.2, along with consequential amendments to the Athy Architectural Character Areas Statement of Character, as follows: <i>View I: View from the Canal lock at William Street down the Canal Side towards the Dominican Lands.</i></p>	This alteration would further contribute towards views, prospects and cultural heritage provisions already contained within the Draft Plan and would not result in any potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.												

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

No.	Proposed Material Alteration ⁹	AA Screening Consideration
25	<p>Amend text of objective BH2.5, as follows:</p> <p>BH2.5 Review all applications for demolition, modifications or extensions to existing buildings with regard to its <i>their</i> relative importance to the appreciation of the character of the ACA as identified in the Building Inventory of the Statement of Character.</p>	<p>This alteration updates language and does not change the meaning of the existing Draft Plan Objective to the extent that it would result in any potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
26	<p>Insert the following objective following objective NH1.6:</p> <p>NH1.7 <i>Ensure that any proposals for the lighting/flood lighting of waterways infrastructure, buildings or pedestrian/cycling routes along waterways within the Plan area incorporate bat friendly lighting schemes as set out in 'Bats and Lighting, Guidance Notes for: Planners, engineers, architects and developers' (Bat Conservation Ireland, December 2010).</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards the lighting provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
27	<p>Amend text of objective GI1.7, as follows:</p> <p>GI1.7 (a) Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow <i>(including all areas covered by the River Barrow and River Nore SAC)</i>, 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</p> <p>(b) <i>Ensure that any development on the lands zoned 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' located adjacent to the River Barrow at Townparks incorporates an appropriately landscaped riparian zone to seamlessly integrate with the lands to the south and east, which are subject to the development of a masterplan under objective OS1.8.</i></p> <p>Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan, including the denotation of objective GI1.7(B) on Map Ref. 5 Strategic Open Space Map.</p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards green infrastructure provisions already included within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration.</p> <p>However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan (see Section 3.3.2), further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (this site has been brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan), it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. Stage 2 AA is required.</p>
28	<p>Amend the text of objective GI1.10, as follows:</p> <p>GI1.10 Promote appropriate tree planting <i>and pollinator friendly planting, in accordance with the recommendations of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan throughout Athy and in open spaces within new developments in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management.</i> within the public realm with a particular focus on strategic open spaces as well as along transport networks.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
29	<p>Replace the first paragraph of Section 10.1.1 with the following text:</p> <p><i>Census 2016 records that 92.5% of all households in the settlement of Athy are connected to the public mains network. The average water demand in the town is 3 million litres per day, as of Summer 2020. Since 2013, Athy has been served by the Srowland Water Treatment Plant, located to the north of the town. While Athy is supplied from Srowland WTP, it also forms part of the overall Greater Dublin Area Water Resource Zone. Supply in this Water Resource Zone is constrained therefore new connections will be prioritised for housing and domestic sanitation purposes. Connections for Non-Domestic supplies will be accommodated on a first come first served basis. To protect current supplies, applicants for non-domestic demand may be asked to review their demand requirements. IW are developing the National Water Resource Plan which will identify solutions to improve supply over the life of this plan.</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
30	<p>Replace the second paragraph of Section 10.1.2 with the following text: <i>Following some recent modelling of the sewer network, some issues are appearing in a few areas that will require new systems to be implemented with the growth of the catchment. Where there are constraints, applications for developments would be on a first come, first served basis. If no project is associated with a constrained area, then any infrastructure improvements or upgrades will be developer led. Irish Water can work with developers to form the best solution for a particular site. This would be through the Connections and Developer Services section of Irish Water's website: https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/ There should be sufficient headroom at Athy wastewater treatment plant to provide for the majority of the projected domestic population. However, as above, this will be on a first come, first served basis."</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>
31	<p>Insert the following new objective after objective IO2.3 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly:</p> <p>IO2.4 <i>Ensure that the capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage regimes will be safeguarded for national road drainage purposes.</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

No.	Proposed Material Alteration ⁹	AA Screening Consideration
32	Insert the following new section after Section 10.3.1 <i>Section 10.3.2 Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment: All development proposals taking place in areas that KCC have applied a Justification Test, where a residual flood risk remains, should be supported by an appropriately detailed SSFRA. The level of detail within the FRA will depend on the risks identified and the land use proposed. Applications should apply the use of the sequential approach in terms of the site layout and design and, in satisfying the Justification Test (where required), the proposal must demonstrate that appropriate mitigation and management measures are put in place. The development should ensure that no encroachment onto, or loss of, the flood plain shall occur. Only water compatible development such as Open Space would be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site. For any development in flood risk areas that meet the Development Plan Justification Test, a Development Management Justification Test must then be applied. Development must satisfy all of the criteria of the Development Management Justification Test as per Box 5-1 of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. This chapter provides a broad overview of the requirements of FRAs which should accompany planning applications.</i>	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
33	Amend the following objective: IO3.2 Ensure development proposals within the areas <i>where KCC have applied a Justification Test and where residual flood risk remains as</i> outlined on the Flood Risk Map (<i>Map Ref. 2</i>) are the subject of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
34	Insert the following new objective after objective IO3.4: <i>IO3.5 Ensure that all development proposals apply the sequential approach in terms of the site layout and design and, in satisfying the Justification Test (where required), the proposal shall demonstrate that appropriate mitigation and management measures are put in place. The development proposals should ensure that no encroachment onto, or loss of, the flood plain shall occur. Only water compatible development such as Open Space would be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site.</i>	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert new Map Ref. 2a which illustrates Flood Risk Zones and SSFRA overlaid on the LAP Land Use Zoning Map (Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map). 	This alteration combines layers of information already provided as part of the Plan document and does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
36	Remove the woodland/scrub designation from the triangular wooded area (as outlined in red on map in PMA document) on Map Ref. 4 Green Infrastructure Map . Map 2: Proposed Material Alteration No. 36	The removal of this designation at this non-native pocket of vegetation would remove the potential for positive effects relating to the protection of ecology to occur at this site as a result of this designation; however, the removal would not result in any potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
37	Amend Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map to designate Etex lands 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' (see Map 10 at end of Report). Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
38	Amend Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map to include lands (as outlined in red on map below) to the west of the Etex Ireland campus as 'H: Industrial and Warehousing'. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan. Insert new specific development objective a) and b) in Table 11.3 , as follows: <i>H lands – Athy West (Bennetsbridge Road)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Access to these lands shall be via the existing industrial lands to the immediate east. No further access shall be permitted on to the N78 national primary route. The development of these lands shall be subject to a site-specific transport assessment to protect the integrity and carrying capacity of the N78 at this location. 	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
39	Amend the zoning designation on Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map for the site occupied by the former St. Patrick's National School (as outlined in red on the map below) on St. John's Lane from 'E: Community and Educational' to 'A: Town Centre'.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.

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No.	Proposed Material Alteration ⁹	AA Screening Consideration
40	Amend the zoning designation on Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map on the lands, as outlined in red on Map 4 below, from 'F: Open Space and Amenity' to 'A: Town Centre'. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
41	Amend the zoning designation on Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map for the sites (as outlined in red on map below) from 'F: Open Space and Amenity' to 'B: Existing Residential/Infill' as per KCC Plan Ref. 151144. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
42	Amend Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map by amending the land use zoning objective on the extent of lands as outlined in KCC Plan Ref. 18/184 from 'B: Existing Infill/Residential' to 'F: Open Space and Amenity' (as outlined in red on map below). This amendment shall also include the lands included in folio KE1140 that are not already zoned 'F: Open Space and Amenity'. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
43	Amend Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map by retaining the area identified by Submission No. 43 in the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions Received to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 (dated 19 th March 2021) as existing residential zoning (as outlined in red on map below). Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
44	<p>(a) Amend Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map by changing the proposed 'Q: Employment and Enterprise' land use zoning designation to 'R: Retail' on the land identified by Submission No. 55 in the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions Received to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 (dated 19th March 2021). Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.</p> <p>(b) Amend Table 11.3 Land Use Zoning Objectives by inserting the land use zoning objective 'R: Retail' Land Use Zoning Objective as follows: refer to Proposed Material Alteration document.</p> <p>(c) Amend Table 11.5 Land Use Zoning Matrix as follows: refer to Proposed Material Alteration document.</p>	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
45	Amend Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map by retaining the area identified by Submission Nos. 42, 50 and 54 in the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions Received to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 (dated 19 th March 2021) to provide for 50% of the area to be retained as existing residential lands ('B: Existing Residential / Infill') and the remaining 50% of the lands adjacent to the Ardrew Key Development Area to the north, be designated as 'F: Open Space and Amenity' (see lands outlined in yellow in Map 6 below). Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.
46	<p>Amend Table 11.5 Land Use Zoning Matrix to include a specific objective under land use zoning objective 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' to provide that 'Nursing Home' uses will be amended from 'N' (Not Permitted) to 'O' (Open for Consideration) on lands located to south/east of the R418 (formerly identified as 'H3' in the Athy Development Plan 2012-2018 at Dublin Road/ Gallowshill. Extract of Table 11.5: Land Use Zoning Matrix (for illustrative purposes only, PMA No. 46 refers to 'Nursing Home' category only) refer to Proposed Material Alteration document.</p> <p><i>¹ Nursing homes will only be 'Open for Consideration' within the zoning designation 'H; Industrial and Warehousing' on lands located to south/east of the R418 at Dublin Rd/ Gallowshill and denoted by 'H*' on Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map.</i></p>	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. Consequently, Stage 2 AA for this Proposed Material Alteration is not required.

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

No.	Proposed Material Alteration ¹¹	AA Screening Consideration
4	<p>Insert the following additional objective after objective CSO1.7:</p> <p>CSO1.8 <i>Ensure that projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan¹².</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards provisions for the protection of ecology already included within the Draft Plan. The AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan (see Section 3.3.2), further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (this site has been brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan), it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. Stage 2 AA is required.</p>
10	<p>Inserted the following new objective after objective EDTO3.3 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly:</p> <p>EDTO3.4 <i>Support and facilitate the development of angling activities and supporting infrastructure, including the provision of wheelchair friendly stands in Athy, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.</i></p>	<p>The potential effects - direct and indirect - of the development of the Barrow Blueway route as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities, the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, and water sports and leisure fishing have already been considered by the AA for the Draft Plan. This alteration would further contribute towards provisions relating to these issues already contained within the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration.</p> <p>However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan (see Section 3.3.2), further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (this site has been brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan), it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. Stage 2 AA is required.</p>
27	<p>Amend text of objective GI.1.7, as follows:</p> <p>GI1.7 <i>(a) Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow (including all areas covered by the River Barrow and River Nore SAC), 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</i></p> <p><i>(b) Ensure that any development on the lands zoned 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' located adjacent to the River Barrow at Townparks incorporates an appropriately landscaped riparian zone to seamlessly integrate with the lands to the south and east, which are subject to the development of a masterplan under objective OSI.8.</i></p> <p>Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan, including the denotation of objective GI1.7(B) on Map Ref. 5 Strategic Open Space Map.</p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards green infrastructure provisions already included within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration.</p> <p>However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan (see Section 3.3.2), further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (this site has been brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan), it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. Stage 2 AA is required.</p>

¹¹ Proposed text deletions are shown in ~~strikethrough blue~~ and proposed new text is highlighted in *italics red*.

¹² Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, to cause in-combination effects to European sites - these plans and programmes were considered throughout the assessment. All projects within the Draft LAP area and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tiers projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Draft Plan, it is recognised that the identification of in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level. Additional information on the relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix II.

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 1 (no.) European site, the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the European site from the under the Plan include:

- Provisions for sectors such as climate action, urbanisation including residential and economic development, streetscape works, community facilities, transport, green infrastructure, energy, environmental infrastructure, recreation and tourism, which introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹³. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise as a result of the Proposed Material Alterations.

However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and 27 could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. An AA Screening Determination accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations.

¹³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

The AA screening process took into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed.

As Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and 27 could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (this site has been brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan), it has been determined prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

The Stage 2 AA assesses potential adverse impacts on the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC that may be mitigated by the Proposed Material Alterations being subject to AA:

No.	Proposed Material Alteration ¹⁴
4	Insert the following additional objective after objective CSO1.7: CSO1.8 <i>Ensure that projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan¹⁵.</i>
10	Inserted the following new objective after objective EDTO3.3 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly: EDTO3.4 <i>Support and facilitate the development of angling activities and supporting infrastructure, including the provision of wheelchair friendly stands in Athy, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.</i>
27	Amend text of objective GI.1.7, as follows: GI1.7 <i>(a) Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow (including all areas covered by the River Barrow and River Nore SAC), 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</i> <i>(b) Ensure that any development on the lands zoned 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' located adjacent to the River Barrow at Townparks incorporates an appropriately landscaped riparian zone to seamlessly integrate with the lands to the south and east, which are subject to the development of a masterplan under objective OS1.8.</i> Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan, including the denotation of objective GI1.7(B) on Map Ref. 5 Strategic Open Space Map.

Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC in the context of the site's vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website¹⁶.

4.2 Identifying, Characterising and Mitigating Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts¹⁷:

Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.

Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

Extent - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

Duration - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

¹⁴ Proposed text deletions are shown in ~~strikethrough blue~~ and proposed new text is highlighted in *italics red*.

¹⁵ *Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.*

¹⁶ Last accessed December 2020; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>.

¹⁷ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
- Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.

Likelihood – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.

- Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
- Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
- Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

Ecologically Significant Impact - An impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area.

Integrity of a Site - The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site. As of December 2020, such a conservation management plan has yet to be prepared/completed for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes that define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'

Generic Conservation Objective for cSACs:

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

4.2.1 Types of Potential Effects

Assessment of potential adverse effects on European Sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g., water quality); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

4.2.2 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Plan provides for development across the town with specific settlements identified to facilitate more intensive development in these areas. The development of all infrastructural works such as those relating to water services, energy, residential and commercial structures, roads, access tracks and pathways have associated construction phase effects. These potential effects include land take,

habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution, excessive noise. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects due to construction on the ecological integrity of any European site.

As identified above, Athy has a European site within its Plan boundary; therefore, there is potential for effects to this European site as a result of the Plan; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site, such as NH1.1¹⁸; NH1.2¹⁹; NH1.3²⁰; NH1.4²¹; NH1.5²² and NH1.6²³.

These Policy Objectives will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

4.2.3 Habitat or species Fragmentation

As previously stated, the Plan provides for developments which have associated effects. These effects could result in the fragmentation of habitat and or species through light pollution, habitat loss and/or removal of stepping stone habitats, for example. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects in relation to fragmentation on the ecological integrity of any European site.

The Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The Plan provides Policy Objectives to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors through Policy Objectives such as: NH1.5²⁴; GI1.9²⁵; GI1.1²⁶; GI1.3²⁷ and GI1.5²⁸ (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report).

Further to these provisions there are Policy Objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as: waterways, I01.4²⁹; hedgerows, NH1.5³⁰; agriculture, GI1.7³¹; and trees, GI1.10³²

¹⁸ Protect conserve and manage the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and contribute to the protection of the ecological, visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the Grand Canal pNHA

¹⁹ Ensure screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, is carried out with respect to any plan or project, including masterplans.

²⁰ Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA is located and designed to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA.

²¹ Ensure all applications for planning permission within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA are accompanied by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) prepared by a suitably qualified professional

²² Identify, protect, conserve and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats would include woodland, river, canal, wetlands and grassland areas along with field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). These features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish and contribute to compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive

²³ Protect and conserve the integrity of soils that supports the rich biodiversity and ecological networks in Athy.

²⁴ Identify, protect, conserve and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats would include woodland, river, canal, wetlands and grassland areas along with field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). These features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish and contribute to compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

²⁵ Seek to protect trees with a particular local amenity or conservation value.

²⁶ Reduce fragmentation of the existing Green Infrastructure network while protecting and enhancing its biodiversity by strengthen ecological links including stepping stone habitats (according to their value).

²⁷ Ensure the key green infrastructure and habitat features identified in Map 4: Green Infrastructure, and the linkages they provide to larger areas of green infrastructure and the wider countryside are retained and integrated into the design of new developments as far as practicable.

²⁸ Provide for wildlife bridges (eco links) as part of any new pedestrian and cycle links across the River Barrow, the Barrow Line Canal and railway, thereby facilitating the free movement of people and species throughout the Plan area.

²⁹ Seek to ensure that development proposals comply with the standards and requirements of Irish Water in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure.

³⁰ Identify, protect, conserve and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats would include woodland, river, canal, wetlands and grassland areas along with field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). These features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish and contribute to compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

³¹ Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow, 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.

³² Promote appropriate tree planting within the public realm with a particular focus on strategic open spaces as well as along transport networks.

These Policy Objectives apply to all plans, programmes and/or projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

4.2.4 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns/distribution of species. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. This is particularly relevant in relation to tourism and recreation as most of the town's destinations or attractions are in or adjacent to European sites. The SAC within the Athy area has recreational related pressures such as water sports and leisure fishing as known threats and pressures; and Policy Objectives such as UCR02.7³³ have the potential to add to these sources for effects. However, Policy EDT3³⁴ (and associated objectives) focuses on promoting sustainable tourism while protecting European Sites through the required environmental assessments.

The Plan accounts for noise pollution effects through its Policy Objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the Plan avoid or minimise noise through Policy I5³⁵. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality due to anthropocentric sensitivities for protected birds and mammals. Policy Objectives to ensure the protection of habitat quality of the European Site such as NH1.2³⁶ and NH1.3³⁷, have been built into the Plan; identified above (further details see Section 5). The Plan also accounts for preserving and enhancing water quality of European sites through policies such as: NH1.3³⁸; GI1.7³⁹; I01.2⁴⁰; I02.3⁴¹; I02.4⁴² and I02.5⁴³. These measures are robust to ensure that any sensitive habitat features or species will be identified and only compliant applications will be granted. All of the Policy Objectives related to positive effects for Biodiversity are detailed in Section 5.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

4.2.5 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Plan introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors in the form of construction phase effects such as: habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling. However, the Plan mitigates effects by requiring compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives – for example in Policy Objective NH1⁴⁴.

³³ Support and facilitate the development of retail-led tourism associated with the natural and built heritage assets of Athy.

³⁴ It is the policy of the Council to support and facilitate the development of the tourism infrastructure in Athy with particular emphasis on utilising and harnessing, in an appropriate and sustainable manner, the potential of the town's natural and built heritage assets

³⁵ It is the policy of the Council to protect environmental quality in Athy through the implementation of European, national and regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.

³⁶ Ensure screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is carried out with respect to any plan or project, including masterplans.

³⁷ Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA is located and designed to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA.

³⁸ Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA is located and designed to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA.

³⁹ Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow, 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.

⁴⁰ Maximise the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water services in the planning of new development.

⁴¹ Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in Athy in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland and in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency.

⁴² Require applicants to demonstrate that proposals will not negatively impact on the status of a waterbody, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland.

⁴³ Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchments.

⁴⁴ It is the policy of the Council to support the protection of species and habitats that are

Overall, this Plan identifies the rigorous approach that will be taken when assessing the ecological impacts of a proposed development and the precautions surrounding this approach.

Furthermore, the plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of species diversity overall by including provisions for; the preservation of existing habitat that is of ecological value through Policy Objectives NH1.5⁴⁵ and NH1.6⁴⁶; the encouragement of habitat connectivity through Policy Objective GI1.5⁴⁷; and the reduction of fragmentation through Policy Objective GI1.1⁴⁸, during development.

Further to these provisions there are policy objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways (detailed in Section 4.3.1.3 above) or existing trees and hedgerows and existing habitat of ecological value to the Plan area (Section 9 of the Plan). These Policy Objectives apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the plan.

Measures relating to water pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5). In addition to this the Plan identifies policy objectives to protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities of this European Site in particular (Section 4.3.1.3 above). There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards. Further details in relation to relevant mitigation measures are in Section 5 below.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

4.2.6 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The Plan contains many robust Policy Objectives to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Groundwater quantity is also a potential issue as abstractions for drinking water could individually and/or cumulatively could impact upon ecology, including European sites. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependent European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites. Policy Objectives that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European sites include: NH1.3⁴⁹; GI1.7⁵⁰; I01.2⁵¹; I02.3⁵²; I02.4⁵³ and I02.5⁵⁴.

Similarly, emissions to air and hazardous waste have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the Plan contains Policy Objectives such as: I05.3⁵⁵ which account for this. Increased development pressures could place additional loadings onto the existing waste

designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992 as well as areas of high local biodiversity value and to ensure that developments with potential to impact the integrity of the Natura 2000 network will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.

⁴⁵ Identify, protect, conserve and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats would include woodland, river, canal, wetlands and grassland areas along with field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). These features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish and contribute to compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

⁴⁶ Protect and conserve the integrity of soils that supports the rich biodiversity and ecological networks in Athy.

⁴⁷ Provide for wildlife bridges (eco links) as part of any new pedestrian and cycle links across the River Barrow, the Barrow Line Canal and railway, thereby facilitating the free movement of people and species throughout the Plan area.

⁴⁸ Reduce fragmentation of the existing Green Infrastructure network while protecting and enhancing its biodiversity by strengthen ecological links including stepping stone habitats (according to their value).

⁴⁹ Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA is located and designed to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA.

⁵⁰ Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow, 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.

⁵¹ Maximise the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water services in the planning of new development.

⁵² Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in Athy in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland and in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency.

⁵³ Require applicants to demonstrate that proposals will not negatively impact on the status of a waterbody, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland.

⁵⁴ Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchments.

⁵⁵ Avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole through promoting the preservation of best ambient air quality with sustainable development.

water treatment plant facilities. Provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that the potential of existing capacity in the plant is maximised and that the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth is facilitated.

Additionally, the Policy Objectives provide broader scope to ensure the protection of riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; such as GI1.7⁵⁶ and GI1.11⁵⁷.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

4.2.7 Climate change

As detailed under Section 5 of this report, in addition to the mitigation measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan, new development is required to comply with Kildare County Development Plan provisions, including those relating to European sites. County Development Plan Policy NH6 is 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"*. Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

⁵⁶ Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow, 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.⁵⁶

⁵⁷ Protect and enhance the existing character and setting along the route of the Barrow Blueway.

Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the Plan

Site Code	Site Name ⁵⁸	Characterisation of Potential Effects ^{59, 60}
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are: agricultural intensification, Removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, Forest and Plantation management & use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Netting, Forest replanting (native trees), Use of fertilizers (forestry), Intensive cattle grazing, Sand and gravel quarries, Peat extraction, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Water abstractions from surface waters, Dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, Port areas, Industrial or commercial areas, Intensive fish farming, intensification, Forestry activities not referred to above, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Leisure fishing, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Changes in abiotic conditions, Invasive non-native species, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Erosion, Reduction in migration or migration barriers</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture; water pollution; terrestrial habitats fragmentation and alteration, freshwater and marine habitats fragmentation and alteration; land management; land and water extraction and invasive species.</p> <p>Due to the localised urban nature of the area under assessment versus the large geographical area that this SAC passes through. several of the listed threats to the River Barrow and Nore SAC are not applicable in this assessment (with particular reference to the habitats and land use zoning map provided in the LAP (dated Nov 2020)) – namely: forestry plantations, peat extraction, quarrying; aquaculture practices and port areas. The quality and integrity of surface and ground water in the Athy Plan area is provided for in Policy Objectives such as I02.1 to I02.5.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives NH1.1; NH1.2; NH1.3; NH1.4; NH1.5 and NH1.6. The plan specifically provides for protection and enhancement of habitats that support connectivity between protected areas and reduce fragmentation, via Policy Objectives such as NH1.5; GI1.9. In particular GI1.1, GI1.3 and GI1.5 with the provision for pathways for ecological connectivity and wildlife bridges. Policy objectives such as I03.1; I03.2 and I03.3 ensure that flood risk management will be carried out with compliance to the statutory environmental considerations required for the SAC. Mitigation measures against pollution and waste management in industrial and commercial areas are provided for in Policy Objectives such as I05.1 to I05.4. The Plan also provides for mitigation measures for intensive agriculture activity, cattle grazing and fertilisers with a buffer zone of 60 from the top bank of the River Barrow (SAC); 20m for the adjoining canal and 10 metres for smaller watercourses. The Plan has also provided for the sustainable development of Tourism, especially in the SAC waterway with stipulation for the required environmental assessments in Policy Objectives such as EDT03.1 to EDT03.3</p> <p>As detailed under Section 5 of this report, in addition to the mitigation measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan, new development is required to comply with Kildare County Development Plan provisions, including those relating to sustainable development and environmental protection. The County Development Plan includes various provisions that mitigate effects with respect to invasive species⁶¹.</p> <p>Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.</p>

⁵⁸ For qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

⁵⁹ Informed by, inter alia, The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019).

⁶⁰ Refer to Section 5 for Policy Objectives

⁶¹ Policies of the County Development Plan: NH 13 Support measures for the prevention and / or eradication of invasive species within the county, NH 14 Promote best practice with respect to minimising the spread of invasive species in the carrying out of development and to support measures for the prevention and / or eradication of invasive species within the county. NH 15 Require, as part of the planning application process, the eradication/control of invasive introduced species including Japanese Knotweed, when identified on a site or in the vicinity of a site, in accordance with Regulation 49 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to 2015. Objectives of the County Development Plan: Invasive Species It is an objective of the Council to: NHO 7 Complete a programme of mapping of invasive species in the county. NHO 8 Raise awareness of potential threats caused by invasive species, their methods of dispersal and appropriate control measures in association with relevant authorities

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above.

In addition to the mitigation measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan, new development is required to comply with Kildare County Development Plan provisions, including those relating to European sites. As identified in the Draft Plan, in the full interpretation of all objectives for Athy, it is essential that both the County Development Plan and the Local Area Plan be read in tandem.

These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5.1 below.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards the mitigation from the Draft Plan on Table 5.1, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

Table 5.1 Measures most relevant to the protection of European sites from the Draft Plan

Policy No.	Policy	Policy Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)	Policy Action
CAM 1 Climate Adaptation and Mitigation	<i>It is the policy of the Council to future proof Athy to ensure that it becomes a climate resilient town by promoting the economic, social and environmental benefits of low-carbon development, creating an integrated green infrastructure network, prioritising sustainable mobility within the town and building at sustainable densities in appropriate locations.</i>	CAM01.1 Support the full implementation of the Kildare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, or any succeeding document, with regards to its goals, objectives and actions relating to the planning and development of Athy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all plans and projects carried out in Athy encourage and provide for climate resilient measures.
EDT3 Tourism	<i>It is the policy of the Council to support and facilitate the development of the tourism infrastructure in Athy with particular emphasis on utilising and harnessing, in an appropriate and sustainable manner, the potential of the town's natural and built heritage assets</i>	EDT03.1 Support the development of the Barrow Blueway route along the Barrow Line of the Grand Canal and Barrow Navigation system as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, subject to the required environmental assessments. EDT03.2 Support and facilitate the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities including the development of a Blueway Sports Hub / Education Centre within the Dominican lands, subject to the required environmental assessments. EDT03.3 Support the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, subject to the required environmental assessments.	N/A
NH1 Natural Heritage	<i>It is the policy of the Council to support the protection of species and habitats that are designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992 as well as areas of high local biodiversity value and to ensure that developments with potential to impact the integrity of the Natura 2000 network will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.</i>	NH1.1 Protect conserve and manage the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and contribute to the protection of the ecological, visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the Grand Canal pNHA. NH1.2 Ensure screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, is carried out with respect to any plan or project, including masterplans. NH1.3 Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA is located and designed to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA. NH1.4 Ensure all applications for planning permission within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA are accompanied by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) prepared by a suitably qualified professional. NH1.5 Identify, protect, conserve and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats would include woodland, river, canal, wetlands and grassland areas along with field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). These features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish and contribute to compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. NH1.6 Protect and conserve the integrity of soils that supports the rich biodiversity and ecological networks in Athy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To survey existing bridge structures in Athy to identify whether any such structure currently supports bat roosts.
GI 1 Green Infrastructure	<i>It is the policy of the Council to protect, enhance and further develop the green infrastructure network in Athy to provide a shared space for amenity, recreation and biodiversity to thrive and to strengthen links to the wider regional network.</i>	GI1.1 Reduce fragmentation of the existing Green Infrastructure network while protecting and enhancing its biodiversity by strengthen ecological links including stepping stone habitats (according to their value). GI1.2 Integrate new and existing green infrastructure as an essential component of all new developments and to restrict development that would fragment, damage or prejudice the integrity of the green infrastructure network. GI1.3 Ensure the key green infrastructure and habitat features identified in Map 4: Green Infrastructure , and the linkages they provide to larger areas of green infrastructure and the wider countryside are retained and integrated into the design of new developments as far as practicable. GI1.4 Seek that development proposals also include an outline of measures to protect the retained green infrastructure of a site during the period of construction. GI1.5 Provide for wildlife bridges (eco links) as part of any new pedestrian and cycle links across the River Barrow, the Barrow Line Canal and railway, thereby facilitating the free movement of people and species throughout the Plan area. GI1.6 Promote a network of pedestrian and cycle paths to enhance accessibility to the Green Infrastructure network, while ensuring that the design and operation of the routes responds to the ecological protection needs of each site. GI1.7 Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow, 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments. ⁶² GI1.8 Incorporate items of historical or heritage importance within the green infrastructure as amenity features, where practical. GI1.9 Seek to protect trees with a particular local amenity or conservation value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All proposals for development will be required to demonstrate that the existing Green Infrastructure network is protected, in so far as practicable, and that the development contributes positively to the development and protection of the overall green infrastructure assets of Athy. • Investigate opportunities for placement of bat boxes and/or bird nesting boxes along the River Barrow in conjunction with the Kildare Bat Group / Bat Conservation Ireland and BirdWatch Ireland (in partnership with the National

⁶² Any such green route or trail should be designed in accordance with the guidelines and principles outlined in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020)

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

Policy No.	Policy	Policy Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)	Policy Action
		GI1.10 Promote appropriate tree planting within the public realm with a particular focus on strategic open spaces as well as along transport networks. GI1.11 Protect and enhance the existing character and setting along the route of the Barrow Blueway.	Parks & Wildlife Service and Waterways Ireland).
OS1 Open Space	<i>It is the policy of the Council to provide for a hierarchy of high quality multi-functional public open spaces within Athy, and to preserve and protect such spaces through the appropriate zoning of lands.</i>	OS1.1 Support the implementation of the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy for County Kildare 2021 – 2031 with regards to its aims, recommendations and actions relating to the provision of open space and outdoor recreation infrastructure in Athy. OS1.2 Explore the feasibility of and develop and/or improve linkages and connections between the network of open spaces in Athy, without compromising the biodiversity along the banks of the River Barrow and banks of the Grand Canal. OS1.3 Continue to facilitate and promote community-managed gardens/allotments and green waste composting sites. OS1.4 Support and promote the development of a sports training hub (5 ha in area) on Kildare County Council owned lands at Ardrew to cater for active recreation for residents. OS1.5 Encourage the development of a new local eco-park (2 ha or larger in area) as part of the Dominican Lands Masterplan, which would provide active and passive recreation for residents, subject to appropriate environmental considerations. OS1.6 Cooperate with key stakeholders including landowners in the development (where appropriate) of universally accessible greenways and blueways, and other areas within Athy for recreational purposes, subject to appropriate environmental considerations. OS1.7 Promote and provide amenities and features such as playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment facilities and picnic tables in all open spaces to improve their quality and usability. OS1.8 Support the development and implementation of a masterplan for the Woodstock Lands surrounding Woodstock Castle within the lifetime of the Local Area Plan.	None
I1 Water Supply and Wastewater	<i>It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and wastewater infrastructure in Athy, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.</i>	IO1.1 Work in conjunction with Irish Water to promote the ongoing upgrade and expansion of water supply and wastewater services to meet the future needs of Athy. IO1.2 Maximise the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water services in the planning of new development. IO1.3 Seek to ensure that adequate water services will be available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission for development. IO1.4 Seek to ensure that development proposals comply with the standards and requirements of Irish Water in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure.	None
I2 Surface Water and Groundwater	<i>It is the policy of the Council to maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in Athy and to protect surface and ground water quality in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</i>	IO2.1 Carry out surface water infrastructure improvement works as required. IO2.2 Incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage solutions as part of all plans and development proposals in Athy. Proposals for all new residential developments and for the development of 'H' and 'Q' zoned employment lands should address the potential for SuDS to control surface water outfall and protect water quality. IO2.3 Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in Athy in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland and in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency. IO2.4 Require applicants to demonstrate that proposals will not negatively impact on the status of a waterbody, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland. IO2.5 Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage 'daylighting' / culverting and restoration of culverted water bodies within the town as a natural method of flood management.
I3 Flood Risk Management	<i>It is the policy of the Council to manage flood risk in Athy in conjunction with the Office of Public Works and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).</i>	IO3.1 Manage flood risk in Athy in accordance with the requirements of <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> , DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014). IO3.2 Ensure development proposals within the areas outlined on the Flood Risk Map are the subject of Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed. IO3.3 Support and co-operate with the OPW in delivering the Athy Flood Relief Scheme, subject to the statutory environmental considerations.	None
I5 Pollution and Environmental Services	<i>It is the policy objective of the Council to protect environmental quality in Athy through the implementation of European, national and regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution,</i>	IO5.1 Adequately maintain recycling facilities and to secure the provision of additional facilities, as required, including in conjunction with development. IO5.2 Support the development of a local bring bank recycling facility at an appropriate location, proximate to either the Stradbally Road or Kilkenny Road, within the boundaries of the Local Area Plan. IO5.3 Avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole through promoting the preservation of best ambient air quality with sustainable development. IO5.4 Support the take-up and use of ultra-low emissions vehicles and encourage, through the development management process the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, where appropriate.	None

Policy No.	Policy	Policy Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)	Policy Action
	<i>noise pollution and waste management.</i>		
Additional Measures from the County Development Plan, including:			
<p><i>Invasive Non-Native Species</i></p> <p><i>NH 13: To support measures for the prevention and / or eradication of invasive species within the county</i></p> <p><i>NH 14: To promote best practice with respect to minimising the spread of invasive species in the carrying out of development and to support measures for the prevention and / or eradication of invasive species within the county.</i></p> <p><i>NH 15: To require, as part of the planning application process, the eradication/control of invasive introduced species including Japanese Knotweed, when identified on a site or in the vicinity of a site in accordance with Regulation 49 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to 2015</i></p> <p><i>NHO 7: To complete a programme of mapping of invasive species in the County</i></p> <p><i>NHO 8: To raise awareness of potential threats caused by invasive species, their methods of dispersal and appropriate control measures in association with relevant authorities.</i></p> <p><i>Lighting</i></p> <p><i>GI 19: To ensure that expert advice is sought in developing lighting proposals along river, stream and canal corridors in order to mitigate impacts of lighting on bats and other species.</i></p> <p><i>PC 4 To ensure external lighting schemes minimise light spillage or pollution in the immediate surrounding environment and do not adversely impact on residential or visual amenity and biodiversity in the surrounding areas</i></p> <p><i>Habitats Directive General</i></p> <p><i>NH 3: To require compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to encouraging the management of features in the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional</i></p> <p><i>NH 5: To prevent 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.</i></p> <p><i>NH 6: To ensure an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and with DoEHLG 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.</i></p> <p><i>NH 11: To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012, the Birds Directive 1979, the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species.</i></p> <p><i>NH 12: To ensure that, where evidence of species that are protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992 exist, appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment. In the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Regulations or the Wildlife Acts a derogation licence, issued by DAHG may be required.</i></p>			

Section 6 Conclusion

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 1 (no.) European site, the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the European site from the under the Plan include:

- Provisions for sectors such as climate action, urbanisation including residential and economic development, streetscape works, community facilities, transport, green infrastructure, energy, environmental infrastructure, recreation and tourism, which introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁶³. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise as a result of the Proposed Material Alterations.

However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and 27 could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, it has been determined prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

The Stage 2 AA assesses potential adverse impacts on the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC that may be mitigated by the Proposed Material Alterations being subject to AA. Proposed Material Alterations No. 4, 10 and/or 27, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

It is concluded that the Draft Plan, and any Proposed Material Alterations that may be adopted, is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁶⁴. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

This report is part of the ongoing and overall AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

⁶³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

⁶⁴ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Appendix I Background information on European sites

List of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Estuaries [1130], Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)) [1330], Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Reefs [1170], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]	A02.01, A10.01, B02, F02, F02.01.02, B02.01.01, B05, A04.01.01, C01.01.01, C01.03, J02.05.02, J02.06, J02.12.02, D03.01, E02, F01.01, B07, J02, F02.03, H01, M01, I01, J02.02.01, K01.01, J03.02.01	Agricultural intensification, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Forest and Plantation management & use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Netting, Forest replanting (native trees), Use of fertilizers (forestry), Intensive cattle grazing, Sand and gravel quarries, Peat extraction, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Water abstractions from surface waters, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Port areas, Industrial or commercial areas, Intensive fish farming, intensification, Forestry activities not referred to above, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Leisure fishing, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Changes in abiotic conditions, Invasive non-native species, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Erosion, Reduction in migration or migration barriers
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	A04, A08, A10, B02.01, D01.01, A10.01, A03	Grazing, Fertilisation, Restructuring agricultural land holding, Forest replanting, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Mowing or cutting of grassland

List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>)	[1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>)	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	[1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	[1029]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due to urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	[1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	[1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)* important orchid sites	[6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)	[1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts.
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)	[1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (<i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i>)	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.

Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case-by-case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution. 	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as 	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
	a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.		
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. 	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry Sustainable management of fish stocks Reducing invasive alien species Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complementary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption 	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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	and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. 	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucas. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	
EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. 	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner To target additional POPs Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two 	<p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compact Growth Enhanced Regional Accessibility Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities Sustainable Mobility A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenity and Heritage Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	In preparation	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. 	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. 	
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations, which give effect to Irelands 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources 	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. 	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice, Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. 	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing on and offshore wind, Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, Growing sustainable transport; and Building out robust and efficient networks. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. 	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	<p>Vision: <i>"Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</i></p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products 	
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i> 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.</p> <p>Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i> 	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades. 	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. –

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			the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. 	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. Outlines surface water quality standards. Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. Sets groundwater quality standards. Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. 	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute for water pollution offences. Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. 	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Waste water. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Food Harvest 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	<p>Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment</p>	<p>not applicable</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Rural Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas 	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. 	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afforestation and Creation of Woodland NeighbourWood Scheme Forest Roads 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. –</p>

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconstitution Scheme Woodland Improvement Scheme Native Woodland Conservation Scheme Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions Producer Groups Innovative Forest Technology Forest Genetic Reproductive Material Forest Management Plans 	the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	<p>Objectives of the Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsible. To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. 	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. 	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	<p>Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 		with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. 	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	<p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Context Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination Enhancing the Visitor Experience Research in the Irish Tourism Sector Supporting Local Communities in Tourism Wider Government Policy International Context Co-ordination Structures 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	<p>The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present. There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025. The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations".</i>	<p>Four objectives of the Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
Tourism Development and Innovation – A strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 : (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus Light Rail; Heavy Rail; Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; Integrated Service Plan; and Integration and Accessibility. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2016-2035)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare. Vision Statement: "The GDA by 2022 is an economically vibrant, active and sustainable international Gateway Region, with strong connectivity across the GDA Region, nationally and worldwide; a region which fosters communities living in attractive, accessible places well supported by community infrastructure and enjoying high quality leisure facilities; and promotes and protects across the GDA green corridors, active agricultural lands and protected natural areas." Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy. 	Core principles deriving from the strategic vision include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans including County Development Plans and Local Area Plans, those in force in County Kildare, such as Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhances amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest To describe the site and its management To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. <p>These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Groundwater Protection Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Kildare LECP 2016-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not applicable 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025	The aim of this plan is to recognise by all, the value and opportunity of Kildare’s unique heritage resource and to manage, conserve and protect it, in partnership, for present and future generations.	<p>The four strategic objectives of the Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase understanding of Kildare’s heritage through awareness, education and training and to foster stewardship of and involvement in heritage; Promote best practise in the conservation and management of County Kildare’s heritage resource; Disseminate heritage data and information to a wide audience, undertake surveys/research and to inform and develop heritage policy which promotes heritage; and Promote heritage as a resource that contributes to quality of life and to cultural and economic development in County Kildare. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Kildare Landscape Character Assessment	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	<p>The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to:</p> <p>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects</p> <p>Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Kildare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024	Respond to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have. Attempt to climate change adaptation and mitigation.	<p>The Kildare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 features a range of actions across sectors. The Strategy seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change is attained; Bring forward the implementation of climate change resilient adaptation actions in a planned and proactive manner; and Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of the local authority. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Hidden Heartlands brands	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the Plan area and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.