

Kildare County Council

Kildare Town Draft Local Area Plan (LAP) 2023-2029

AA Screening Report – Kildare Town Draft LAP 2023-2029

P01 | 20 March 2023



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Job number 278388-00

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Document Verification

Project title Kildare Town Draft LAP
Document title AA Screening Report
Job number 278388-00
Document ref
File reference 4-04 Reports

| Revision | Date | Filename | |
|----------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| | | Kildare Town AA. Draft2.docx | |
| P01 | 20.03.2023 | Description | For issue |

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report has been prepared by Arup on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC). It provides information on, and assesses the potential for, the Kildare Town Pre-draft Local Area Plan (LAP) 2023-2029 (hereafter referred to as ‘the draft Plan’) to impact on European sites within the Natura 2000 network.

The draft Plan is a key strategic document which will guide the sustainable development of the town for the period 2023 – 2029.

This AA screening report provides information to KCC, the competent authority, to make a determination as to whether a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on any European designated sites arising as a result of the implementation of the draft Plan can be screened out, or if a further assessment of the likely significant effects is required through a stage 2 AA.

This screening report has not considered measures that might prevent or mitigate potential impacts on European designated sites which cannot be included for the purposes of screening as ruled by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in *People Over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)*¹.

1.2 Legislative Background

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

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for AA, i.e., an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect European designated sites, namely Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (i.e., Appropriate Assessment):

Article 6(3) states that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

The subsequent paragraph allows proposed plans and projects to be approved in certain conditions as Article 6(4) states that:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected.

¹ Info Curia Case-law (2018) Available on <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?language=en&num=C-323/17>. Accessed 15 March 2023.

It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

1.3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Process

Screening is used to identify whether the draft Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European designated site. This screening assessment follows European Commission (2001) guidance² which recommends that screening follow a four-step process as outlined in Figure 1.

The AA screening report follows the Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model, which dictates that in order for an effect to be established, then all three elements must be present and functioning. If one aspect of this chain is absent, then the potential LSE is to be of little significance on the designated site.



Figure 1: Stage One: Screening Methodology

² European Commission (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites

1.4 Guidance and Data Sources

This AA screening report has taken into account guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting European sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive;
- Managing European sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000;
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007);
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011);
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2018); [hereafter referred to as MN 2018]; and
- Office of the Planning Regulator Practice Note PN01 – Appropriate Assessment screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).

1.5 Sources of Information Used

Information relied upon for the AA screening report included the following information sources, which includes maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Article 17 Reporting on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland available from NPWS website³;
- Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BOCCI) 2020 – 2026⁴;
- Ireland River Basin District data⁵;
- Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 available on KCC website⁶;
- land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government⁷;
- Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2012-2018 and Kildare Town Habitat Survey;
- Online data available on European designated sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)⁸;
- ordnance survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography⁹;
- soils, geology and hydrogeology data¹⁰;
- various LAPs within Kildare County available on KCC website¹¹; and
- water quality data¹².

1.6 Overlap with Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft Plan has been carried out concurrently with the AA screening report. There were several areas of overlap considered in accordance with good practice, namely:

- baseline data gathering, data on European sites and potential sensitivities and threats;
- settlement zoning maps were scrutinised by the team for potential adverse effects on integrity of the European Sites in terms of their Conservation Objectives but also any other ecological impacts outside of the European designated sites were highlighted to ensure that they would be addressed in the SEA; and
- the SEA highlighted potential interactions between other environmental issues.

³ Article 17 Reporting. Available at [Article 17 Reports | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#). An overview report (Volume 1), released in August 2019, provides more detail on the methodologies, an easy-to-read summary of the results and a list of contributors to the assessments. Volume 2 (Habitats) and Volume 3 (Species) contain the detailed reports and relevant scientific information. Accessed 6 Feb 2023

⁴ Birdwatch Ireland. Available at [Home Page - Birdwatch Ireland](#). Accessed 6 Feb 2023

⁵ Water Framework Directive. Available at [www.wfdireland.ie](#). Accessed 6 Feb 2023

⁶ Available at: <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/KildareCountyDevelopmentPlan2017-2023/>

⁷ MyPlan.ie. Available at [Home - My Plan](#). Accessed 6 Feb 2023

⁸ National Parks & Wildlife Service. Available at [National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#). Accessed 6 Feb 2023

⁹ OS Ireland. Available at [Home - Ordnance Survey Ireland \(osi.ie\)](#). Accessed 6 Feb 2023

¹⁰ Geological Survey Ireland. Available at [Geological Survey Ireland \(gsi.ie\)](#). Accessed 6 Feb 2023

¹¹ Available at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/LocalAreaPlans/LocalAreaPlans/>

¹² Environmental Protection Agency. Available at [Home | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](#). Accessed 6 Feb 2023

1.7 Consultation Strategy

In August 2018, pre-draft public consultation commenced on the draft Plan and an Issues Paper was prepared and placed on public display (21 August 2018 - 17 September 2018). The Issues Paper was widely distributed to voluntary and community groups, libraries, schools, statutory bodies, service providers, elected members and stakeholders. It was also posted online with a facility for receipt of public comments and observations. As part of the pre-draft consultation, an informal event was held in Áras Bhríde, Parish Centre, which was attended by 86 people. Throughout the public consultation period, a total of 48 submissions and observations were received across a wide range of themes.

The local area plan did not progress further at this time due to the changes to planning policy at both national and regional level, namely the National Planning Framework (2018) which required the preparation and adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2031, the subsequent Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and then in turn the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029. However, the issues raised in the submissions and observations through the public consultation period remain relevant for the future of Kildare Town and have informed the content and the direction of this Plan for the period 2023-2029.

Furthermore, several supporting studies were conducted throughout this intervening period which carried out their own individual public consultation process, namely the Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan and the Kildare Town Transport Strategy. Supporting studies such as the Social Infrastructure Audit and the Settlement Capacity Audit also included engagement with relevant stakeholders on critical issues relating to the town.

During the preparation of the Plan in 2022, several workshops took place with the Elected Members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District, where the broad policy parameters in which the local area plan are required to operate were set out. One such workshop focused on the development of a Vision for the town, which took on board the members aspirations for the future strategic development of Kildare Town (see section 2.2).

Overall, this Plan places a major emphasis on public consultation and stakeholder engagement, and the Council is committed to harnessing the energy of all Kildare stakeholders in creating a positive context for optimising collaboration on the successful implementation of the Plan.

2. Scope and Description of the Draft Plan

2.1 Overview

A Local Area Plan is required for an area designated as a town in the most recent census, other than a town designated as a suburb or environs in that census, has a population in excess of 5,000 and is situated in the functional area of the planning authority which is a county council (Section 19 of the Act). Census 2016 recorded a population of 8,634 persons for the settlement of Kildare Town and therefore a local area plan is mandatory.

The existing land-use plan for Kildare Town is the Kildare Town LAP 2012-2018¹³. The pre-draft Public Consultation Issues Paper for the Kildare Town LAP 2019 - 2025 went on display from 21 August to 17 September 2018. The Kildare Town LAP 2019 -2025 was then paused due to the Variation of the CDP Plan 2017 -2023.

The draft Plan (Kildare Town LAP 2023-2029) is to be adopted in 2023, until which time any planning decisions will have regard to the 2012 -2018 plan, as well as the County Development Plan 2023-2929. The period of the draft Plan shall be taken as being six years from the date it is made unless it is extended under Section 19(1)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) or replaced by any subsequent plan under future legislation. KCC is now preparing the draft Plan, which will take into account all submissions made on the draft 2019 LAP.

The draft Plan will provide the main public statement of planning policies and objectives for Kildare Town for the draft plan duration (2023-2029). The policies and objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development as the draft Plan is the primary statutory land use policy framework against which planning applications are assessed.

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

The draft Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (the Act), especially Sections 18-20 of the Act¹⁴. It sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Kildare Town in the context of the following:

- a Transport Strategy, Social Infrastructure Audit, Surface Water Study, and a Settlement Capacity Audit have been undertaken to inform the draft Plan;
- Ministerial guidelines issued pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000¹⁵ as amended together with EU requirements regarding SEA, AA and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA);
- the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029⁶;
- the National Planning Framework (NPF) (2018)¹⁶; and
- the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2030¹⁷.

¹³ Kildare Town LAP 2012-2018. Available on [KCCCKildareTownLAPwebversion.pdf \(kildarecoco.ie\)](#). Accessed 07 March 2023.

¹⁴ Planning And Development Act, 2000.

¹⁵ Irish Statutory Book, Planning and Development Act, 2000. Available on [Planning and Development Act, 2000, Section 28 \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](#) Accessed 21 February 2023.

¹⁶ Project Ireland 2040, National Planning Framework. Available on [39baaa8c-48dc-4f24-83bd-84bbcf8ff328.pdf \(www.gov.ie\)](#). Accessed 21 February 2023.

¹⁷ RSES Eastern and Midland Region (2019) Available on [Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly Final RSES - Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly \(emra.ie\)](#). Accessed 21 February 2023.

2.2 Project Ireland 2040 - NPF

The NPF together with the National Development Plan (2018-2027) was published in 2018 under Project Ireland 2040. Project Ireland 2040 is the Government's overarching long-term policy initiative to make Ireland a better country for all its citizens.

The NPF and was further supported by the publication of the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework ('Roadmap') which was published on 3 July 2018. This document confirmed that the NPF was adopted as a strategy to replace the National Spatial Strategy (2002-2020, NSS) and advised that the NPF is of direct relevance to the preparation of RSES and CDPs. The NPF is implemented at a regional level through the RSESs and at county level through the development plan.

Under the objective 'Securing Compact and Sustainable Growth', the NPF states that the physical form of urban development in Ireland is a national development challenge. Ensuring that the physical form and location of future development is correct offers opportunities in unlocking regional potential. The NPF places specific emphasis on the regeneration and rejuvenation of towns through the promotion of compact growth and the consolidation of future development within and close to the existing footprint of built-up areas. The NPF states that this will be achieved through infill and brownfield development rather than an over-reliance on greenfield, edge-of-town development.

2.3 RSES for the Eastern and Midland Regional Area

The aim of the RSES is to strengthen the settlement structure of the Region and to capitalise on the individual and collective strengths of the region's cities, towns and rural areas. It provides policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives to ensure that people's needs, such as access to housing, jobs, ease of travel and overall well-being are met.

The RSES is underpinned by three key principles:

- healthy placemaking;
- climate action; and
- economic opportunity.

It is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) that each Planning Authority prepares a CDP. The policies and objectives of a CDP must align with the national and regional planning policy.

The RSES also provides for a settlement hierarchy of the Key Towns, Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Towns, Villages and Rural Areas. Kildare Town is located within the Core Region, as set out in the RSES Settlement Strategy and has been designated a Self-Sustaining Growth Town in the Kildare CDP 2023-2029. Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are defined in the RSES as towns that contain a reasonable level of jobs and services which adequately caters for the people of its service catchment. This may include sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links, which have capacity for continued commensurate growth.

Local Area Plans are statutorily required to be consistent with the Core Strategy and objectives of the CDP as well as any regional spatial and economic strategy for the area. The County Core Strategy has allocated 4.7% of the total county housing and population growth to the town of Kildare.

2.4 Draft Plan

2.4.1 Key Principles

The Vision for Kildare Town over the lifetime of this draft Plan is:

“To promote the social, economic and physical development of Kildare Town as a self-sustaining growth town in a compact, permeable and sequential manner; to address deficiencies in social infrastructure so communities may thrive; to ensure the town centre develops as an inclusive, vibrant, attractive and connected place; to harness the town’s existing strengths of equine, ecclesiastical and retail assets; and to create a high-quality, low carbon, accessible environment for residents and visitors alike”

KCC will seek to actively progress the vision during the lifetime of the draft Plan and beyond. The draft Plan identifies several opportunities supported by specific projects that need to be delivered to achieve sustainable development of the vision.

The vision is expressed through the Kildare Town Development Strategy and is threaded throughout the objectives of the draft Plan.

The key principles on which the vision will be achieved are:

1. Creating compact and connected communities
2. Achieving a high-quality low carbon environment
3. Delivering ‘catch-up’ infrastructure
4. Enhancing Kildare town as a tourist destination
5. Ensuring a vibrant town centre
6. Supporting intergenerational community living.

2.4.2 Extent of Draft Plan Area

The location of the draft Plan area is shown in Appendix A.1. The boundary map may be subject to change during the preparation of the draft Plan.

2.4.3 In-combination Consideration of Plans and Projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combinations with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European designated sites.

A wide range of policy, plans and programmes are of relevance to the draft Plan and are outlined in Appendix B.1. The plans or projects are listed according to a spatial hierarchy of International, European, National, Regional/Local Projects and Plans.

List of planning application for projects can be found in Appendix B.2.

3. Appropriate Assessment Screening

3.1 Overview

This section of the report identifies the potential Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the draft Plan, sets forth the information on the European sites within the potential ZoI and sets out the potential impacts and likelihood of significant effects.

3.2 Identification of Potential Zone of Influence

A Zone of Influence (ZoI) has been identified for this AA process. The ZoI is the geographical area over which a plan could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have a significant effect on the QIs of an Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA) site. The ZoI is established using the S-P-R model and takes into consideration the scale of the draft Plan. This distance from the draft Plan's scope is precautionary and was determined by ecological effect features, such as species mobility distances and distances at which air and hydrological pollution events could have a significant effect. This is focussed on certain species where their foraging ranges, home ranges, nesting/roosting sites (and connections between same) may extend beyond the European designated site boundaries, independent of the absence of any hydrological or hydrogeological pathways between European designated sites and draft Plan area.

3.3 European Designated Sites Under Consideration

In accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government guidance (DEHLG, 2010), an initial distance of 15km from the boundary of Kildare town was selected for consideration of European designated sites, with extension of this area where there are hydrological linkages or other pathways that extend beyond 15km. This distance was deemed to be sufficient to cover all LSE which may arise from the implementation of the Plan on European designated sites. Spatial boundary data on the European network was extracted from the NPWS website in February 2023.

Based on this approach, five European designated sites, all of which are SACs have been considered in this AA screening. No SPA sites were recorded within the 15km buffer zone or at a greater distance that might be subject to LSE. To identify those sites that could be potentially affected, it was necessary to describe the European designated sites in the context of why it has been designated i.e., its Qualifying Interests. All European designated sites which fall either within Kildare town or within 15km of the draft Plan area are detailed in Table 1. These European designated sites' locations are presented in Appendix A.1.

Table 1: European Designated Sites within ZOI to the Draft Plan Area

| Site | Approximate distance to Draft Plan Area (km) | Site Synopsis and Qualifying Interests (QIs) | Conservation Objectives |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Pollardstown Fen SAC | 3.0km | <p>Pollardstown Fen is situated on the northern margin of the Curragh of Kildare, approximately 3 km northwest of Newbridge. It lies in a shallow depression, running in a north-west/south-east direction. About 40 springs provide a continuous supply of water to the fen. These rise chiefly at its margins, along distinct seepage areas of mineral ground above the fen level. The continual inflow of calcium-rich water from the Curragh, and from the limestone ground to the north, creates waterlogged conditions which lead to peat formation. There are layers of calcareous marl in this peat, reflecting inundation by calcium-rich water. This peat-marl deposit reaches some 6 m at its deepest point and is underlain by clay.</p> <p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):</p> <p>[7210] cladium fens*</p> <p>[7220] petrifying springs*</p> <p>[7230] alkaline fens</p> <p>[1013] Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>)</p> <p>[1014] narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)</p> <p>[1016] Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)</p> | <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species listed as features of interest for the Pollardstown Fen SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. Detailed conservation objectives can be accessed on the NPWS website¹⁸.</p> |
| Mouds Bog SAC | 5.5km | <p>Mouds Bog is located about 3 km north-west of Newbridge in Co. Kildare, close to the Hill of Allen, and includes amongst others, the townlands of Grangehiggin, Barretstown and Hawkfield. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. Much of the margins of the site are bounded by trackways. The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):</p> <p>[7110] raised bog (Active)*</p> <p>[7120] degraded raised bog</p> <p>[7150] rhynchosporion vegetation</p> | <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species listed as features of interest for Mouds Bog SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. Detailed conservation objectives can be accessed on the NPWS website¹⁹.</p> |

¹⁸ NPWS (2022) Pollardstown Fen SAC 000396 Conservation Objectives. Available on [CO000396.pdf \(npws.ie\)](#). Accessed 14 March 2023

¹⁹ NPWS (2015) Mouds Bog SAC 002331 Conservation Objectives. Available on [ConservationObjectives.rdl \(npws.ie\)](#). Accessed 14 March 2023.

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| <p>River Barrow and River Nore SAC</p> | <p>6.0km</p> | <p>This site consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow and Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains before passing through a band of Carboniferous shales and sandstones. The Nore, for a large part of its course, traverses limestone plains and then Old Red Sandstone for a short stretch below Thomastown. Before joining the Barrow, it runs over intrusive rocks poor in silica. The upper reaches of the Barrow also run through limestone. The middle reaches and many of the eastern tributaries, sourced in the Blackstairs Mountains, run through Leinster Granite. The southern end, like the Nore runs over intrusive rocks poor in silica. Waterford Harbour is a deep valley excavated by glacial floodwaters when the sea level was lower than today. The coast shelves quite rapidly along much of the shore.</p> <p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):</p> <p>[1130] estuaries [1140] mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1170] reefs [1310] salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [3260] water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [4030] European dry heaths [6430] hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [7220] petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [91A0] old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91E0] alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [1016] Desmoulin's whorl snail [1029] freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1092] white-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1095] sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1096] brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1099] river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1103] twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) [1106] salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1355] otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1421] Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1990] Nore pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>)</p> | <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species listed as features of interest for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets.</p> <p>Detailed conservation objectives can be accessed on the NPWS website²⁰.</p> |
|--|--------------|--|--|

| Site | Approximate distance to Draft Plan Area (km) | Site Synopsis and Qualifying Interests (QIs) | Conservation Objectives |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Ballynafagh Lake SAC | 13.2km | <p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive</p> <p>[7230] alkaline fens</p> <p>[1016] Desmoulin's whorl snail</p> <p>[1065] Marsh fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)</p> | <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species listed as features of interest for Ballynafagh Lake SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. Detailed conservation objectives can be accessed on the NPWS website²¹.</p> |
| Ballynafagh Bog SAC | 14.7km | <p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive</p> <p>[7110] raised bog (Active)*</p> <p>[7120] degraded raised bog</p> <p>[7150] rhynchosporion vegetation</p> | <p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species listed as features of interest for Ballynafagh Bog SAC, which is defined by a specific list of attributes and targets. Detailed conservation objectives can be accessed on the NPWS website²².</p> |

²⁰ NPWS (2011) River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162 Conservation Objectives. Available on [Site_specific_cons_obj \(npws.ie\)](https://www.npws.ie/site_specific_cons_obj). Accessed 14 March 2023.

²¹ NPWS (2021) Ballynafagh Lake SAC 001387 Conservation Objectives. Available on [CO001387.pdf \(npws.ie\)](https://www.npws.ie/CO001387.pdf). Accessed 14 March 2023.

²² NPWS (2015) Ballynafagh Bog SAC 000391 Conservation Objectives. Available on [ConservationObjectives.rdl \(npws.ie\)](https://www.npws.ie/ConservationObjectives.rdl). Accessed 14 March 2023.

3.3.1 Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives for each European designated site focused primarily on maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of the habitats and species of interest (i.e., the Qualifying Interests (QI)).

Many of the European sites have site-specific conservation objectives, which focus on a particular habitat or species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes. A link to each site's conservation objectives is included in Table 1. The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level. Site specific conservation objectives aim to define favourable conservation conditions for a particular habitat or species at that site.

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.

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.

The conservation objectives for the five European designated sites within 15km are available on the NPWS website and are summarised in Table 1. The information presented in Table 1 was obtained from the NPWS website as of February 2023.

3.4 Checking for the Likelihood of a Significant Effect

The initial assessment considers whether the draft Plan is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the European sites listed in Table 1 for nature conservation. The assessment also checks whether the draft Plan would be likely to have an effect and whether that effect could be significant.

3.4.1 Threats and Pressures

Under Article 11 of the Habitats Directive, Member States are required to report on the conservation status of the natural habitats and species in the Annexes. Per Article 17, Member States are required to report on the conservation status, pressures, threats and conservation measures both taken and recommended to achieve or retain favourable conservation status. The most recent Article 17 reporting was published in 2019 for the period 2013-2018²³. Member States are obliged to give an update on the conservation status for Annex I habitats and Annex II species throughout the Member State, irrespective whether the species is a qualifying interest of a designated site or not.

²³ EC (2020) The state of nature in the European Union Report on the status and trends in 2013 - 2018 of species and habitat types protected by the Birds and Habitats Directives. Available on <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0635&from=EN>. Accessed 07 March 2023.

Member States must identify pressures and threats to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species that may have an impact on the conservation status of a designated habitat or species using a standard set of criteria. A threat is defined as an “*Activity expected to have an impact on a species/habitat type in the future*²⁴”, and a pressure is defined as an “*Activity impact a species/habitat type during the reporting cycle*²⁴”. A summary of the main pressures and threats to both habitats and species is provided online on the European Environment Agency. More general pressures and threats identified as being relevant to the sites within the zone of influence of the draft Plan are listed below. Site-specific pressures and threats in the relevant Natura 2000 data forms for each site, available on the NPWS website, also provided in Appendix B.3 to this report. Site-specific pressures and threats are detailed in the relevant Natura 2000 data forms for each site, available on the public Natura 2000 viewer²⁵.

Both general and site-specific pressures and threats have been considered in assessing the potential for likely significant effects on, and in assessing the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of, any European Site.

General pressures and threats thought to be most relevant to the draft Plan are considered to be:

- agriculture;
- forestry;
- extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources);
- energy production processes and related infrastructure development;
- development and operation of transport systems;
- development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreation infrastructure and areas;
- alien and problematic species;
- mixed source pollution;
- human-induced changes in water regimes;
- natural processes (excluding catastrophes and processes induced by human activity or climate = change);
- geological events, natural catastrophes; and
- climate change.

3.5 Identification of Potential Impacts and Effects

The available information on the European designated sites was reviewed to establish whether or not the draft Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of those sites. The likelihood of impacts on the features of interest of the European sites identified within this report is based on the information collated from desk study and other available existing information such as, but not limited to, published scientific literature and national reports such as Irish Wildlife Manuals.

The likelihood of impacts occurring are established in light of the type and scale of the proposed objectives, their location and zoning with respect of European designated sites and the features of interest and conservation objectives of the European designated sites.

²⁴ DG Environment (2017) Reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive: Explanatory notes and guidelines for the period 2013-2018. Brussels. Pp 188. Available on <https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/d0eb5cef-a216-4cad-8e77-6e4839a5471d/Reporting%20guidelines%20Article%2017%20final%20May%202017.pdf>. Accessed 07 March 2023

²⁵ European Environment Agency, Natura 2000 Network Viewer. Available on [Natura 2000 Network Viewer \(europa.eu\)](https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/). Accessed 27 February 2023

The potential pressures and threats from the draft Plan cannot at this stage be confirmed based on level of detail available however, they may be inferred particularly in relation to impacts to sensitive habitats and species. The types of effects can include:

- direct and indirect effects;
- short and long-term effects;
- disturbance to habitats, important ecological features and hydrological regime;
- habitat/Species fragmentation
- reduction in species density;
- species mortality; and
- changes in in key indicators of conservation value (e.g., decrease in water quality/quantity).

3.6 Assessment of Effects of the Draft Plan Vision, Objectives and Measures

This assessment considers whether the vision, objectives, measures and thus potential changes brought about by the draft Plan are likely to cause a direct, indirect or secondary impact(s) on one or more of the European designated sites listed in Table 1. It should be noted that the objectives of the draft Plan are primarily strategic and high level, only allowing for a generalised impact assessment. Where possible, each chapter was examined for how it may align with the potential threats and pressures as listed in section 3.4.1.

Table 2: Draft Plan Objectives

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---|---|---|
| Compliance with Core Strategy Objectives | | |
| CSO 1.1 | Accommodate housing growth in Kildare Town in accordance with the Core Strategy of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 and any review, replacement or variation thereof. | Screen out – accommodation of an existing plan. |
| CSO 1.2 | Protect and enhance, through appropriate regeneration and appropriate transportation strategies, the quality, ambience and vitality of Kildare Town Centre in order to create a pleasant and attractive environment for business, tourism and recreation for both visitors and residents. | Screen out – objective relates to Town Centre which has no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| CSO 1.3 | Support and facilitate the compact growth of Kildare Town through the sustainable and sequential land use development objectives which consolidate the town centre, commercial uses and established residential areas. | Screen out – accommodation of an existing plan. |
| CSO 1.4 | Monitor the scale, type, tenure and location of constructed and permitted developments in Kildare Town during the lifetime of the Plan and apply appropriate development management standards to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy to achieve the delivery of strategic plan-led and coordinated balanced development within the town. | Screen out – monitoring likely to be desk-based, and unlikely to have LSE. |
| CSO 1.5 | Support and facilitate the implementation of the projects stemming from the Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan which have been incorporated into the Kildare Local Area Plan and pursue suitable funding mechanisms to realise the projects of the Masterplan. | Screen out – too broad an objective to screen in itself, but its component elements have been subject to screening within this document. |
| CSO 1.6 | Prioritise the development of town centre lands as the commercial core for the town with a mix of uses to ensure the vibrant and balanced development of the town centre. | Screen out – objective relates to Town Centre which has no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| CSO 1.7 | Focus new enterprise development primarily into the town centre and alternatively on lands identified for Enterprise and Employment, Commercial and Industry and Warehousing uses. | Screen out – objective relates to Enterprise and Employment, Commercial and Industry and Warehousing zones, which have no connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| CSO 1.8 | Support the delivery of physical and social infrastructure to sustain all residential development. | Screen out – zones not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| CSO 1.9 | Work with multi-disciplinary stakeholders and pursue suitable funding mechanisms to realise the Vision and objectives of the local area plan as opportunities arise. | Screen out – desk-based exercise and no land use change anticipated. |
| CSO 1.10 | Preserve the lands identified as ‘Phase 2 New Residential’ and ‘Strategic Reserve’ on Map 11.1 Land Use Zoning Objectives from inappropriate forms of development, thereby controlling the level of piecemeal and haphazard development on these lands and safeguarding their strategic value in accommodating the orderly sequential expansion of the urban settlement beyond the current draft Plan period. | Screen out - no change to land use anticipated, as this relates to preservation of land only. |
| CSO 1.11 | Support the full implementation of the KCC 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 the town of Kildare. | Screen out - the KCC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 has been subject to an AA Screening with no likelihood of significant effects determined. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Town Centre Objectives | | |
| TCO 1.1 | Reinforce the town centre as a priority location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development through the promotion of new high-quality infill and backland development that consolidates the existing urban core. | Screen out - objective will not result in activities that would result in LSE given context of the area to European sites and aspirational nature to develop land in urban core minimising risk. |
| TCO 1.2 | Protect the character of the town centre and ensure that new development responds positively to its established built form, scale and character and to continue implementing environmental improvements, to sustain and improve its attraction for living, working, visiting and investment. | Screen out - objective will not result in activities that would result in LSE given focus on conservation of cultural and environmental aspects which will favour conservation of current townscape. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| TCO 1.3 | Protect the vibrancy, ambience, quality and vitality of the town centre by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Promoting an appropriate mix of day and night-time uses. (ii) Preventing an excessive concentration of less desirable uses unless carefully managed through an appropriate sympathetic design approach. (iii) Facilitating development that will attract and retain commercial and retail activities in the town centre. (iv) Encouraging the re-use of vacant units for alternative functions and uses such as live-work units, remote working hubs, enterprise incubation, tourist spin-off enterprises, tourist accommodation, niche retail including food or craft enterprises and cultural offerings such as theatre or museum. | Screen out - objective will not result in activities that would result in LSE given context of the site and nature of aspirations. |
| TCO 1.4 | Encourage and facilitate the full use of buildings and in particular the use of upper floors and backlands, with particular regard to high quality urban design and materials used as well as integration, and linkages. | Screen out. Relates to re-use of existing infrastructure which will reduce new development and risks arising from that development. |
| TCO 1.5 | Encourage and facilitate the appropriate intensification of town centre sites where high standards of architectural design are achieved and impacts on the character of the area are positive. | Screen out. Objective will not result in activities that would result in LSE given context of the area to European Sites and nature of architectural aspirations |
| TCO 1.6 | Support the Town Team and the Town Regeneration Officer in the carrying out of their duties in Kildare Town in respect of prioritising the generation of the town centre through the application of the Town Centre First Policy approach. | Screen out. Objective will not result in activities that would result in LSE given context of the site and nature of aspirations. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Town Renewal Objectives | | |
| TCO 2.1 | <p>Support and facilitate the implementation of the projects detailed in Table 4-1 (as per the Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market Square and Environs Project - Cycle and Pedestrian Network Enhancements Project - Public Realm Enhancements Project - Train Station Improvements Project - Courthouse and Water Tower Improvements Project <p>Seek to secure financial support through potential future funding mechanisms in conjunction with other statutory agencies and relevant stakeholders, particularly through the Rural/Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF/URDF) to support the urban renewal of Kildare Town.</p> | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI |
| TCO 2.2 | Collaborate with Irish Rail in relation to the development of the underutilised land to the north of the train station (identified as site B* on Map 11.1), to facilitate access to the station and the re-imagining of the lands. | Screen out given context of European Sites to draft area plan and limited scale and scope of objective. |
| TCO 2.3 | Continue to actively engage with the community, landowners, developers and other agencies to pursue resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of Kildare Town Centre. | Screen out given engaging with the community will in itself not lead to LSE on designated sites. |
| TCO 2.4 | Ensure that urban renewal works prioritise the enhancement of the streetscape and heritage assets of the town centre of Kildare, to sustain and improve its unique attraction for living, working, visiting and investment. | Screen out. Objective will not result in activities that would result in LSE given focus on conservation of cultural and environmental aspects which will favour conservation of current townscape. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|--|---|--|
| Economic Development Objectives | | |
| EDO 1.1 | Facilitate sustainable economic development and employment growth in Kildare Town in accordance with its designation as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town while adhering to the overall Economic Development Strategy of this Plan. | Screen out given context of European Sites to draft area plan and aspirational scale and scope of objective. |
| EDO 1.2 | Actively encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield sites and re-use of disused buildings for enterprise and employment creation on town centre lands | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI, atmospheric pollution not considered likely due to dilution factor associated with 6km of distance to nearest European Designated site. |
| EDO 1.3 | Support the National Equine Innovation Centre and proposals for future hubs and co-working spaces in the town centre, particularly where they reuse dormant buildings/sites to stimulate urban renewal and decarbonisation, and where possible integrated with other key community facilities / services in order to share resources. Future development of Hubs shall be in accordance with the Locations Assessment Model as detailed in the Kildare 2025 Economic Strategy and consultation with the Kildare Local Enterprise Office shall be carried out. | Screen out – suggested activity not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| EDO 1.4 | Support the provision of a Craft, Creativity and Design Hub within Kildare Town Centre through the Kildare County Council’s Economic Development Office. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given aspirational nature, scale and scope of objective. |
| EDO 1.5 | Promote Enterprise and Employment development north and south of the R445 Monasterevin Road integrated with the existing commercial development, focusing on light industry, offices, research and development, within a high-quality business park development supported by the connectivity link detailed on Maps 7.12, 7.2 and 7.5. The development of the lands shall be subject to a Traffic and Transport Assessment to ensure there are no negative impact on the network. | Screen out – suggested activity not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| EDO 1.6 | Facilitate the development of Industry and Warehousing on the lands south of the motorway at Grey Abbey Road for manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, logistics and other uses associated with the transport industry subject to the protection of the carrying capacity of the national road network and a Traffic and Transport Assessment. | Screen out – suggested activity not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| EDO 1.7 | Support and encourage ‘living over the shop’ initiatives, and the provision of ground floor live-work units and/or co-working spaces as part of mixed-use and residential developments in appropriate locations with access to public transport and active travel routes, as a means of enlivening streets and to provide flexible accommodation for small businesses and remote working opportunities. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given aspirational nature, scale and scope of objective. |
| EDO 1.8 | Incentivise employment creation on lands zoned ‘A: Town Centre’ as a key driver of regeneration, through the application of the Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme (2022) or any successor to same. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given nature, scale and scope of objective. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| EDO 1.9 | Ensure that the employment lands zoned in Kildare Town are kept free from inappropriate development that would prejudice the long-term use of the land use zoning objective, except where exceptional circumstances arise for temporary periods. | Screen out, objective relates to preventing activities undermining assessed plan. |
| EDO 1.10 | Support the examination of the feasibility of Cherryville Junction and Kildare Town to become a transport hub and distribution centre, by maximising its strategic location at the intersection of key national road and rail networks. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given nature, scale and scope of objective |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Tourism Objectives | | |
| EDO 2.1 | Encourage the development of new or the upgrading / extension of tourism activities/facilities including supporting infrastructure, in particular those related to religious tourism, equine tourism, retail tourism, food tourism and military tourism within Kildare Town, that respect, respond and enhance their physical location, environmental quality and community setting. | Screen out – suggested activity not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| EDO 2.2 | Facilitate the provision of standardised signage and interpretation for tourism facilities and tourist attractions throughout the town, ensuring signage is located to facilitate cross-sector promotion between tourist sites. | Screen out. Context, scale and scope of the works not likely to arise in LSE. |
| EDO 2.3 | Encourage and support the development of the equine tourism sector in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland through the delivery of projects identified in the Thoroughbred Country: Destination Experience Development Plan, such as the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Enhancement of the visitor experience at the Irish National Stud. (b) Creation of a walking trail / greenway from Kildare Town to the Curragh, as part of the International Thoroughbred Trail. (c) Development of the Racing Academy Centre of Education (R.A.C.E.) visitor experience including farriery experiences at the Irish Farriery School. (d) Feasibility of the Kildare Heritage Centre becoming a key orientation hub for the International Thoroughbred Trail supported by an enhanced visitor experience. (e) Creation of festivals / events related to equine tourism. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI |
| EDO 2.4 | Support and promote the inclusion of eateries in Kildare Town as part of a food tourism experiential trail for the county. | Screen out. Aspirational nature and scale, scope and context of the objective not likely to result in LSE. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| EDO 2.5 | Investigate the re-use of the courthouse building on Dublin Street for a Craft, Creativity and Design Hub or for a mix of cultural, community, leisure and/or tourism uses in conjunction with its use as the Racing Legends Museum. | Screen out. Aspirational nature and scale, scope and context of the objective not likely to result in LSE |
| EDO 2.6 | Facilitate and support the diversification of lands zoned S: Equine Industry for development and expansion of equine tourism. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Retailing Objectives | | |
| EDO 3.1 | Protect and promote the vitality and viability of the Core Retail Area of Kildare Town as illustrated on Map 5.1 as the primary location for retail development, through the application of a sequential approach to retail development, in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012) or any subsequent guidelines. | Screen out. Objective relates to the retention of the status quo. |
| EDO 3.2 | Encourage the retention of the retail function of ground floor uses within the Core Retail Area identified on Map 5.1 and carefully consider development which would individually of cumulatively undermine the primary use of the core retail area for retail purposes taking cognisance of the need to address vacancy and the move towards ‘experience-led’ retailing. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| EDO 3.3 | Support and facilitate the development of retail, retail services and niche retailing in the town centre area, through the development of infill sites and the redevelopment/renewal of under-utilised sites and buildings, at an appropriate scale, with universal access and design. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| EDO 3.4 | Encourage retail development that respects the character of its surroundings by ensuring new shop front and signage design contributes positively to Kildare Towns’ Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) per the contents of the Kildare Town ACA Statement of Character and which demonstrate the potential for a flexible and innovative approach to retail formats and other uses. | Screen out. Aspirational nature and scale, scope and context of the objective not likely to result in LSE. |
| EDO 3.5 | Support the continued development of a high quality ‘market’ within the town. | Screen out. Nature, scale, scope and context of the objective not likely to result in LSE. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| EDO 3.6 | Ensure the development of the Kildare Tourist Outlet Village is carried out in accordance with the definition of outlet centres as detailed in the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) (or any subsequent guidelines) to ensure that the products sold are not in competition with those on sale typically in town centre locations. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| EDO 3.7 | Ensure the scale of retail development within neighbourhood centres shall reflect the size of the localised catchment population within the neighbourhood it is intended to serve. | Screen out. Objective relates to intentions rather than specific actions that might result in LSE. |
| EDO 3.8 | Encourage the upkeep of retail properties within Kildare Town through the application Kildare County Council Shop Front Improvement, Accessibility and Age Friendly Scheme or any successor of same. | Screen out. Nature, scale, scope and context of the objective not likely to result in LSE. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---|---|---|
| Residential Development Objectives | | |
| HCO 1.1 | To promote and facilitate the phased development of the Former Magee Barracks site in accordance with the guidance set out in Section 11.1. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| HCO 1.2 | Support new residential development that occurs in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure identified in the Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) and set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule in Table 11-2. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| HCO 1.3 | Encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for a mix of uses including residential within the footprint of the existing built-up area. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given aspirational nature, scale and scope of objective. |
| HCO 1.4 | To manage the provision of one-off housing on lands zoned as ‘I: Agricultural’ and ‘G: National Stud and Green Belt’. Limited one-off housing will be permitted in this zone subject to compliance with the rural housing policy of the Kildare CDP and all other normal siting and design considerations. | Screen out – one-off housing will only be permitted if it demonstrates compliance with the rural housing policy of the Kildare CDP. |
| Residential Objectives | | |
| HCO 2.1 | Require that a good mix of housing types and sizes be provided in all new residential areas and in appropriate brownfield/infill areas, to meet the needs of the population of Kildare Town, including the provision of appropriate supported housing and longer-term residential care solutions designed for older people and/or people with disabilities. | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---|--|---|
| HCO 2.2 | Require that residential schemes within the Curragh Buffer Zone as identified on Map 9.1 provide detailed proposals for appropriate soft boundary treatments which should be in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 9.8 of the Plan. | Screen out based on scale, scope and context of the objective. |
| HCO 2.3 | Require that residential schemes in close proximity to heavily trafficked roads or the rail line are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance. A suitably qualified acoustic specialist shall be engaged in the development design process, paying particular attention to the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (or any subsequent plan) and the EPA 'Environment and Wellbeing' Maps. An Acoustic Design Statement, including proposals for post-construction noise monitoring, clearly demonstrating that significant adverse noise impacts will be avoided shall be submitted with development applications. | Screen out, objective likely to support requirements of qualifying interests of sites by reducing noise pollution and therefore disturbance events. |
| HCO 2.4 | Seek to provide Traveller Specific Accommodation at appropriate locations close to key services, including education, community, health, recreation and public transport facilities in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| HCO 2.5 | Support the provision of specific purpose-built housing for older people to facilitate 'downsizing' and assisted living accommodation, particularly on the Former Magee Barracks site. | Screen out on basis objective relates to design/suitability of housing rather than the construction itself as covered in HCO 1.1. |
| Objective for Education, Childcare and Healthcare Facilities | | |
| HCO 3.1 | Support and facilitate new facilities and improvements / expansion of existing educational, early learning, childcare and healthcare facilities, at appropriate locations in Kildare Town. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI |
| HCO 3.2 | Support the provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities to meet the meet the pro-rata childcare needs of housing development during the plan period. Childcare facilities will be required, by a condition of planning permission, to be developed within the first phase of any new residential development. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| HCO 3.3 | Support the delivery of facilities and services for older people, at appropriate locations in Kildare Town, in particular at the Former Magee Barracks. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given aspirational nature, scale and scope of objective. |
| HCO 3.4 | Actively work with the Department of Education in the successful delivery of a new post-primary school on the Former Magee Barracks site which is in accordance with the urban design framework for the site as detailed in Section 11.1. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given aspirational nature, scale and scope of objective. |
| HCO 3.5 | Liaise with the Department of Education in respect of the identification and delivery of additional capacity/new school for primary school provision to address emerging demands. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given aspirational nature, scale and scope of objective. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| HCO 3.6 | Facilitate and encourage the provision of additional healthcare facilities at appropriate locations in Kildare Town in order to address the current deficit in provision during the lifetime of the Plan. | Screen out. Not likely to result in significant effects given aspirational nature, scale and scope of objective. |
| Objectives for Community, Sport and Recreational Facilities | | |
| HCO 4.1 | Support and facilitate the provision of appropriately sited accessible multi-functional community facilities to meet the needs of the population of Kildare Town; including an all-weather Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) located at the Former Magee Barracks. | Screen out – suggested land use not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the Zol |
| HCO 4.2 | Support the delivery of a public park at Cherry Avenue to accommodate a perimeter path catering for pedestrians and cyclists, demonstration gardens, community garden, amphitheatre, land art feature, playground, pump track, wetlands and extensive tree planting and ensure the delivery of Phase 1 of Cherry Avenue Park within the first year of this Plan. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective |
| HCO 4.3 | Support, promote and facilitate the development of cultural, arts and performance spaces in Kildare Town centre. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective. |
| HCO 4.4 | Facilitate sports and community groups in the acquisition and/or use of lands for sports and recreation purposes. | Screen out - acquisition of lands doesn't mean development. |
| HCO 4.5 | Facilitate the development of a network of universally designed playgrounds, amenity spaces and recreational areas throughout the town in accordance with Table 5-5. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| HCO 4.6 | Develop the lands immediately north of St Brigid's Cathedral and east of Chapel Hill as a small medieval garden. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| HCO 4.7 | To improve existing open space areas in housing developments that have been taken in charge by Kildare County Council and to provide additional play facilities where feasible and appropriate. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| HCO 4.8 | Support and facilitate the development of a neighbourhood centre off Southgreen Road which caters to the localised needs of residents residing in the area. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| HCO 4.9 | Facilitate the development of a future extension of St Conleth's Graveyard to provide for additional capacity subject to detailed design, environmental assessment and considerations of proper planning. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| Permeability Measures | | |
| PERM 1 | Shared walking/cycling path on one side of Rathbride Road from Rathbride Abbey to Cill Dara Golf Club – Short-term delivery timeframe. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 2 | Create a pedestrian / cyclist link from Rathbride Abbey onto Rathbride Demesne - Short-term delivery timeframe. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 3 | Install new footpaths across the green area to provide formal connections between Oakland Grove, Dunmurray View and Farrincooley Crescent – Short-term delivery timeframe. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 4 | Create a pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Rathbride Close to Drumcree Court – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 5 | Creation of a northwestern Greenway linking from the Monasterevin Road (R445) to the Dunmurray Road (R401) and connecting with Green Road, Southgreen Road and Old Road - Long-term - linked to residential development in local area. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 6 | Extend footpaths along Southgreen Road north of the Train Line to connecting with the Greenway proposed under PERM 5 - Medium-term - linked to residential & greenway development | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 7 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Fennor Lawns with North Glebe – Medium term | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 8 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Drumcree Court with Curragh Finn – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| PERM 9 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting North Glebe with Curragh Finn – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 10 | Extend existing footpath north along Green Road to connection with Greenway proposed under PERM 5 - Long-term - linked to greenway development. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 11 | Creation of a new east west Greenway extending along the Rail line connecting with the northwestern greenway proposed under PERM 5 at its western most and extending to connect with a new pedestrian footbridge proposed under PERM 12 connecting with Melitta Road (R413) – Long term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 12 | Creation of a new pedestrian / cyclist link connecting the proposed east west greenway under PERM 11 with Melitta Road (R413). This option involves a new pedestrian bridge over the rail line - Long-term - linked to development of greenway. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 13 | Creation of a new pedestrian / cyclist links connecting Curragh Finn and Dunmurray Drive to Kildare Town Train Station – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 14 | New pedestrian cycle link connecting Green Road with Southgreen Road and the newly constructed Southgreen Link Road – Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 15 | Construction of a new pedestrian / cycle bridge over the Train Line Connecting the East West Greenway proposed under PERM 11 and Woodside Park – Long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 16 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Woodside Park to Station Road – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| PERM 17 | Creation of new multi modal access to Kildare Town Train Station on the western end of Fair Green Road – Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 18 | Phase 1 of Magee Barracks internal road network – Medium term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 19 | Phase 2 of Magee Barracks internal road network – Long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 20 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Curragh Plains, Coolaghknock Green and Melitta Park to Phase 2 of the Magee Barracks internal road network - Long-term - linked to development of Magee Barracks Phase 2. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 21 | Pedestrian links delivered as part of Phase 1 of Magee Barracks redevelopment – Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 22 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Phase 1 of Magee Barracks internal roads to Schools - Medium-term – linked to Phase 1 of Magee Barracks Road. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 23 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Coolaghknock Park, Coolaghknock Close, Coolaghknock Drive and Coolaghknock Gardens together - Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 24 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Ruanbeg to Coolaghknock Gardens – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| PERM 25 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Ruanbeg Drive to Phase 2 of Magee Barracks internal roads - Long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 26 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Kildare Village Car Park to Kildare Village Bus Stop on the R415 - Short-term - to improve access to Bus Stop. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 28 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link from Phase 3 of Kildare Village to Academy Street – Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 29 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link from Bride Street to Main Street via newly proposed car park - Short / Medium-term - Linked to the relocation of on street parking. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 30 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Dublin Street to Meadow Road – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 31 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Meadow Court to Rathbride Demesne – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 32 | Install new footpaths across the green area to provide formal connections between Farrincooley Crescent and Willow Grove – Short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 33 | Install new footpaths along Old Road connecting to the Dunmurray Link Road – Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| PERM 34 | Road Scheme with footpaths connecting Hospital Street to Tully Road – Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 35 | Road Scheme with footpaths - Modus Link Road - Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 36 | Road Scheme with footpaths - Northern Link Street - Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 37 | Creation of pedestrian / cyclist link connecting Grey Abbey Road with Tully Road - Long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 38 | Pedestrian links included in Cherry Avenue Park - Long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 39 | Creation of walking/cycling only link as part of Modus Link Road development – Medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 40 | Construction of a new pedestrian / cycle bridge over the M7 connecting with the National Stud and Japanese Gardens Long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| PERM 41 | Link between Oaktree Road and Cherry Avenue Park – Long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| PERM 42 | Extension of footpaths along Melitta Rd (R413) from Ridgewood Manor to the edge of the Curragh | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 1 | Curragh Greenway (towards Newbridge via Racecourse) – Greenway, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 2 | Connection from east-west Greenway to Melitta Road – Greenway, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 3 | East-west Greenway along the rail line – Greenway, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 4 | Tully Road (middle section) – Greenway, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 5 | R445 to proposed M7 crossing via Cherry Avenue Park – Greenway, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 6 | Greenway connection from Tully Road to Grey Abbey Road – Greenway, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 7 | Northwestern Greenway – Greenway, linked to residential development. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 8 | Connection from Green Road to Southgreen Road – Greenway, linked to residential development. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| | | proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 9 | R413 Melitta Road (middle section) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, Short-medium term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 10 | Dublin Road (Meadow Road to Curragh) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, Short-medium term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 11 | Monasterevin Road/Main Street R445 - Cycle track/ cycle lane, Short-medium term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 12 | Monasterevin Road R445 (western section) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 13 | Rathbride Road R415 - Cycle track/ cycle lane, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 14 | Dunmurray Road R401 (northern section - Bishopsland to KTCS) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 15 | Dunmurray Road R401 (Dunmurray Link Road to Dunmurray Drive) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 16 | Rathbride Demesne - Cycle track/ cycle lane, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| Cycle 17 | R415 (Monasterevin Road to Kildare Village) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 18 | Bride Street - St. Brigid's Primary School to Market Square - Cycle track/ cycle lane, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 19 | Grey Abbey Road (southern section adjacent to development lands) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 20 | Green Road (western section) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 21 | Tully Road (section adjacent to National Stud) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 22 | Dunmurray Road R401 (southern section - Fairgreen Road to Old Road) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 23 | Monasterevin Road (section forming part of Northern Link Street scheme) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 24 | Northern Link Street (R445 to Green Road/Pigeon Lane junction) - Cycle track/ cycle lane, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 25 | Green Road (Pigeon Lane to Southgreen Road junction) - Cycle track/ cycle lane (part of road scheme), medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| | | proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 26 | Bothar na gCorp - Cycle track/ cycle lane (part of road scheme), medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 27 | Fairview Cottages R401 (southern section) - Cycle track/ cycle lane (part of road scheme), medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 28 | Southgreen Road Upgrade - Cycle track/ cycle lane (part of road scheme and bridge upgrade), medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 29 | Magee Barracks Phase 1 - Cycle track/ cycle lane (part of road scheme), medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 30 | Magee Barracks Phase 2 - Cycle track/ cycle lane (part of road scheme), long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 31 | Modus Link Road - Cycle track/ cycle lane (part of road scheme), medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 32 | Hospital Street to Oaktree Road - Cycle track/ cycle lane (part of road scheme), medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 33 | Old Road - active mode priority as closure of Old Road Bridge will eliminate through traffic - Active mode priority, local vehicle access, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| Cycle 34 | Lourdesville - active mode priority/elimination of through traffic as part of Northern Link Street scheme - Active mode priority, local vehicle access, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 35 | Market Square (west) - active mode priority through elimination of through traffic - Active mode priority, local vehicle access, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 36 | Bride Street section of Market Square - TBD by detailed study, Short-term, Active mode priority, Long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 37 | Fire Castle Lane improvement - TBD by detailed study, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 38 | Chapel Hill/Chapel Lane improvement - TBD by detailed study, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 39 | Fairview Cottages R401 improvement - TBD by detailed study, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 40 | Dunmurray Road (rail bridge section) - TBD by detailed study, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 41 | Station Road (north of Bride Street) - TBD by detailed study, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 42 | Bride Street (section south of school) - TBD by detailed study, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| | | proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 43 | Grey Abbey Road (northern section) - TBD by detailed study, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 44 | Bride Street (Cleamore Road to Tully Road) - TBD by detailed study, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 45 | Main Street (Meadow Road to Beechgrove) - TBD by detailed study, short-medium term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 46 | Oaktree Road improvement - TBD by detailed study, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 47 | Green Road (eastern part) - TBD by detailed study, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 48 | Pidgeon Lane improvement - TBD by detailed study, one way, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 49 | Friary Road improvement - TBD by detailed study, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 50 | White Abbey Road improvement - TBD by detailed study, one way, medium-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| Cycle 51 | Fair Green Road improvement- TBD by detailed study, one way, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 52 | Meadow Road improvement - TBD by detailed study, short-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 53 | New pedestrian/cycle bridge connecting proposed east-west Greenway with Woodside Park – new bridge, long-term. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 54 | Eastern rail line pedestrian / cycle (greenway) bridge | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 55 | M7 crossing from proposed Cherry Avenue Park to potential link to Irish National Stud and Gardens | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 56 | Tully Road M7 Crossing | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 57 | Rathbride Abbey to Kildare Golf Club | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Cycle 58 | Link between Oaktree Road and Cherry Avenue Park | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Walking and Cycling Objectives | | |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| MTO 1.1 | Support and promote the use of sustainable active transport modes in Kildare Town and seek to implement a connected network of walking and cycling infrastructure in the town as detailed in Table 7-1 and 7-2 and illustrated on Map 7.1 and 7.2. in conjunction with the NTA, other statutory agencies, and the relevant stakeholders. The indicative measures will form the basis for individual projects, when the detailed design will be configured, and each project will be subjected to rigorous analysis, including environmental / ecological assessment, where applicable, to ensure that they are the most suitable option at the particular location. All measures will be designed in accordance with a public realm palette devised for the town by the Council's Strategic Projects and Public Realm team and shall incorporate nature-based surface water management as a solution for surface water management. | Screen out - support and promotion of sustainable active transport does not lie within the scope of management of Natura 2000 sites. |
| MTO 1.2 | Deliver a linkage between the town centre and the Kildare Tourist Village Outlet as detailed on Map 7.1. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| MTO 1.3 | Ensure all footpaths in Kildare Town are accessible to all members of the community, including people with disabilities, older persons and people with young children. | Screen out. This relates specifically to the design of footpaths, rather than location of footpaths. |
| MTO 1.4 | Ensure that all development allows for connectivity (pedestrian, and cyclist) to adjacent lands in accordance with the NTAs Permeability Best Practice Guide (2015) or any updated version of same. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| MTO 1.5 | Ensure new developments are permeable for walking and cycling and seek the retrospective implementation of walking and cycling facilities in existing neighbourhoods, where possible, in order to give competitive advantage to sustainable mobility. | Screen out, aspirational objective likely to result in decrease of air pollution. |
| MTO 1.6 | Ensure attractive walking and cycling routes are a fundamental element of the redevelopment of Former Magee Barracks in conjunction with the measures detailed in Table 7-1 and 7-2 and illustrated on Map 7.1 and 7.2. | Screen out. 'Attractive walking' doesn't lie within scope of management of Natura 2000 sites. |
| MTO 1.7 | Investigate the feasibility of the provision of a bike hire scheme to connect Kildare Town Train station - Market Square - Cherry Avenue Park (when completed) and to historic sites. | Screen out, aspirational objective with potential to lower potential for LSE. |
| MTO 1.8 | Seek to improve and promote looped walks in conjunction with Slí na Sláinte and other relevant bodies recognising them as important health and recreation infrastructure within the town. Ensure the routes are clearly demarcated and have a high-quality surface with sufficient lighting, signage and priority at junctions. | Screen out, aspirational nature as well as scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| MTO 1.9 | Support the implementation of complementary active travel measures such as the crossing facilities throughout the town, as identified in the Kildare Town Transport Strategy, in tandem with a review of footpaths on approach roads and greater signal priority for active travel. | Screen out, aspirational nature as well as scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| MTO 1.10 | Support St Brigid's Primary School and any other schools in their applications under the Safe Route to School Programme. | Screen out, aspirational nature as well as scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| MTO 1.11 | Ensure the provision of footpaths and improvement works (and cycle track / cycle lane where appropriate) on both sides of the R445 Dublin Road. | Screen out on basis of scale, scope and context of the objective as well as lack of air heavy air pollution from proposed development and lack of hydrological connectivity to zoned areas. |
| Public Transport Measures | | |
| PT 1 | Bus Transfer Point - Extension of route 126 to R415 outside Kildare Village to create bus transfer point with Dublin Coach services. Short-term | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| PT 2 | Bus Transfer Point - Extend Dublin Coach services and route 126 to serve a transfer point within Kildare Village. Medium to long-term. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| PT 3 | Bus - Improve quality and coverage of bus stops. Short-term | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| PT 4 | Bus - Work with the NTA to achieve more frequent bus services in particular on the 126 and 883 services. Short-term | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| PT 5 | Rail - Work with the NTA and Irish Rail to create a northern entrance to the train station. Short-term | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| PT 6 | Rail - KCC to work with the NTA and Irish Rail to upgrade the train station. Medium-term | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| PT 7 | Rail - KCC to work with the NTA and Irish Rail to achieve more frequent rail services. Medium-term | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| Public Transport Objectives | | |
| MTO 2.1 | Engage and co-operate with the Department of Transport, NTA, TII, Irish Rail, Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport in the town of Kildare including the implementation of the measures outlined in Table 7-3 and Map 7.3. | Screen out. Engagement and cooperation doesn't mean development. |
| MTO 2.2 | Support and facilitate the implementation of an extension of route 126 to the R415 to create a bus transfer point in the short term and in the longer term establish a transfer | Screen out. Doesn't suggest new development. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| | point within Kildare Tourist Outlet Village after the connectivity route between Kildare Tourist Outlet Village with Academy Street and the Cleamore Road area has been secured. | |
| MTO 2.3 | Work with the owners of Kildare Tourist Outlet Village to expedite the delivery of the permeability link to Cleamore Road prior to the development of the bus transfer point within the Outlet Village and to ensure their complimentary shuttle bus service is retained as part of the operation of Kildare Tourist Outlet Village. | Screen out – no new development. |
| MTO 2.4 | <p>Work with the NTA to pursue the delivery of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improvements to the quality and coverage of the bus stops and achieve more frequent bus services in Kildare Town. b) Achieve Leap Card integration at Kildare Train Station. c) Extension of the Phoenix Park tunnels rail services to Kildare Town. | Screen out – no new development. |
| MTO 2.5 | <p>Engage with the NTA and Irish Rail to support and facilitate the following rail improvements, and where necessary to preserve the identified routes free from development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The formation of a northern entrance to the train station. o The upgrading of the train station. o Achieving more frequent rail services. | Screen out, scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| MTO 2.6 | Provide greater priority for public transport services throughout Kildare Town by providing signal priority measures at key junctions. | Screen out, scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| MTO 2.7 | Investigate the feasibility of a public transport priority route between the M7 Motorway and Kildare Town Train Station as a longer-term vision for the town. | Screen out, aspirational nature as well as scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| MTO 2.8 | Actively support for the extension of the electrification of the Kildare Southwest Rail Line from Hazelhatch to Kildare Town. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| Road Measures | | |
| RD 1 | Closure of Old Road Bridge to vehicular traffic and the replacement/upgrade of Southgreen Bridge to facilitate two-way traffic with improvements to approach roads (the upgrade must be delivered prior to the closure). Medium-term. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---|--|--|
| RD 2 | Construction of Northern Link Street which includes one-way systems. Medium-term. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| RD 3 | Closure of Bride Street section of Market Square to vehicular traffic (linked to development of Magee Barracks Road and the Northern Link Street). Medium to long-term. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| RD 4 | One-way system on Meadow Road running east to west (to be delivered after the development of the Hospital Street – Tully Road link road to ensure an alternative route is available). Short-term. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| RD 5 | Upgrade signalised junctions to MOVA and SCOOT as appropriate. Short to medium-term. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| Previously Approved Measures | | |
| PA 1 | Phase 1 Magee Barracks Roads. Developer led | Screen out – Planning decision made. |
| PA 2 | Modus link road. Developer led. | Screen out – Planning decision made. |
| PA 3 | Hospital Street to Tully link road. Developer led. | Screen out – Planning decision made. |
| PA 4 | Phase 2 of Magee Barracks Road. Developer led. | Screen out – Planning decision made. |
| Road and Street Network Objectives | | |
| MTO 3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) or any subsequent guidelines. b. Safeguard the development and carrying capacity of the national road infrastructure along the existing M7 Motorway and associated Junctions 13, in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012) or any subsequent guidelines. | Screen out – relevant zone not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. Emissions might rise from this objective but not to the extent to result in LSE of European Designated sites over 7km away. |
| MTO 3.2 | <p>Ensure the implementation of the following road measures contained in Table 7-4 and illustrated in Map 7.4 in accordance with the DMURS standards for urban roads and streets and where necessary to preserve the identified routes free from development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Closure of Old Road Bridge to vehicular traffic and upgrade of Southgreen Bridge to two-way traffic (ii) Northern Link Street and associated one -way streets (iii) Closure of Bride Street | Screen out – objectives likely to result in fewer emissions and surface water run-off. Zoned area also not considered to have hydrological connectivity. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| | (iv) One-way system on Meadow Road (v) Upgrade signalised junctions to MOVA and SCOOT as appropriate. All road measures shall incorporate nature-based surface water management as a solution for surface water management. | |
| MTO 3.3 | Reduce the harmful effects of traffic noise by ensuring noise mitigation measures are implemented into new developments in proximity to motorway routes, national routes, regional routes and significant urban streets. Developers shall engage a suitably qualified acoustic specialist to prepare an Acoustic Design Statement for all new developments with the potential to impact sensitive noise receptors. The Statement shall have regard to the thresholds set out in the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (or any subsequent plan). | Screen out, objective likely to result in reducing background acoustic activity and burden on QIs of European designated sites. |
| MTO 3.4 | Ensure a 91-metre building line setback from the motorway and associated junctions from the nearest roadside edge to protect against transportation noise and to ensure the future protection of the motorway network. Under certain circumstances ancillary development may be considered within the setback zone in recognition of local conditions and the nature of the proposed activity. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| MTO 3.5 | Ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at the eastern section of Market Square once traffic is diverted from Bride Street, through a redesign of the eastern side of Market Square junction to increase its capacity to cater for greater vehicle volumes and to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| MTO 3.7 | Investigate the possibility of ancillary complimentary road measures such as the potential for a one-way system on Nugent Street, as part of the closure of Bride Street and also the possibility of a future HGV ban in the town centre within the lifetime of the Plan and/or under future land uses plans for the town. | Screen out, objective likely to result in lessening of background acoustic and air polluting activity and associated burden on QIs of European Protected sites through e.g., nitrogen deposition. |
| Car-parking Measures | | |
| PK 1 | Installation of VMS parking signs. Medium-term | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| PK 2 | Relocate on-street parking on Main Street. Short to medium-term. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of zone targeted by objective not deemed to result in LSE. |
| PK 3 | Creation of a new or upgraded town centre off-street car-park at the most appropriate of the three identified sites; Water tower, Dublin Road, Bride Street off-street car park. The preferred site/sites will be identified by a KCC feasibility study at a later date. Short to medium-term. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of zone targeted by objective not deemed to result in LSE. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| PK 4 | Upgrade of Kildare Town Train Station Car Park. Medium-term. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of zone targeted by objective not deemed to result in LSE. |
| PK 5 | Mobility Management Plans for major workplace locations: Kildare Tourist Outlet Village and the Kildare Chilling Site and other significant businesses. Short-term. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| PK 6 | Upgrade Nugent Street car-park. Short-term. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of zone targeted by objective not deemed to result in LSE. |
| Parking Objectives | | |
| MTO 4.1 | Apply the cycle parking and car-parking standards in the Kildare CDP, and relevant Section 28 Guidelines, to all applications for planning permission in Kildare Town. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| MTO 4.2 | Ensure that cycle parking should be appropriately designed into the public realm and new developments at an early stage to ensure that adequate cycle parking facilities are provided. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| MTO 4.3 | To provide adequate, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities subject to demand analysis, at appropriate locations at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Town centre o Kildare Town Train Station o Adjacent to heritage, community and amenity destinations. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of zone targeted by objective not deemed to result in LSE. |
| MTO 4.4 | Support and facilitate the implementation of the preferred car parking measures, as provided for on Map 7.5 and Table 7-5, as identified in the Kildare Town Transport Strategy. | Screen out – plan not subject to AA. |
| MTO 4.5 | Support and facilitate a range of car-parking infrastructure measures, as identified in the Kildare Town Transport Strategy as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Improve car-parking signage. o Review parking duration. o Review HGV loading bays, o Enhance parking enforcement, o Review school drop-off facilities, o Review of layby at Kildare Town Train Station. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---|---|--|
| MTO 4.6 | Investigate the provision of a designated drop zone for St Brigid's Primary School to remove cars from the area at drop off / pick up. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| MTO 4.7 | Investigate the provision of a designated area for coach parking in tandem with the feasibility study for the creation of a new or upgraded town centre off-street car-park (PK 3, refers). | Screen out - aspirational objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| Architectural Heritage Objectives | | |
| BHO 1.1 | Protect the architectural heritage of Kildare Town by ensuring the protection and conservation of all protected structures and structures of historic significance, (or parts of structures) including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures detailed in Table 8-1 and Map 8.1 and Map 8.2 or any additional structure placed on the Record of Protected Structures. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 1.2 | Support the sensitive conservation and restoration of protected structures and their attendant grounds and operate flexibility with regard to the sustainable reuse of these buildings to facilitate their ongoing use, subject to good conservation principles. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 1.3 | Support and promote the preparation of a management or conservation strategy for the Cathedral, the Castle and the Presentation Convent lands to inform future developments. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 1.4 | Actively seek funding from the Heritage Council for Kildare Town to enable KCC to carry out a full review of protected structures in the town to include the analysis and categorisation of the condition of each building in order to formulate a plan to safeguard and sustainably reuse these buildings within the lifetime of the local area plan. | Screen out - aspirational objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| Architectural Conservation Area Objectives | | |
| BHO 2.1 | Preserve the character of the designated Kildare Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) by ensuring that new development, extensions, renovation works and infill developments within or adjacent to the ACA is sympathetic to the distinctive character of the area and enhances the special character and visual setting of the ACA including inter alia vistas, streetscapes, building line, fenestration patterns and architectural features. Proposals for development shall include an analysis of how the new development complements the setting, character and appearance of the Kildare Town ACA referring to the findings of the ACA Statement of Character for the town. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| BHO 2.2 | Encourage the repair and enhancement of existing shopfronts and the replacement of inappropriate shopfronts and signage where necessary, having regard to the Kildare Town ACA Statement of Character and Kildare Shopfront Guidelines in the consideration of any shopfront or commercial proposals within the ACA in terms of design signage/advertising, lighting and materials. All proposals (contemporary or traditional) must be of a high quality of design and finish, contributing positively to the established pattern, scale, materials and proportions of buildings (including the upper floors) and should consider the reinstatement of historical features and the use of the Irish language. Such applications will be required to include a study of the overall façade and to make proposals to remove visually intrusive elements such as inappropriate signage, lighting and ancillary cables and ducts. | Screen out - aspirational objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 2.3 | Protect and enhance all protected views within the Architectural Conservation Area as illustrated on Map 8.3 by requiring a Visual Impact Assessment for developments which have the potential to impact on the character, value or sensitivity of the ACA. Where it is considered that a development may impact on a protected view, proposals must have regard to the significance of any such impact and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 2.4 | Initiate a ‘Beautiful Street Initiative’ encouraging the formation of Terrace / Street partners to carry out analysis and to prepare proposals for works to cumulatively enhance streets within the ACA boundary in accordance with the guidance contained in Section 11.1.2 of the ACA Statement of Character. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 2.5 | Preserve, incorporate and enhance the alignment of the historic burgage plots in particular the historic stone boundaries throughout the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) by complying with the principles of design for the area and Burgage Plot Guidelines in the Statement of Character, particularly to the south of Dublin Street, and the Market Square. All planning applications for development on lands that include or are bound by burgage plot boundaries are to clearly detail how these boundaries will be enhanced, reinstated and incorporated, in order to protect and enhance the historic interest presented by the Burgage plot boundaries. Adherence to any public realm palette of finishes which stem from the Town Renewal Masterplan projects is also required. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 2.6 | Ensure careful consideration of urban development within or adjoining Architectural Conservation Area ensuring the design rational and overall site context act as the main driver for the overall scale, mass, height and design in order to achieve the most appropriate development in sensitive areas. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| Scenic View Objectives | | |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---|--|--|
| BHO 3.1 | Protect the visual amenity and character of scenic routes and protected views in Kildare Town as identified on Map 8.4 and require a Visual Impact Assessment for development proposals which have the potential to impact on the special character and visual amenity of protected views and scenic routes as part of the development management process. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| Archaeological Heritage Objectives | | |
| BHO 4.1 | Protect and promote the archaeological heritage of Kildare Town in particular those sites illustrated on Map 8.1 and Map 8.2 and referred to under Table 8-5 and avoid negative impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest by ensuring archaeological assessments are undertaken to inform proposed development in accordance with the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 4.2 | Prioritise the protection/preservation in situ (or upon agreement preservation by record) of items of archaeological interest as listed in Table 8-5 and shown on Map 8.1 and Map 8.2 Built Heritage from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites. | Screen out - maintenance of status quo. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 4.3 | Ensure the route of the town walls alignment is protected and to promote public awareness and understanding of the existence of these historic elements, through the use of high-quality interpretative material and signage within the public realm. | Screen out – maintenance of status quo. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| BHO 4.4 | Support and maintain the membership of Kildare Town in the Irish Walled Towns Network which has been established by the Heritage Council. | Screen out - aspirational objective not deemed likely to result in LSE as does not result in land use change. |
| BHO 4.5 | Seek the implementation of heritage-led regeneration including that of the public realm, through funding sources such as the Historic Towns Initiative and the Urban/Rural Regeneration Development Fund whichever is applicable. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| Natural Heritage Objectives | | |
| NHO 1.1 | Ensure that any proposal for development within the plan area adjacent to the Curragh pNHA is located and designed to minimise impacts on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| NHO 1.2 | Require, where appropriate, that planning applications for development located within the plan area and adjacent to the Curragh pNHA are accompanied by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) prepared by a suitably qualified professional. | Screen out – planning related objective that ensures additional ecological protection. |
| NHO 1.3 | Encourage and promote appropriate sustainable access from Kildare Town to the Curragh. | Screen out - the area between Kildare Town and the Curragh to the north-east/east of the town, has no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
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| NHO 1.4 | Identify, protect and enhance, in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies and other relevant groups active in Kildare Town, sites of local biodiversity importance (Local Biodiversity Areas), not otherwise protected by legislation. | Screen out - objective relates to protection and enhancement of sites of local biodiversity importance, unlikely to result in LSE. |
| Green Infrastructure Objectives | | |
| NHO 2.1 | Protect identified key green infrastructure (Map 9.1) and steppingstone habitats (according to their value), enhance where possible and integrate existing and new green infrastructure as an essential component of new developments and prohibit development that would fragment the green infrastructure network. Site specific ecology surveys should be carried out in inform proposed development and assess and mitigate potential impacts. | Screen out - objective relates to preserving and encouraging intermediate natural heritage. |
| NHO 2.2 | Ensure that all development proposals on sites where hedgerows and treelines are located (identified on Map 9.1) are retained and integrated into the development in the first instance, or in exceptional circumstances, where they are required to be removed, ensure development proposals are accompanied by a planting scheme of similar quantity and species mix to ensure no net biodiversity loss. | Screen out - objective relates to preserving and encouraging intermediate natural heritage. |
| NHO 2.3 | Require proposals for development to demonstrate how they integrate/respond to Green Infrastructure and include measures to protect and enhance green infrastructure during construction periods. | Screen out - objective relates to preserving and encouraging intermediate natural heritage. |
| NHO 2.4 | Support the preparation of a Biodiversity Action Plan for Kildare Town including the development of a Community Biodiversity Toolkit, in line with all national policy documents that relate to biodiversity. | Screen out – desk-based exercise in line with existing guidance and related to preserving and encouraging intermediate natural heritage. |
| NHO 2.5 | Incorporate items of historical or heritage importance within the Green Infrastructure network as amenity features, where practical. | Screen out - objective relates to incorporation of existing features into features focussed on preserving and encouraging intermediate natural heritage. |
| NHO 2.6 | Ensure new development proposals have regard to the future function and variety of open spaces with a view to making provision for new areas of biodiversity, tree planting and/or pollinator friendly planting. | Screen out - objective relates to preserving and encouraging intermediate natural heritage. |
| Curragh Plain Objectives | | |
| NHO 3.1 | Require all development proposals located within the ‘Curragh Buffer Zone’ as identified on Map 9.1 to include a tree planting programme of native trees (to primarily include tree canopy of Scot’s pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>) / Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and underplanted with hazel (<i>Corylus avellane</i>) / birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>) to protect the ecological and amenity value of the Curragh. | Screen out – tree planting unlikely to result in LSE. No hydrological connectivity. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| NHO 3.2 | Ensure that lighting in developments adjacent to the Curragh do not negatively impact the area or cause light pollution. | Screen out – environmentally sensitive lighting unlikely to affect integrity of European designated sites 6km away. |
| Tree Coverage Objectives | | |
| NHO 4.1 | Require all development proposals to consider opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity, especially on greenfield sites. | Screen out - improving quality of sites for biodiversity is unlikely to result in adverse air or hydrological effects on European designated sites. |
| NHO 4.2 | Require all new residential developments (of 10 units or more) and commercial developments (on sites 0.5ha or larger) to include tree-planting proposals in the range of 1-5% site coverage, depending on the nature of the proposed use and function of associated open spaces. | Screen out - tree planting unlikely to result in adverse effects on European designated sites. |
| NHO 4.3 | Increase native tree planting and pollinator friendly planting, in accordance with the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, throughout Kildare Town and in open spaces in new developments in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management. | Screen out - tree and pollinator friendly planting unlikely to result in adverse effects on European designated sites. |
| NHO 4.4 | Encourage state agencies to include tree planting measures when delivering key infrastructure in the town or as part of any upgrading works related to key infrastructure of the town. | Screen out - tree planting unlikely to result in adverse effects on European designated sites. |
| NHO 4.5 | Support appropriate applications to the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme and to the Neighbourwood Scheme, both provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. | Screen out - tree planting unlikely to result in adverse effects on European designated sites. |
| NHO 4.6 | Support Community-led tree planting initiatives throughout Kildare Town at appropriate locations. | Screen out - tree planting unlikely to result in adverse effects on European designated sites. |
| Water and Wastewater Objectives | | |
| IO 1.1 | Work in conjunction with Uisce Éireann to promote and facilitate the provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure, to ensure that development land is effectively serviced to serve the needs of the existing and future population of Kildare Town and ensure that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with new development in accordance with the Implementation and Delivery Schedule (Section 11.1.1., refers). | Screen out – facilitating provision of infrastructure north of the motorway, in zone U, currently has no potential for LSE as there is no hydrological pathway currently. Feasibility of such a hydrological connection to European designated site (via Tully Stream or Armour Stream) will be investigated and subject to its own AA screening , as per Objective IO2.1. Objective IO1.2 suggests that LAP does not propose a change in discharge into River Tully from existing Kildare Town wastewater treatment plant, where hydrological connectivity to a European designated site currently exists. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|---|--|---|
| IO 1.2 | Ensure that surface run-off does not discharge to the existing wastewater treatment infrastructure in Kildare Town to ensure that developments do not have a negative impact on the capacity of the wastewater treatment network. | Screen out – objective does not propose a change in discharge into River Tully. |
| Surface Water and Groundwater Objectives | | |
| IO 2.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue opportunities to increase surface water drainage capacity in the town as identified in the Surface Water Study, in particular to investigate the feasibility of: A new surface water network through the Former Magee Barracks site connecting to the existing surface water siphon under the M7 Motorway with eventual outfall to the Tully Stream. A new surface water pipe crossing under the M7 Motorway and west of the R415 with outfall to the Armour Stream. <p>Investigations shall be subject to capacity assessments, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening and Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA to minimise the risk of likely significant effects on European Sites, their qualifying interest species and their hydrological connections.</p> | Screen out – this objective relates only to a feasibility study, not implementation. As stated, feasibility will include AA screening. |
| IO 2.2 | Prepare a Surface Water Masterplan for Kildare Town, based on the information, recommendations and additional surveys required contained within the Surface Water Study that accompanies this Plan. | Screen out – desk-based exercise which will be subject to its own AA screening before it is adopted. |
| IO 2.3 | Incorporate nature-based water drainage solutions as part of all plans and projects in Kildare Town. Proposals for new development shall align with the Kildare County Development Plan, the Kildare Town Surface Water Study (that accompanies this Plan), the Surface Water Masterplan (once finalised) and the County Kildare Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Guidance Document (once finalised). | Screen out – hydrological connectivity but objective likely to help protect water quality |
| IO 2.4 | Ensure areas indicated as Nature-Based Management Areas (NBMAs) on Map 10.1 are reserved free from development and integrated into design proposals for nature-based surface water drainage purposes; whilst also ensuring a network of Surface Water Corridors (surface water pathway corridors) are provided in accordance with the indicative locations shown on Map 10.1. | Screen out – hydrological connectivity but objective likely to help protect water quality |
| IO 2.5 | Require the Proposed Wayleave for Future Surface Water Network Extension as indicated on Map 10.1 to be included in development proposals on sites affected by the indicative route. | Screen out – hydrological connectivity to the south-west but Nature Based Management Areas will protect water quality plus 13km from SAC. No hydrological connectivity to the east. |
| Flood Risk Management Objectives | | |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|--|--|---|
| IO 3.1 | Require a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment to be carried out for developments located within the Pluvial Flood Risk Area as outlined on Map 10.2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Map | Screen out – desk-based exercise. |
| Energy and Communications Objectives | | |
| IO 4.1 | Support and facilitate the provision of telecommunications and the energy supply network infrastructure in Kildare Town, subject to safety and amenity requirements. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of zone targeted by objective not deemed to result in LSE as no hydrological connectivity. |
| IO 4.2 | Investigate the feasibility of providing free and accessible Wi-Fi at Market Square. | Screen out. Scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE |
| IO 4.3 | Seek the undergrounding of all electricity, telephone and television cables within the Kildare Town Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and discourage the proliferation of above ground utility boxes and to seek screening measures in conjunction with the provision of such structures. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of zone targeted by objective not deemed to result in LSE as no hydrological connectivity. |
| IO 4.4 | Promote and encourage the use of renewable energy technologies for small, medium and large developments of existing and proposed building stock, such as district heating, micro generation (photovoltaic, micro-wind, micro hydro and micro combined heat and power) and other renewable energy technologies subject to the consideration of environmental, conservation and visual requirements. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of zone targeted by objective not deemed to result in LSE as no hydrological pathway. |
| IO 4.5 | Consult with Gas Networks Ireland prior to any significant Public Realm Works to give residents and business owners along streets or roads where works are due to commence the opportunity to connect to the natural gas network in advance of the works commencing, where applicable. | Screen out - aspirational nature as well as scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE. |
| Pollution and Environment Services Objectives | | |
| IO 5.1 | Maintain existing recycling facilities and secure the provision of additional facilities, in conjunction with new development as required, in particular at the land designated a Neighbourhood Centre at Southgreen Road and within the former Magee Barracks site as per Section 11.1. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. |
| IO 5.2 | Support the development of a green waste composting site in Kildare Town for use by local community groups for the sustainable disposal of green waste at appropriate locations. | Screen out - scale, scope and context of objective not deemed likely to result in LSE. Anticipate that biogas will be attenuated over 6km distance to European designated site. |

| Objective/Measure No. | Objective/Measure | Potential for LSE |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| IO 5.3 | Support local schools, town and community groups such as Kildare Tidy Towns through education and awareness programmes and where available, through the provision of grant aid. | Screen out - aspirational nature as well as scale, scope and context of objective unlikely to give rise to LSE, as no land use change anticipated. |

Land Use Zoning Objectives

Land use zonings are identified on the Zoning Map within the draft Plan and should be read in conjunction with Table 5 of the draft Plan. Potential for LSE within resulting from objectives related to land-use zoning is considered in Table 3.

Table 3: Draft Plan Land-Use Zoning

| Ref. | Land Use | Land-Use Zoning Objectives | Potential for LSE |
|------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| A | Town Centre | To protect, improve and provide for the future development of the town centre. | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| B | Existing Residential / Infill | To protect and enhance the amenity of established residential communities and promote sustainable intensification. Specific Objective: Site B*: Development of the site located north of railway should incorporate significant pedestrian and cycling infrastructure (including secure bicycle parking) to provide a northern approach to the railway station within a high-quality public realm. | Screen out – enhancing amenity of existing residential area will not result in significant pollution that would have a LSE on the hydrologically connected SAC 13km away. |
| C | New Residential | To provide for new residential development. | Screen out – scale, scope and context of residential development, coupled with embedded standard best practice for pollution prevention (construction and operation) and the dilution effect along 13km of watercourse/6km atmospheric. |
| C | New Residential Phase 2 | To protect future development lands from inappropriate forms of development which would impede the sequential expansion and consolidation of the town in terms of providing for new residential development for future plans ²⁶ . The inclusion of these lands will not in any way infer a prior commitment regarding the nature of any future zoning. Such a decision will be considered within the framework of the need for additional zoned lands and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. Scale, scope and context of residential development coupled with anticipated dilution effect of air pollution arising. |
| D | Retail Outlet Centre | To provide for retail outlet centre development. The purpose of this zoning is to support the development of the Kildare Tourist Outlet Village which consists of a group of store retailing end-of-season or discontinued items at discounted prices in accordance with the definition of Outlet Centre as defined in the Retail Planning: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) or any subsequent guidelines. | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |

²⁶ The land identified as Phase 2 could be brought forward for New Residential through a statutory amendment under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to align the local area plan with any future revised population growth contained in any possible variation to the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

| Ref. | Land Use | Land-Use Zoning Objectives | Potential for LSE |
|------|------------------------------|---|---|
| E | Community and Educational | To provide for education, recreation, community and health. Specific Objective: E* - These lands have been designated for the provision of a childcare facility only in line with approved residential developments. | Screen out – only area with possible hydrological connection is existing spirituality centre, already in use for community and education, so existing land-use is maintained. |
| F | Open Space and Amenity | To protect and provide for open space, amenity and recreation provision. | Screen out – unlikely to cause water pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| G | National Stud and Green Belt | To protect and enhance the development of the Irish National Stud and established agricultural / bloodstock uses while also protecting the physical, environmental, natural and heritage resources such as the Curragh. | Screen out – maintaining and enhancing environment unlikely to result in LSE. |
| H | Industry and Warehousing | To provide for industry, manufacturing, distribution and warehousing. | Screen out – unlikely to cause water pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| H* | Industry and Warehousing | To provide for industry, manufacturing, distribution and warehousing. H* Require all development proposals to be accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment addressing potential impacts on the Armour Stream, a tributary of the River Barrow River Nore SAC. | Screen out – there is hydrological connectivity to a European designated site 13km downstream, however uncertainty over the nature of industry/warehousing proposals creates a requirement for project level AA. |
| I | Agricultural | To retain and protect agricultural uses. | Screen out – maintaining and enhancing environment unlikely to result in LSE. |
| K | Commercial | To protect and improve existing commercial uses and provide for additional commercial developments. | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI for the majority of this zone, except for the existing commercial premises south of the motorway approximately 100m from the River Armour. No LSE anticipated from protection/improvement of this premise, given it already exists. |
| N | Neighbourhood Centre | To provide for new/existing neighbourhood centres and associated facilities. Note: neighbourhood centres are intended to serve the immediate needs of local residents and workers and should not compete with similar retail uses within the town centre. | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |

| Ref. | Land Use | Land-Use Zoning Objectives | Potential for LSE |
|------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Q | Enterprise and Employment | To provide for and facilitate the provision of high job-generating uses. | Screen out – enterprise zones not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| R | Retail / Commercial | To support continued operation of existing commercial uses. | Screen out – maintains baseline use. |
| S | Equine Industry | To provide for the development of the Equine Industry. The primary use within this zone is equestrian related activities such as education and training facilities, indoor and outdoor performance arenas and associated offices and car parking. The primary purpose of this zoning is to facilitate the further development of the Racing Academy and Centre of Education (RACE) campus as Ireland’s academy for the horse racing industry and an international centre of horse racing excellence. Limited self-catering accommodation associated with the RACE Ireland facility is acceptable in this land use zoning. | Screen out – no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| SR | Strategic Reserve | To protect the integrity of the lands to provide for the future strategic expansion of the town. To ensure no inappropriate forms of development impede the future orderly expansion of the town. The inclusion of these lands will not in any way infer a prior commitment regarding the nature of any future zoning. Such a decision will be considered within the framework of the need for additional zoned lands and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. | Screen out – maintain status quo. |
| T | Mixed-use | To provide for commercial, educational, residential and community uses. Specific Objective: The future development of this Settlement Consolidation Site shall have regard to the Urban Design Framework prepared for the site. | Screen out –uses of zone not anticipated to result in heavy air pollution, and no hydrological connectivity to any European designated sites within the ZoI. |
| U | Utilities/Services | To provide for and improve public utilities. | Screen out – only area with possible hydrological connection is existing Kildare Town Wastewater Treatment Plant, (which is subject to environmental permitting, and has sufficient capacity (currently 62%)), and objective IO1.2 of the LAP is to ensure that surface run-off does not discharge to the existing wastewater treatment infrastructure in Kildare Town to ensure that developments do not have a negative impact on the capacity of the wastewater treatment network. |

3.7 Impact to European Designated Sites

Following a review of the objectives and actions of the draft Plan alongside the sensitivities of each European designated site, the potential for LSE has been assessed. European designated sites were screened out based on one or more of the following criteria:

- where the European designated site is located at such a distance that impacts are considered highly unlikely and there are no clear impact pathways such as hydrological links. As mentioned previously, a European designated sites will only be at risk from LSE where the S-P-R link exists between the draft Plan and the European designated site; and/or
- where known threats or vulnerabilities of a European designated site, as listed in their site documents, cannot be linked to any potential impacts that may occur through the implementation of the draft Plan.

The outcome of this screening on each European site is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Potential Pathway to European Designated Sites

| Site | Distance from Draft Plan Area (km) | Connectivity Between Site and Draft Plan Area | Potential Pathway Summary |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Pollardstown Fen SAC | 3.0 | <p>Surface water in Pollardstown SAC flows north towards Milton. There is no geohydrological connection to the draft Plan area.</p> <p>There is no hydrogeological connection between the Pollardstown Fen SAC and Kildare Town (see separate Technical Report).</p> <p>Terrestrial pathways are limited as agricultural land between Kildare Town and Pollardstown Fen SAC is fragmented by a series of roads. This is not considered to offer a potential terrestrial pathway.</p> | No pathway identified. |
| Mouds Bog SAC | 5.5 | <p>There is no hydrological connection between Mouds Bog SAC (north of Pollardstown Fen SAC) and Kildare Town.</p> <p>A surface water body is located north of Mouds Bog SAC boundary and flows east to join the River Liffey, flowing east from Kildare Town. Appendix C.1 details a lack of geohydrological connection.</p> <p>Terrestrial pathways are limited as agricultural land between Kildare Town and Mouds Bog SAC is fragmented by a series of roads. This is not considered to offer a potential terrestrial pathway.</p> | No pathway identified. |
| River Barrow and River Nore SAC | 6.0 | <p>Within the south of the draft Plan area, a surface watercourse named Tully Stream flows south from the Japanese Gardens, and Armour Stream, over a distance of approximately 13km to meet the Finnery River which is designated as part of the River Barrow & River Nore SAC.</p> <p>Between the Japanese Gardens and the River Barrow & River Nore SAC, the surface water passes through five confluence points.</p> <p>This constitutes a hydrological connection to the SAC.</p> <p>There are fragmented areas of forest between the SAC & Kildare town, but the area is not considered sufficient to offer a potential terrestrial pathway.</p> | Pollution risk via hydrological connection |
| Ballynafagh Lake SAC | 13.2 | <p>Surface water from the Ballynafagh Lake SAC flows south-east in the Slate River this is approximately 10km north of Kildare Town. The water travels 30km, before meeting a section of river designated as the River Barrow & River Nore SAC. See Appendix C.1 detailing a lack of geohydrological connection.</p> <p>There is no suitable linear feature to offer a terrestrial pathway between Kildare Town and Ballynafagh Lake SAC.</p> | No pathway identified. |

| Site | Distance from Draft Plan Area (km) | Connectivity Between Site and Draft Plan Area | Potential Pathway Summary |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Ballynafagh Bog SAC | 14.7 | <p>There is a surface watercourse along the southern boundary of the SAC. This flows east to the Slate River. The water travels 30km, before meeting a section of river designated as the River Barrow & River Nore SAC. See Appendix C.1 detailing a lack of geohydrological connection.</p> <p>There is no suitable linear feature to offer a terrestrial pathway between Kildare Town and Ballynafagh Lake SAC.</p> <p>There are no potential hydrological nor terrestrial pathways between Ballynafagh Bog SAC & Kildare town.</p> | No pathway identified. |

4. Conclusion

There are five European designated sites within the ZoI of the draft Plan, namely Pollardstown Fen SAC, Mouds Bog SAC, Ballynafagh Lake SAC, River Barrow and River Nore SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC.

Of these five European designated sites, there is only a potential impact pathway identified between the area covered by the draft Plan, and one site, namely the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. This is a hydrological connection via the Tully Stream and Armour Stream, along 13km of watercourse (including five confluences), to the Finny River which is designated as part of the River Barrow & River Nore SAC.

The potential for LSE of each individual objective/land-use zoning in the draft Plan on the integrity of the River Barrow & River Nore SAC has been systematically considered (see Table 3 and Table 4), and it is recommended that all objectives can be screened out from AA.

It should however be noted that for **land-use zone H*** (Industry and Warehousing) and **Objective IO2.1**, there will be a need for project-level Appropriate Assessment, as follows:

- **Land-use Zone H (Industry and Warehousing)**, which aims to provide for industry, manufacturing, distribution and warehousing, has hydrological connectivity to the River Barrow & River Nore SAC 13km downstream, via the Armour Stream. The draft LAP requires all development proposals to be accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment addressing potential impacts on the Armour Stream, a tributary of the River Barrow River Nore SAC; and
- **IO2.1, which relates to investigating the feasibility of a new surface water network**, connecting to eventual outfalls at Tully Stream and Armour Stream, which are hydrologically connected to the River Barrow & River Nore SAC. The draft LAP already states that such investigations shall be subject to capacity assessments, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening and AA screening (and where applicable AA), to minimise the risk of LSE on European designated sites, their QI species and their hydrological connections.


Appendix A

Maps

A.1 Extent of Draft Plan Area



Legend

 Extent of draft Plan Area



| Rev | Date | By | Chkd | Appd |
|-----|------------|----|------|------|
| 01 | 13/03/2023 | AS | CMcK | SW |

Client



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Project Title

**Kildare Town Draft Local Area Plan
 (LAP) 2023-2029**

Drawing Title

Extent of draft Plan Area

Scale at A3

1:17,000

Date

15/03/2023

Figure Number

Fig A.1

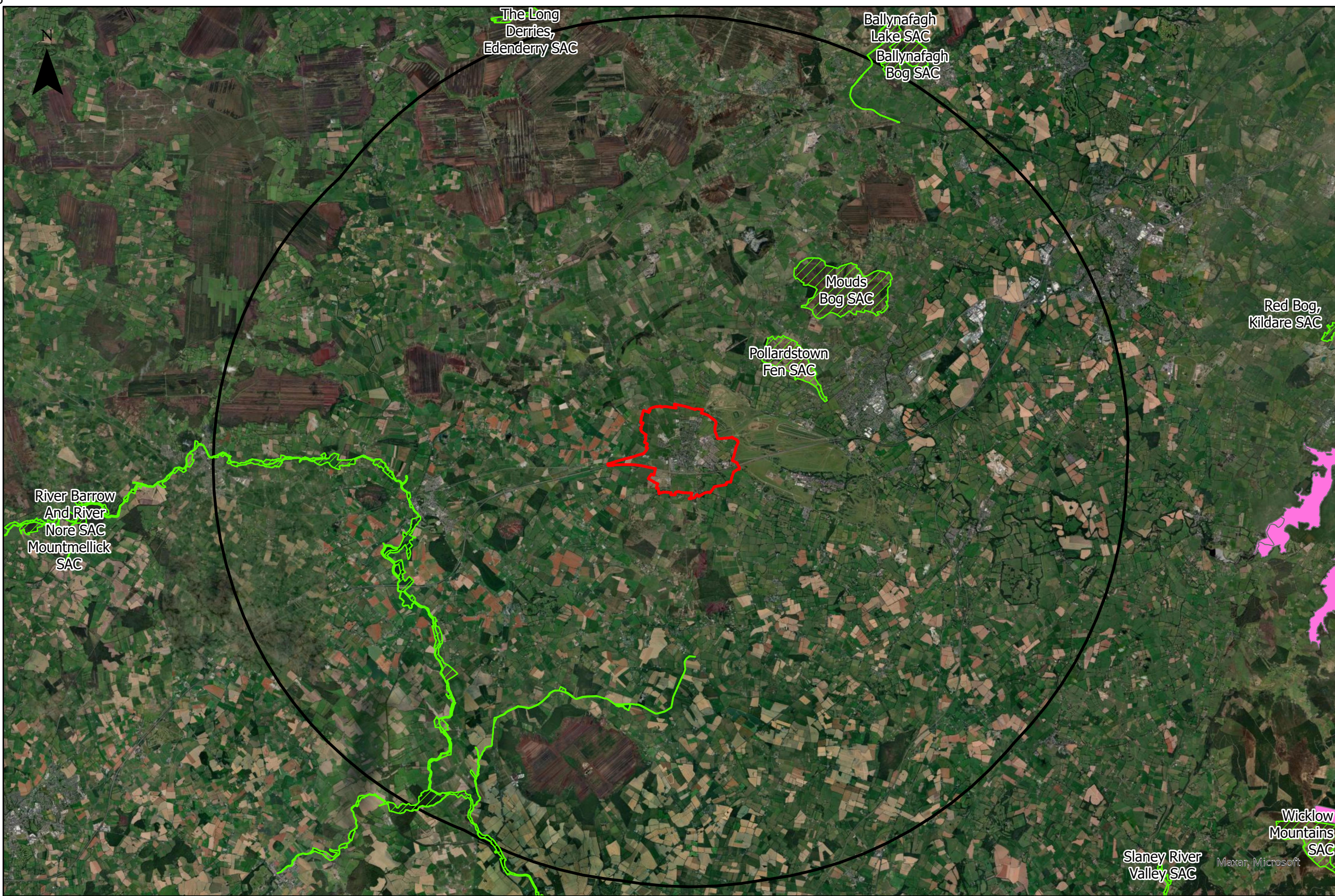
Arup Job No

278388-00

Rev

01

A.2 European Designated Sites Within 15km of the Proposed Development Site



Legend

- Extent of draft Plan Area
- Buffer (15km)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)



River Barrow
And River
Nore SAC
Mountmellick
SAC

The Long
Derries,
Edenderry SAC

Ballynafagh
Lake SAC
Ballynafagh
Bog SAC

Mouds
Bog SAC

Pollardstown
Fen SAC

Red Bog,
Kildare SAC

Wicklow
Mountains
SAC

Slaney River
Valley SAC

Maxar, Microsoft



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Project Title
Kildare Town Draft Local Area Plan (LAP) 2023-2029

Drawing Title
European Designated Sites within 15km of the Draft Plan

Scale at A3
1:155,000

Date
15/03/2023

Figure Number
Fig A.2

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Arup Job No 278388-00 | Rev 01 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|

A.3 Hydrological Connection via Tully Stream to River Barrow and Nore SAC (Source EPA Maps)

Appendix B

Tables

B.1 Policy, Plans and Programmes of Relevance to the Draft Plan

| Level | Policies, Plans and Programmes |
|--|---|
| International/EU Level | Policies |
| | Water Framework Directive and associated Directives |
| | SEA Directive |
| | Floods Directive |
| | Groundwater Directive |
| | Habitats Directive |
| | Birds Directive |
| | Freshwater Fish Directive |
| | Shell-fish Directive |
| | Drinking Water Directive |
| | Bathing Water Directive |
| | Environmental Impact Assessment Directive |
| | Seveso Directive |
| | Sewage Sludge Directive |
| | Urban Waste-Water Treatment Directive |
| | Waste Framework Directive |
| Nitrates Directive | |
| Soils Directive | |
| Air Quality Directives including Framework Directive | |
| National Emissions Ceiling Directive (2016/2284) | |
| Environmental Noise Directive | |
| Industrial Emissions Directive | |
| EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package | |
| | Plans |
| | The EU Zero Pollution Action Plan |
| | Programmes/Guidelines/Strategies/Conventions/Protocols |
| | Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) |
| | EU Reach Initiative |
| | European Landscape Convention |
| | UN Convention of Biological Diversity, 1992 |
| | Kyoto Protocol |
| | Stockholm Convention |
| | Valetta Convention |
| | Ramsar Convention |
| | OSPAR Convention |
| | Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995) |
| | ESPOO Convention and Kyiv (SEA) Protocol |

| Level | Policies, Plans and Programmes |
|----------------|---|
| | <p>Gothenburg Strategy</p> <p>European Green Deal</p> <p>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</p> <p>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p>Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</p> <p>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</p> <p>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</p> <p>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</p> <p>The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020</p> <p>EU (2030) Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>National Air Pollution Control Programme</p> <p>8th Environmental Action Programme</p> |
| National Level | <p>Policies</p> <p>Policy Position on Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development. National Policy Position Ireland (2014)</p> <p>Town Centre First, A Policy Approach for Irish Towns (2022)</p> <p>Places for People, National Policy on Architecture (2022)</p> <p>National Policy on Town Defences (2008)</p> <p>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act (2015), as amended</p> <p>Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025</p> <p>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</p> <p>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</p> <p>Plans</p> <p>National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021</p> <p>Draft 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2027</p> <p>Threat Response Plans</p> <p>Species Action Plans (SAPs)</p> <p>River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2021 (2021)</p> <p>National Development Plan 2018 - 2027 (2018)</p> <p>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)</p> <p>National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 (2018)</p> <p>National Water Resources Plan (NWRP)</p> <p>National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030</p> <p>Irish Water’s Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</p> <p>Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development</p> <p>Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites</p> <p>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025</p> <p>Programmes/Guidelines/Strategies/Conventions/Protocols</p> <p>Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016 - 2021</p> |

| Level | Policies, Plans and Programmes |
|----------------|---|
| | <p>Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2018)</p> <p>Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities. Best Practice Guidelines for Delivering Homes Sustaining Communities (2007)</p> <p>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management. Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)</p> <p>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns and Villages) (2009)</p> <p>Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Retail Planning (2012)</p> <p>Local Area Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2013)</p> <p>Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Spatial Planning and National Roads (2012)</p> <p>Nature Based Solution to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas, Water Sensitive Urban Design, Best Practice Interim Guidance Document (2022)</p> <p>Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (2012)</p> <p>Our Sustainable Future Progress Report (2015)</p> <p>Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidelines for Planning Authorities (revised 2010)</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)</p> <p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025</p> <p>Heritage Ireland 2030</p> <p>The Energy White Paper 2015-2030</p> <p>Programme for Government – Our Share Future (2020)</p> <p>EPA Land Use Review - The Land Use Evidence Review</p> <p>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]</p> <p>Draft Clean Air Strategy for Ireland</p> <p>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</p> <p>National Air Pollution Control Programme (DCCAIE, 2019)</p> <p>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</p> <p>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</p> <p>Draft Renewable Electricity Development Framework (DCCAIE) 2016</p> <p>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies</p> <p>Prioritised Action Framework 2021-2027 (NPWS)</p> |
| Regional Level | <p>Policies</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Plans</p> <p>River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021</p> <p>Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027</p> <p>Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</p> <p>Flood Risk Management Plans</p> <p>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</p> <p>Programmes/Guidelines/Strategies/Conventions/Protocols</p> <p>Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031</p> <p>Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016</p> <p>Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042</p> |

| Level | Policies, Plans and Programmes |
|-------------|--|
| | Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM) Study Groundwater Protection Schemes Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies |
| Local Level | Plans Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025 County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025 Other Local Area Plans |

B.2 Planning Application Search in Relation to Extent of Plan Area with Consideration for In-Combination Effects in the Past Five Years

| Application Number | Application Status | Decision | Address | Description | Determination – AA/EIA |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--|---|--|
| 19284 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Conditional | Tully Road,, Kildare Town,, Co. Kildare. | Modifications to a previously permitted residential development under Reg. Ref. 10/374 and 15/653. The Proposed development consists of changes of house type from 10 No. permitted 3 storey 5 bedroom detached and semi-detached houses to 10 No. proposed 2 storey d4 bedroom detached and semi-detached houses, and all associated site development works on a site area measuring 0.5ha | Decision Letter Application approved. Proposed development subject to conditions outlined in CEMP. |
| 171272 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Tully Road , Kildare , Co. Kildare R51 KR76. | Development on a site of c. 0.8ha. The proposed development shall provide for: (a) the demolition (c. 600sqm) of the existing dwelling house (c. 6.2m max height) and associated single storey outbuildings on site; and (b) the construction of a residential development (c. 3,857sqm GFA overall) consisting of 19 No. 5 bedroom house units (2.5 storey with Velux and dormer windows) in the form of 13 detached and 6 semidetached units, all of c. 203sqm GFA and each with an associated private rear garden area. The development shall also provide for 38 car parking spaces; a new public open space area; a revised vehicular access arrangement from Tully Road; all landscaping works; site services; and all site development works. | AA Screening and concluding assessment: No potential significant effects and AA is not required. |
| 181136 | INCOMPLETED APPLICATION | n/a | Loughlion, Kildare , Co. Kildare | (a) Demolition of the existing dilapidated and disused single storey building. (b) Relocation of the existing entrance. (c) Erection of 6 no. office based industry, business, science, and technology buildings – erection of 1 no. part office based industry, business, science and technology building – part amenity, leisure and conference facility, all with associated signage. (d) Sloping roof feature with photovoltaic panels, having an overall height of approx. 14.5 m on the south elevation of all buildings. (e) Provision for new road network throughout the site. (f) Provision for 200 carparking spaces. (g) Proposed landscaping, planting and all associated site works. (h) New entrance with 1.8m high feature stone wall with associated wall mounted signage. (i) A new 1.8m wrought iron boundary fence with associated hedging to the north west boundary of the site (along the local roadside), a new 2m security fence to the eastern boundary of the site with associated planting, and additional planting to supplement the existing trees and shrubs along the southern boundary of the site, Bounded by the M7. (J) Erection of a signage structure at the main entrance. | Incomplete application |
| 141091 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Kilnagorman , Green Road , Kildare | (a) A new two storey detached building with stud farm office at ground level and a two bedroomed stud farm manager’s apartment at ground and first floor level; (b) A new two storey detached 3 bedroomed house for stud farm head groom; (c) A new two storey detached 4 bedroomed house for stud farm owner; (d) All ancillary siteworks, driveways, boundary fences, landscaping, and 3 No. wastewater treatment plants and percolation areas | AA Screening concludes no NIS required. |
| 17764 | APPEALED FINANCIAL | Granted | South Green , Kidare Town , Co. Kildare | modifications to development permitted under Reg. Ref. 07/1450 (ABP Ref. PL09.299110 - subsequently withdrawn) & Reg. Ref. 13/155 to now provide for the construction of a 2 storey residential scheme (overall GFA c. 23,326sqm) comprising 191 no. dwelling units; 2 | AA Screening: not considered that the proposed development |

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| | | | | no. vehicular and pedestrian access points at Green Road and Southgreen Road to serve the development, and all associated internal access roads and junctions; development of the Southern Internal Link Road between Southgreen Road and Dunmurray Road including junction upgrade works at Southgreen Road, Old Road and Dunmurray Road as well as upgrade works along a portion of Southgreen Road to the north of the Southern Internal Link Road; new pumping station within the site adjacent to Green Road and all associated site service connections. The residential element of the scheme shall provide for 12 no. 2 bed units, 114 no. 3 bed units and 65 no. 4 bed units in a mixture of detached, semi-detached and terraced house type units (House Types A-F), ranging in size from c. 84-137.6sqm, all with associated private open space areas. The development shall also provide c. 385 no. car parking spaces, 2 no. ESB Sub Stations; public open space areas; all boundary treatment and associated landscaping works; site service connections; and all site development works on an overall site of c. 9.17ha at Green Road and Southgreen Road (also known as Hill Road) and Old Road and Dunmurray Road (R401) | would negatively impact the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. |
| 181026 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Southgreen Road Old Road Dunmurray Road , Southgreen , Kildare Town | The proposed development comprises a residential scheme of 99 no. dwelling units in a mixture of 2 storey and 2 storey plus dormer houses and 3- storey duplex apartment buildings (GFA approx.11,321.2m2); and provision of a 1-2 storey childcare facility (GFA approx. 393m2),including outdoor amenity space, 24 no. car parking spaces, a bike shelter accommodating 10 no. bicycle parking spaces, and a bin store (13sqm). The 53 no. proposed houses shall comprise of 34 no. 2 storey 3- bedroom houses, 11 no. 2- storey 4- bedroom houses, and 8 no. 2- storey plus dormer 4-bedroom houses; 106 no. car parking spaces provided on- curtilage. The 46 no proposed apartments accommodated in 4 no. 3 storey duplex apartment buildings, shall comprise of; 5 no. 1-bedroom units, 18 no. 2- bedroom units, and 23 no. 3-bedroom units; together with 84 no. allocated and visitor car parking spaces, 5 no. bin stores, and 7 no. bike shelters accommodating 70 no. bicycle parking spaces. The proposed development also comprises all ancillary site development works, landscaping and boundary treatment, including 2 no. pedestrian / cyclist access points off Dunmurray Road, a pedestrian / cyclist access point off the proposed Southern Internal Link Road, and a pedestrian / cyclist access point off Old Road (4 no. pedestrian/ cyclist entrances in total); public open space (approx. 1.38 Ha); 2 no. vehicular access points to serve the development are provided off Dunmurray Road (opposite Bishopsland) and the proposed Southern Internal Link Road (between Old Road and Dunmurray Road); and undergrounding of existing electrical services. The proposed development shall also include the provision of the Southern Internal Link Road between Southgreen Road and Dunmurray Road, including junction upgrade works at Southgreen Road, Old Road and Dunmurray Road; provision of improvement works to Dunmurray Road from a point approximately 54m north of the junction with Dunmurray Court to a point approximately 95m north of the junction with Crockanure Avenue, to provide a pedestrian path and off-carriageway cycle path on western side of the road. REVISED BY SIGNIFICANT FURTHER INFORMATION CONSISTING OF; | Tree Report Arboricultural report providing mitigation recommendations. AA Screening Report The AA Screening report found no likely significant effects. |
| 17764 | APPEALED FINANCIAL | Granted | South Green , Kidare Town , Co. Kildare | modifications to development permitted under Reg. Ref. 07/1450 (ABP Ref. PL09.299110 - subsequently withdrawn) & Reg. Ref. 13/155 to now provide for the construction of a 2 storey residential scheme (overall GFA c. 23,326sqm) comprising 191 no. dwelling units; 2 no. vehicular and pedestrian access points at Green Road and Southgreen Road to serve the development, and all associated internal access roads and junctions; development of the | AA Screening: not considered that the proposed development would negatively impact the integrity of |

| Application Number | Application Status | Decision | Address | Description | Determination – AA/EIA |
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| | | | | Southern Internal Link Road between Southgreen Road and Dunmurray Road including junction upgrade works at Southgreen Road, Old Road and Dunmurray Road as well as upgrade works along a portion of Southgreen Road to the north of the Southern Internal Link Road; new pumping station within the site adjacent to Green Road and all associated site service connections. The residential element of the scheme shall provide for 12 no. 2 bed units, 114 no. 3 bed units and 65 no. 4 bed units in a mixture of detached, semi-detached and terraced house type units (House Types A-F), ranging in size from c. 84-137.6sqm, all with associated private open space areas. The development shall also provide c. 385 no. car parking spaces, 2 no. ESB Sub Stations; public open space areas; all boundary treatment and associated landscaping works; site service connections; and all site development works on an overall site of c. 9.17ha at Green Road and Southgreen Road (also known as Hill Road) and Old Road and Dunmurray Road (R401) | the Natura 2000 network. |
| 171018 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Townlands of Kildare and Whitesland East , Kildare Town , Co. Kildare | The development will consist of 74 no. dwellings (comprising of 17 no. 4 bed, 3 storey detached dwellings; 21 no. 4 bed, 2 storey detached dwellings; 15 no. 3 bed, 2 storey semi-detached dwellings (with garden sheds) and 21 no. 4 bed, 3 storey semi-detached dwellings), private open space, car parking, public open space (with playground facility), new vehicular entrance and all associated site development works including pumping station, landscaping and boundary treatment on lands measuring approximately 5.49 hectares east of the R415. Revised by Significant Further Information consisting of; revised site layout with all associated site works. The number of dwellings proposed will remain the same at 74 (comprising of 6no. 4 bed, 3 storey detached dwellings; 8 no. 4 bed, 2 storey detached dwellings; 19.no 3 bed 2 storey semidetached dwellings (with garden sheds) and 41 no. 4 bed, 3 storey semi-detached dwellings). The proposed pumping station is omitted | AA Screening Report completed . |
| 20159 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Rathbride Road , Kildare Town , Co. Kildare. | The construction of 74 No. dwellings. The proposed development is comprised of 1 No. 2 storey 4 bed detached house, 22 No. 2 storey 4 bed semi-detached houses, 45 No. 2 storey 3 bed semi-detached and terraced houses and 6 No. 2 storey 2 bed terraced houses. Access to the proposed development will be from Rathbride Road via existing entrance previously permitted under Reg. Ref. 16/1227. The proposed development also includes all associated site development works, parking, open spaces, landscaping, drainage, infrastructural works etc. all on a site measuring circa 3.11 hectares, | Ecology surveys undertaken Planning report states: the proposed development will not impact on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. |
| 161227 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Rathbride Road , Kildare Town , Co. Kildare. | construction of 33 No. dwellings comprised of 5 No. 4 bed detached houses, 26 No. 3 bed semi-detached houses and 2 No. 2 bed apartments, located over a proposed crèche (240sqm), all within a 2 storey building, along with a separate 2 storey building (380sqm) accommodating retail use. The proposed development provides for landscaping, open spaces, car parking, undergrounding of overhead ESB wires on site and provision of new pylon, and all associated site development works on a site area of 1.7ha located with access off the Rathbride Road. The effect of the proposed development will be a modification to part of an extant permission under Reg. References 07/910 and 14/282, thus replacing 30 No. previously permitted dwellings, crèche and retail unit with 33 No. proposed alternative dwellings, new crèche and retail unit. Revised by Significant Further Information which consists of 35 no. dwellings comprised of 3 no. 4 bed semi-detached houses, 27 no. 3 bed semi-detached houses, 2 no. 3 bed terraced houses, 2 no. 2 bed terraced houses, and 1 no. | Significant Impacts to Natura 2000 site ruled out in AA Screening report and Conclusion Statement. |

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| | | | | three bed semi-detached house, 2 storey crèche (235m2) which has been relocated to the front of the site and omission of retail unit | |
| 191217 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Meadow Court Stud , Maddenstown , Curragh | Development at the existing equine bloodstock facility comprising the demolition of existing farm buildings (765 sq.m) and; provision of an equine farm isolation unit comprised of (i) a stable building (294sq.m) consisting of 8 no. isolation stables with feedstore, staff room and treatment room. The building includes roof lights on the roof slope; (ii) new entrance gates and piers at existing farmyard entrance and new tree lined access road to the isolation yard, with a side road off it to a residential dwelling (currently under refurbishment) on adjacent lands; (iv) a new hay barn/machinery store (104 sq.m), slurry pit (124 sq.m) and a horse loading ramp located north of the proposed isolation unit (v) The development will also include provision of effluent treatment system, landscaping boundary treatments and all associated site development works necessary to facilitate the development. | Significant Impacts to Natura 2000 site ruled out in AA Screening report and Conclusion Statement. |
| 191090 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Clunemore Lodge , Rathbride and The Curragh , Co. Kildare. | (a) The demolition of existing stable building which incorporates machinery store, haybarn and associated rooms and store, and demolition of an existing horse walker building, and for permission for the construction of: (b) A stable barn consisting of 30 stables and associated ancillary rooms and staff facilities; (c) Horse wash bays with associated plant room; (d) A separate stable barn consisting of 6 No. stables; (e) A haybarn; (f) 2 No. covered horse walkers; (g) A covered lunge ring; (h) A machinery shed; (i) A single storey staff dwelling; (j) Elevational alterations to existing horse pool building, and minor internal alterations including the removal of a staff living compartment within the building; (k) Roof over existing horse water walker; (l) Horse gallops, including alterations to localized ground levels, and including associated gallop lighting consisting of pole mounted lights, each pole 8 metre high at 20 metre centres; (m) Alterations to existing site entrance including repositioning and construction of new entrance gates and associated localized boundary hedging; (n) Walled manure pit with associated effluent tank; (o) Erection of a covered circular overground water storage tank; (p) All associated site development works including roads, yards, paths, all-weather paddocks and exercise ring, paddock and gallop fencing, internal farm gates, undergrounding of main ESB lines with erection of associated poles, effluent tank, rain water harvesting tank, storm water percolation area, decommissioning of existing septic tank serving existing dwelling on site and the construction of a new septic tank and percolation area to serve the development, horse loading ramp and muck trailer ramp, and general site and yard lighting, all | AA Screening report undertaken and excluded the proposed development from a significant on any Natura 2000 site. |
| 16149 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | The Curragh Racecourse , The Curragh , Co. Kildare in the townlands of The Curragh & Loughbrown | 1) Constr. of a new grandstand & assoc. facilities, & infrastructure incl. hospitality/conference suites, restaurants, bars, merchandise/gift shop, concession areas, tote hall, jockey facilities, medical areas, press & commentary areas, kitchens, service yard, toilet accomm. new entrance & ticket building, museum/exhibition space, café/bistro with patio area, new parade ring, new pre-parade ring, stables, saddling stalls, bookmakers' betting ring, children's play area, new boundaries & associated landscaping, relocation of existing sculptures, lighting, utility services, outside broadcasting facilities, helipad, ESB substation, new machinery yard, reuse of existing stableyard barn for machinery storage, chiller compound, provision of car parking, enhancement of existing car parking entrances & provision of new entrance & exit, & all associated works. 2) Proposed new non-race day uses to incl. conferences, exhibitions, weddings & product launches to be incrd. within the proposed grandstand. 3) Demolition of the existing east & west grandstands, the Turf | EIS EIS provided with relevant mitigation associated with the development with an NIS and CEMP. |

| Application Number | Application Status | Decision | Address | Description | Determination – AA/EIA |
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| | | | | Club Rooms incprg. the weight room, existing champagne bar & garden, existing machinery yard, existing central and rear (northern) stable blocks within the stableyard complex, existing areas of hard landscaping & sections of perimeters walls. The dismantling & reconstruction within the application site of the 2 storey bow ended building element & assocd. building fabric containing the Queen's Room & remaining section of cantilevered granite staircase & two cast iron columns. 4) Refurbishment of existing stables to the east & west of the stableyard complex & existing entrance building for administrative/office use. Change of use, refurbishment & extension of existing storage building for use as an energy centre. 5) Temporary works reqd. to facilitate continued racing during construction for a period of up to 3 yrs to include; temporary grandstands, hospitality area, jockey facilities, broadcasting facilities, tote hall, photo finish & judges box, kitchen areas, toilets, plant & generator, storage, a video screen, main entrance for patrons & new construction access points 6) Permanent provision of on-site facilities & infrastructure for occasional hospitality use at high capacity events such as Derby Day & Champions Weekend; service plinths, enhanced carparking etc..... An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) & Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application | |
| 18767 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Ballysax Manor Stud , Ballysax Great , The Curragh | The following: The entire development as constructed to include new site boundaries, two storey dwelling house, site entrance and access road, on-site wastewater treatment system, landscaping, and all associated site development works all existing at Ballysax Manor Stud. The development was previously granted under Planning Register Reference 02/622. Permission is also sought for the removal of Condition No. 3 from Planning Register Reference 02/622, | AA Screening report undertaken and excluded the proposed development from a significant on any Natura 2000 site. |
| 171337 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Springbank House , Pollardstown , Newbridge | Of boundary wall and entrance gates, stable block and associated works containing 21 horse stable units, yard manager accommodation, stable lads accommodation, sitting up room, plant room, tack room, feed room, rug room and associated storage rooms and for retention of swimming pool, gym changing rooms toilets and plant room, retention of car port and permission for new Oakstown effluent treatment system and percolation area, new dungstead and associated underground storage tanks being replacement of older stable block, hayshed and associated units. Revised by significant further information consisting of addendum to appropriate assessment report, retention of sunroom, retention of 2 storey rear extension of 45.6 Sq.m | AA Screening report undertaken and excluded the proposed development from a significant on any Natura 2000 site. |
| 17707 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | Pollardstown , The Curragh , Co. Kildare | For a ten year permission for the construction of an up to 5MWp Solar PV farm, with a maximum export capacity of 4MW comprising approximately 18,000 no. photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames within a site area of 6.08 hectares and associated ancillary development including 4 no. transformer stations, 4 no. auxiliary transformer stations, 4 no. inverters, 1 no. client side substation on the eastern side of the landholding to the east of the area of the photovoltaic panels, 1 no. single storey storage building, 1 no. single storey communications building, 1 no. single storey DNO building, 3 no. CCTV security cameras mounted on 4 metre high poles and perimeter security fencing (2 metres high), the construction of a site access from the adjoining L7032 road to the east and the construction of a hardcore access road between the area of the photovoltaic panels and the site access. | The EIR concludes that the proposed development will not result in any likely or significant environmental effects. AA Screening report undertaken and excluded the proposed development from a significant on any Natura 2000 site. |

| Application Number | Application Status | Decision | Address | Description | Determination – AA/EIA |
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| 1781 | APPLICATION FINALISED | Granted | The Barrow Navigation (Grand Canal – Barrow Line) , commencing in Lowtown (Robertstown) via Rathangan , Monasterevin Athy to Jerusalem | The proposal consists of the development of a multi-use shared leisure route (Blueway), approximately 115 kilometres (km) in length, on the existing navigation towpath, which is a National Waymarked Way. This will include tailored surface finishes, information, directional, and safety signage, and all other associated ancillary works. The route commences in Lowtown, County Kildare, passes through County Laois and finishes in St. Mullins, County Carlow. Approximately 47km of the route is in County Kildare, 16km in County Laois and 52km in County Carlow. An Environmental Impact Statement and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the project and are submitted with the application | Environment Section Planning Report NIS prepared. |

B.3 Site-Specific Pressures and Threats in the Relevant Natura 2000 Data Forms

| Site | Threats and Pressures |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | Description |
| Ballynafagh Bog SAC ²⁷ | <p>C01: Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, riverbeds) and sea.</p> <p>B01: Increase in forest area, including planting of forests on grassland or heathland, or converting shrubs into forest.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevents the latter from being restored (e.g. in cases of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation for the restoration of some heathlands and peats, which were in the past afforested and are currently being managed and replanted as forests).</p> <p>G05: Professional freshwater fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased direct mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>E01: Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>J01: Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes. (e.g., river eutrophication can be related to several direct and indirect sources like sewage, agricultural and industrial discharges, diffuse pollution from agriculture, decreased retention of alluvial vegetation due to inadequate management). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>D05: Development and operation of energy production plants (e.g., bioenergy plants, fossil and nuclear energy plants).</p> |

²⁷ EU Natura 2000 - Standard Data Form for Ballynafagh Bog SAC. Available on <https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=IE0000391#3>. Accessed 27 February 2023.

| Site | Threats and Pressures |
|----------------------|---|
| | Description |
| Pollardstown Fen SAC | <p>E01: Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>E03: Maintenance and construction of marine and inland water shipping lanes, transport corridors or coastal infrastructure for anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial) including hydrological and morphological modifications for transport (e.g. canalisation, water deviation, barriers and locks, dredging and desilting of waterways for navigational purposes).</p> <p>F02: Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g., demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>B:</p> <p>F03: Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to commercial or industrial areas (e.g. building the industrial parks or warehouse zones) or construction of solitary buildings not dedicated to housing and recreation (like solitary buildings for agricultural or forestry use).</p> <p>This pressure relates not only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p> <p>D02: Hydropower generation 'Idin' development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building dams or weirs, changes of hydrological functioning rivers or chemical and thermal properties of water due to operation of dams and weirs).</p> <p>C01: Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>B01: Increase in forest area, including planting of forests on grassland or heathland, or converting shrubs into forest.</p> <p>J01: Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes. (e.g., river eutrophication can be related to several direct and indirect sources like sewage, agricultural and industrial discharges, diffuse pollution from agriculture, decreased retention of alluvial vegetation due to inadequate management). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rainwater or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> |
| Ballynafagh Lake SAC | <p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rainwater or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>F02 Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rainwater or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> |

| Site | Threats and Pressures |
|--|--|
| | Description |
| <p>River Barrow and River Nore SAC</p> | <p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g., marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>B05 Decline in forest area due to non-replanting or absence of natural regrowth after forest exploitation.</p> <p>J03 Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g., source of pollutants for acid rain is usually a mix of emissions from vehicles, power plants etc.). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>H01 Military, paramilitary or police infrastructure, exercises and operations on land (excluding military bases in urbanised areas). Includes, for example, munitions testing, restricted access to military training areas, military manoeuvres).</p> <p>E02 Operation and use of marine and inland water transport corridors, as well as pressures linked to transport activities on these freshwater and ocean waterways (e.g., disturbance from shipping at feeding/nesting areas, death or injury by collision, wakes from cargo ship traffic, oil spills from tankers, increased risk of colonisation of islands by invasive species). Includes the anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial).</p> <p>M01 Volcanic activity</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>, competition for food with <i>Procamb-3larkialarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>K01 Abstractions from groundwater, surface water or mixed water should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver(s) can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>F02 Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>B07 Removal of dead and dying trees (e.g. to prevent forestry pests) and removal of fallen wood (e.g. for firewood collection, fire prevention or enabling access by machinery).</p> <p>D03 Renewable energy (solar power) generI including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building solar farms).</p> <p>A10 Insufficient grazing or under-grazing that causes, for example, changes in species composition, or extensive grazing in inappropriate habitats like meadows or bogs.</p> <p>B02 Conversion of forest habitats into another type of forest habitat, often conversion from extensive forests into production forests (e.g. conversion to monocultures) but also other types of conversion (e.g. conversion from coppice to high forest or changes of tree species composition). Includes deliberate changes. Passive abandonment of traditional forest management should be reported as B04.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation).</p> <p>F01 Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to housing, settlement or recreational areas. Includes development of dispersed housing.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period; It also refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p> <p>A02 Conversion of agricultural habitats into other types of agricultural habitats. This pressure often refers to conversion of semi-natural agricultural habitats (e.g. meadows) into intensive production areas (e.g. sown grasslands or arable fields) but it also includes more subtle changes, mostly of habitat conditions (e.g. change of crops or a move from spring-sown to autumn/winter-sown cereals causing denser/taller crop structure earlier in the nesting season or earlier harvesting) or other types of conversion (e.g. rice paddies into other types of culture).</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current agricultural use of a habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in cases of land use conflicts between agriculture and nature conservation).</p> |

| Site | Threats and Pressures |
|---------------|---|
| | Description |
| Mouds Bog SAC | <p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>, competition for food with <i>B-Alarkiaarus clarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>K01 Abstractions from groundwater, surface water or mixed water should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver(s) can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>I04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>A01 Conversion of natural and semi-natural non-agricultural habitats (e.g. semi-natural forests) and non-agricultural habitats of species targeted by the nature directives into agricultural land (e.g. pastures, meadows, arable fields).</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the agricultural use of originally non-agricultural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between agriculture and nature conservation).</p> <p>B Forestry</p> <p>E02 Operation and use of marine and inland water transport corridors, as well as pressures linked to transport activities on these freshwater and ocean waterways (e.g. disturbance from shipping at feeding/nesting areas, death or injury by collision, wakes from cargo ship traffic, oil spills from tankers, increased risk of colonisation of islands by invasive species). Includes the anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial).</p> <p>J01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes. (e.g., river eutrophication can be related to several direct and indirect sources like sewage, agricultural and industrial discharges, diffuse pollution from agriculture, decreased retention of alluvial vegetation due to inadequate management). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> |

Appendix C

Supporting Reports

C.1 Geohydrological Connections

Technical Note

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Project title | Kildare Local Area Plan 2023-2029 |
| Job number | 278388-00 |
| File reference | |
| cc | |
| Prepared by | Amy Sproule |
| Date | 27 January 2023 |
| Subject | Groundwater connectivity to Natura 2000 sites in relation to Kildare Town LAP |

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

Kildare County Council (hereafter referred to as KCC) is currently preparing a Local Area Plan (LAP) for Kildare Town for the period 2023 – 2029, hereafter referred to as the Plan. Arup has been appointed by KCC to allow the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken on the Plan and all necessary stages of Appropriate Assessment (AA). This draft Plan will supersede the current plan which covers the period 2012 – 2018. The new Plan will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of Kildare Town to 2029 and beyond.

As part of the Plan, there has been two locations where works have been proposed to increase surface water drainage capacity of the Kildare Town. This technical note assesses potential geohydrological pathways that may exist between the proposed works locations and Natura 2000 sites.

1.2 The Plan

The Kildare Town Local Area Plan (LAP) 2023–2029 is being prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). It will set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Kildare Town in the context of the forthcoming Kildare County Development Plan 2023–2029 and the Regional Planning Guidelines of the Greater Dublin Area 2010–2022. It is also informed by Ministerial Guidelines issued pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) together with EU requirements regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.

The draft Kildare Town LAP will provide the main public statement of planning policies and objectives for Kildare Town for the plan duration (2023-2029). The policies and objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development as the LAP is the primary statutory land use policy framework against which planning applications are assessed.

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

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The draft Kildare Town LAP will be a key document for setting out a vision for how Kildare Town should develop over the years 2023-2029.

1.3 Surface Water Study Objectives of the Plan

This technical report specifically focuses on the below objective of the Plan in terms of surface water.

IO 2.2 Pursue opportunities to increase surface water drainage capacity in the town as identified in the Surface Water Study, to investigate the feasibility of:

1. A new surface water network through the Magee Barracks site connecting to the existing surface water siphon under the M7 with eventual outfall to the Tully Stream.
2. A new surface water pipe crossing under the M7 and west of the R415 with outfall to the Armour Stream.

1.4 Objectives of this Technical Report

The objectives of this technical note are outlined below:

- Identify any Natura 2000 site which the conservation objectives are groundwater dependent;
- Identify pathways for effect as a result of proposed works listed in objective IO2.2;
- Assess the potential of a likely significant effect to any Natura 2000 site from the Plan objective IO2.2; and
- Make recommendation on the requirement for an Appropriate Assessment (AA) to be undertaken for the Plan.

1.5 Works Proposed for Objective IO2.2

The proposed works to help increase the surface water drainage capacity in the town include new surface water infrastructure within the Kildare Town LAP area. As mentioned, these include:

- A new surface water network through the Magee Barracks site connecting to the existing surface water siphon under the M7 with eventual outfall to the Tully Stream;
- A new surface water pipe crossing under the M7 and west of the R415 with outfall to the Armour Stream.

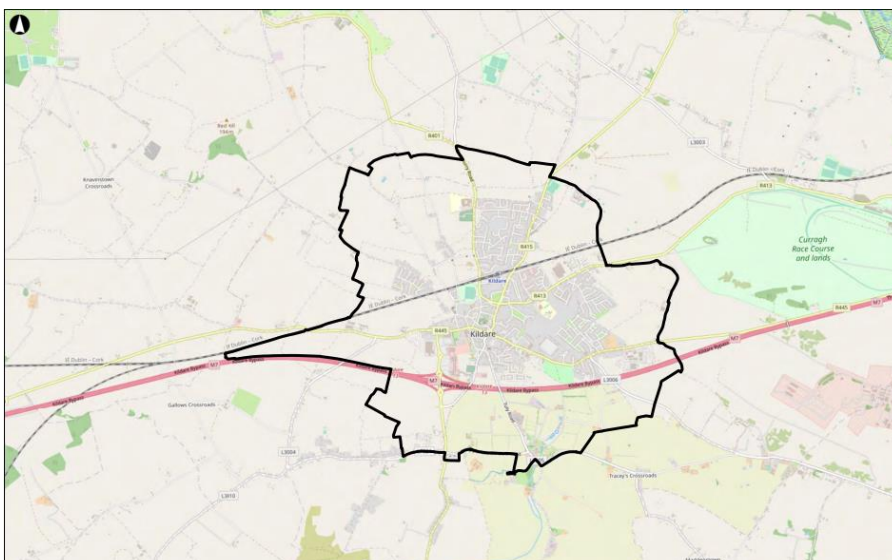


Figure 1: Kildare Town LAP area

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2. Methodology

2.1 Data Sources

A desk study review was undertaken to identify any Natura 2000 site which the conservation objectives are groundwater dependent and potential geohydrological pathways for effect from objective IO2.2.

- Eleanor Mayes and Ian Codling (2009) *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy Vol. 109B, No. 3, The Water Framework Directive and Ireland (November 2009)*, pp. 321-344 (24 pages) Published By: Royal Irish Academy
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Map Viewer¹;
- The Kildare Local Area Plan (LAP) Scoping Report (Arup, 2022);
- National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) designated area spatial data (last updated January 2023)²;
- NPWS Natura 2000 Site Synopses;
- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) Spatial Resources³;
- Langford, R (2011) *Updating/Extending the Water Balance for the Pollardstown Fen* (unpublished thesis);
- Magee Barracks Phase 1 EIAR Chapter 9 – Water & Hydrogeology (John Spain Associates, 2019)⁴;
- Missteart, B.D.R., Brown, L (2008) *Water Framework Directive: recharge and groundwater vulnerability. STRIVE report series no. 6*. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford, Ireland;
- Missteart, B.D.R., Brown, L. And Daly, D. (2008a) *A methodology for making initial estimates of groundwater recharge from groundwater vulnerability mapping*, *Hydrogeology Journal*, 17(2), pp. 275-285 [Online] Available at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/051216t6t121g915/fulltext.pdf>; and
- Missteart, B.D.R., Brown, L. And Johnston, P.M. (2008b) *Estimation of groundwater recharge in a major sand and gravel aquifer in Ireland using multiple approaches*, *Hydrogeology Journal*, 17(3), pp. 693-706.

2.2 Determination of Groundwater Dependency

The European Commission published the Technical Report No. 6 on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWTE) December 2011 (2020 EU). This report refers to a screening approach to determine whether a terrestrial ecosystem is directly dependent on a groundwater body (GWB). This screening approach has been adopted in this report and is summarised in Figure 2.

The EPA Map Viewer listed WFD ground waterbodies that intersect with SAC habitats, SAC species and SPA habitat Conservation Objective for the EU Water Framework Directive. The area of Kildare Town was

¹ Available on [EPA Maps](#). Accessed 31 January 2023.

² Available on [Download Boundary Data | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#). Accessed 31 January 2023.

³ Available on [Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources \(arcgis.com\)](#). Accessed 31 January 2023.

⁴ John Spain Associates (2019) *Magee Barracks Phase 1 EIAR Chapter 9 – Water & Hydrogeology*. Available on [Chapter 9 - Water and Hydrogeology.pdf \(pleanala.ie\)](#) Accessed 31 January 2023.

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reviewed using these layers on EPA Map Viewer. This dataset represents a snapshot taken in September 2016 for the purpose of the WFD RBMP Cycle 2⁵.

Site synopsis were reviewed for reference to evidence of groundwater dependency such as springs and indicative vegetation. Qualifying Interest (QIs) were also compared against the summary of E.U. Annex II Habitats and EU Annex IV species sensitivity to changes in groundwater (cited in Mayes 2008) , as shown in Figure 3.

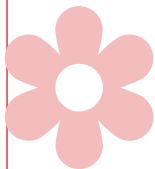
⁵ EPA Map Viewer. Layers: Groundwater in SPA Habitats, groundwater in SAC habitats and Ground water in SAC Species [EPA Maps](#)

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1) Determine the likely dependency of the GWDTE on groundwater.

This can be done by identifying features of significance, such as the ecological features. Member States may have lists of vegetation communities, list of habitat types under the Habitats Directive, drawn up by ecologists, which could indicate groundwater dependency for a range of terrestrial ecosystem types. This could be used as an initial tool to rule out any sites which do not have groundwater dependent vegetation.



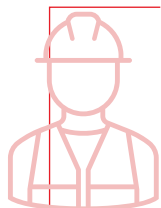
2) Create a conceptual model of the GWB

Using groundwater level information to identify whether groundwater in the GWB is likely to be discharging to and supplying a GWDTE. These two sources of information should help to rule in or out whether a site may be a GWDTE, or help build up confidence as to whether the site is likely to be GWB dependent.



3) Monitoring of the ecosystem itself and the GWB

This model could include the habitat type, the ecosystem and the GWB and their linkages, or an approximated understanding of the linkages. It will also allow other water sources to be considered, such as rainfall and surface water, alongside the groundwater contribution



4) Expert judgement - when no monitoring or modelling is available

Ecologists can often tell by the plants if the the ecosystem is groundwater dependent. inventories like the list of National Vegetation Classification (NVC) plant communities and their dependency on groundwater which was prepared by the United Kingdom Technical Advisory Group supporting the implementation of the WFD.

Other indications include distinctive orange-brown colour in the sediments.

Figure 2: Summary of the Screening Strategy Described in Technical Report No.6 (2011 EC)

2.3 Limitations and Assumptions

This technical report is based on desk study findings only. Stages three and four of the screening referred to in Figure 2 would be outside of the reporting scope as no site visits or monitoring were undertaken.

Surface water ecosystems and terrestrial ecosystems directly dependent on groundwater. * Indicates priority habitats (after Mayes, 2008)

| EU Habitat Code | EU Annex I Habitat | Number of SACs | Type | Sensitivity to changes in Groundwater Quantity | Sensitivity to changes in Groundwater Quality |
|-----------------|--|----------------|-------|--|---|
| 1150 | * Coastal lagoons | 25 | SW | low - high | Moderate - high |
| 1330 | Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) | 38 | GDWTE | low - moderate | low |
| 1410 | Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) | 33 | GDWTE | low - moderate | low |
| 2170 | Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) | 11 | GDWTE | high | high |
| 2190 | Humid dune slacks | 15 | GDWTE | high - extreme | high - extreme |
| 21A0 | Machairs (* in Ireland) | 19 | GDWTE | high - extreme | moderate - high |
| 3110 | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) | 32 | SW | moderate | extreme |
| 3130 | Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> | 9 | SW | moderate | high |
| 3140 | Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. | 18 | SW | high | high-extreme |
| 3150 | Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation | 9 | SW | moderate | moderate |
| 3160 | Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds | 10 | SW | low | extreme |
| 3180 | * Turloughs | 43 | GDWTE | high | moderate - extreme |
| 3260 | Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation | 21 | SW | moderate | moderate |
| 3270 | Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation | 1 | GDWTE | moderate | low |
| 4010 | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> | 37 | GDWTE | low - (extreme) | high |
| 6410 | <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) | 13 | GDWTE | low - moderate | low - moderate |
| 6430 | Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels | 3 | GDWTE | moderate | moderate |
| 7110 | * Active raised bogs | 51 | GDWTE | low - (extreme)** | low -(high)** |
| 7120 | Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration | 53 | GDWTE | low - (extreme)** | low -(high)** |
| 7130 | Blanket bog (* if active bog) | 50 | GDWTE | low - (extreme)** | low -(high)** |
| 7140 | Transition mires and quaking bogs | 16 | GDWTE | extreme | moderate |
| 7150 | Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> | 62 | GDWTE | low | moderate |
| 7210 | * Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of <i>Caricion davallianae</i> | 17 | GDWTE | extreme | high |
| 7220 | * Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) | 19 | GDWTE | extreme | extreme |
| 7230 | Alkaline fens | 39 | GDWTE | extreme | high |
| 8310 | Caves not open to the public | 9 | GDWTE | extreme | high |
| 91D0 | * Bog woodland | 11 | GDWTE | extreme | low |
| 91E0 | *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) | 23 | GDWTE | moderate | low - high |

GDWTE – Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem; SW – Surface Water, Aquatic Ecosystem; ** when fen present

GDWTE – Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem; SW – Surface Water, Aquatic Ecosystem; ** when Fen present

Figure 3: A Summary of E.U. Annex II Habitats and EU Annex IV Species Sensitivity to Changes in Groundwater

3. Results

3.1 Stage 1: Determination on Natura 2000 sites with GWDTE

The EPA Map Viewer shows the area of Kildare Town is listed as WFD ground waterbodies that intersect with SAC habitats Conservation Objective for the EU Water Framework Directive. Further east of Kildare Town WFD ground waterbodies intersect with SAC species Conservation Objective for the EU Water Framework Directive. This dataset represents a snapshot taken in September 2016 for the purpose of the WFD RBMP Cycle 2

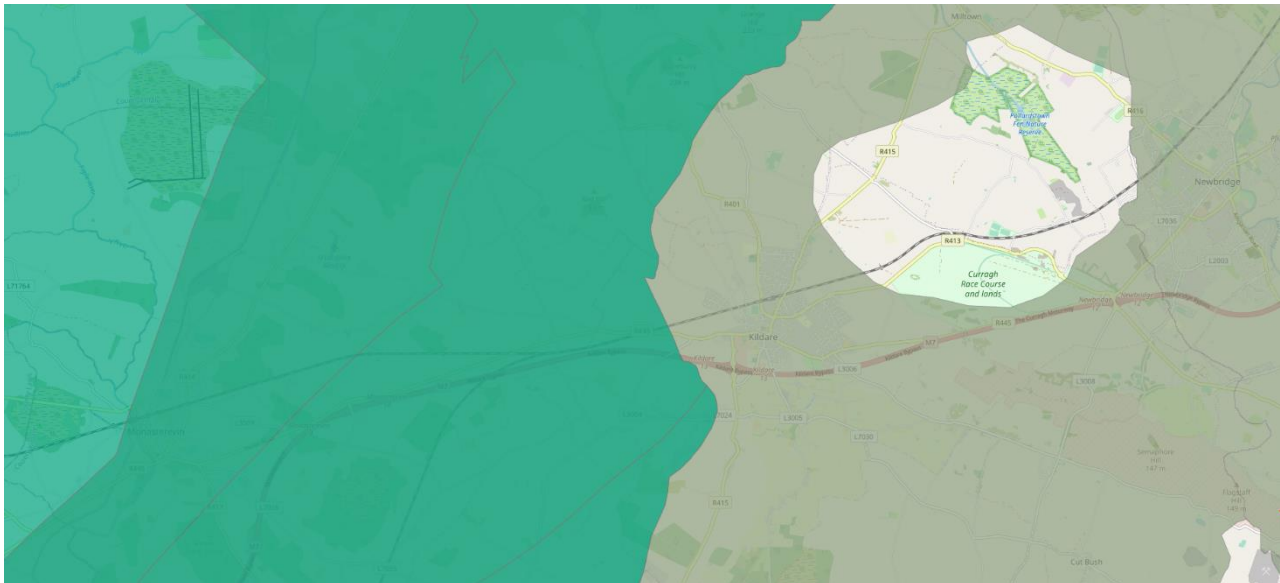


Figure 4: WFD ground waterbodies that intersect with SAC/SPA Conservation Objective Habitats for the EU Water Framework Directive (Source: EPA Maps)

There are no SACs or SPAs within the Plan boundary. However, there are five SACs located within 15km to the Kildare Town LAP area, these are shown in Figure 5. A brief summary of each designated site is provided in Table 1. This text is taken from the NPWS site synopses of each site.

Site synopses were reviewed for reference to evidence of groundwater dependency such as springs and indicative vegetation. Qualifying Interest (QIs) were also compared against the summary of E.U. Annex II Habitats and EU Annex IV species sensitivity to changes in groundwater (cited in Mayes 2008)⁶, as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**

⁶ Eleanor Mayes and Ian Codling (2009) Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy Vol. 109B, No. 3, The Water Framework Directive and Ireland (November 2009), pp. 321-344 (24 pages) Published By: Royal Irish Academy

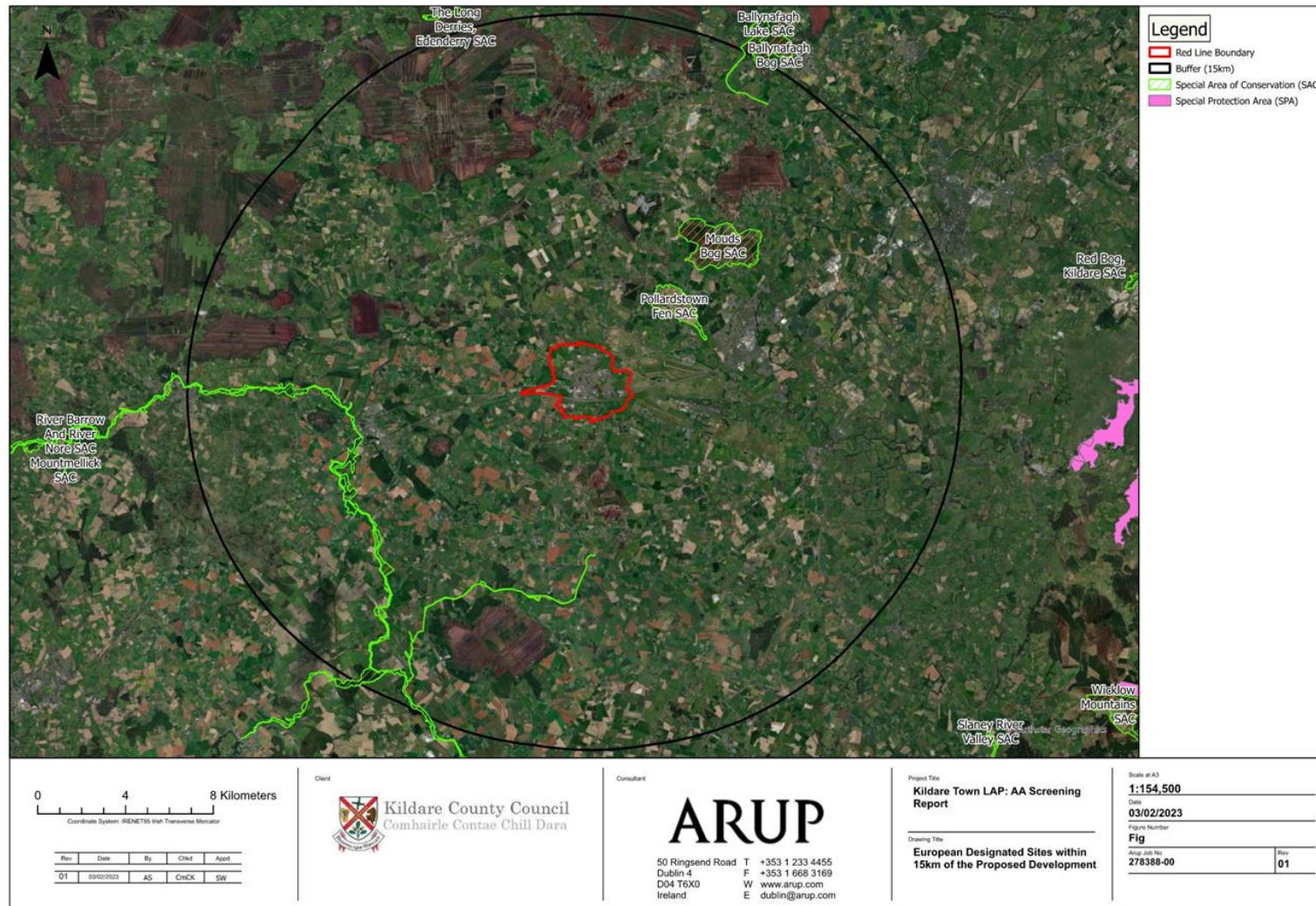


Figure 5: Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of the Kildare Town LAP Area

Table 1: Ground Water Dependency of Natura 2000 sites within 15km of Kildare Town LAP area

| Site | Site Synopsis and Qualifying Interests (QIs) | Approximate distance to Kildare LAP area (km) | Likely dependency of groundwater on Qualifying Interests (QIs) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Pollardstown Fen SAC | <p>Pollardstown Fen is situated on the northern margin of the Curragh of Kildare, approximately 3 km northwest of Newbridge. It lies in a shallow depression, running in a north-west/south-east direction. About 40 springs provide a continuous supply of water to the fen. These rise chiefly at its margins, along distinct seepage areas of mineral ground above the fen level. The continual inflow of calcium-rich water from the Curragh, and from the limestone ground to the north, creates waterlogged conditions which lead to peat formation. There are layers of calcareous marl in this peat, reflecting inundation by calcium-rich water. This peat-marl deposit reaches some 6 m at its deepest point and is underlain by clay.</p> <p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [7210] cladium fens* • [7220] petrifying springs* • [7230] alkaline fens • [1013] Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1014] narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) • [1016] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) | 3.0km | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater fed • QIs habitats listed as dependednt on ground water eg 7210, 7220 and 723 • Likely dependent |
| Mouds Bog SAC | <p>Mouds Bog is located about 3 km north-west of Newbridge in Co. Kildare, close to the Hill of Allen, and includes amongst others, the townlands of Grangehiggin, Barretstown and Hawkfield. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. Much of the margins of the site are bounded by trackways. The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [7110] raised bog (Active)* • [7120] degraded raised bog • [7150] rhynchosporion vegetation | 5.5km | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QIs habitats listed as dependednt on ground water eg 7110, 7120 and 7150 • Likely dependent |
| River Barrow And River Nore SAC | <p>This site consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow and Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains before passing through a band of Carboniferous shales and</p> | 6.0km | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QIs habitats listed as dependent on ground water eg 1330, 1410, 7220 and 91E0 |

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| Site | Site Synopsis and Qualifying Interests (QIs) | Approximate distance to Kildare LAP area (km) | Likely dependency of groundwater on Qualifying Interests (QIs) |
|------|--|---|--|
| | <p>sandstones. The Nore, for a large part of its course, traverses limestone plains and then Old Red Sandstone for a short stretch below Thomastown. Before joining the Barrow, it runs over intrusive rocks poor in silica. The upper reaches of the Barrow also run through limestone. The middle reaches and many of the eastern tributaries, sourced in the Blackstairs Mountains, run through Leinster Granite. The southern end, like the Nore runs over intrusive rocks poor in silica. Waterford Harbour is a deep valley excavated by glacial floodwaters when the sea level was lower than today. The coast shelves quite rapidly along much of the shore.</p> <p>The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [1130] estuaries • [1140] mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • [1170] reefs • [1310] salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) • [3260] water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation • [4030] European dry heaths • [6430] hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels • [7220] petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) • [91A0] old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles • [91E0] alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) • [1016] Desmoulin's whorl snail | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely dependent |

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| Site | Site Synopsis and Qualifying Interests (QIs) | Approximate distance to Kildare LAP area (km) | Likely dependency of groundwater on Qualifying Interests (QIs) |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1029] freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1092] white-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1095] sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1096] brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1099] river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1103] twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) [1106] salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1355] otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1421] Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1990] Nore pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) | | |
| Ballynafagh Lake SAC | <p>Ballynafagh Lake is located about 2 km north-west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. It is a shallow alkaline lake with some emergent vegetation. The Blackwood Feeder, which connects Ballynafagh Lake to the Grand Canal, is also included in the site. The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [7230] Alkaline Fens; [1016] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail; and [1065] Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>). | 13.2km | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QIs habitats listed as dependent on ground water eg 7230 Likely dependent |
| Ballynafagh Bog SAC | <p>This site is a raised bog situated about 1 km west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. The area is directly underlain by muddy, fossiliferous limestones, interbedded with calcareous shales. The subsoils are predominantly clay-rich tills. All are of low permeability. The site comprises a relatively small core of uncut high bog (approx. 70 ha), which is surrounded by a more extensive area of cutover bog (approx. 90 ha). The high bog area can be divided into a wet core of active bog which covers an area of 23 ha, surrounded by approximately 44 ha of degraded raised bog which is experiencing drying-out at present. The site is a Special Area of</p> | 14.7km | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QIs habitats listed as dependent on ground water eg 7110, 7120 and 7150 Likely dependent |

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| Site | Site Synopsis and Qualifying Interests (QIs) | Approximate distance to Kildare LAP area (km) | Likely dependency of groundwater on Qualifying Interests (QIs) |
|------|--|---|--|
| | <p>Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U.</p> <p>Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [7110] raised bog (Active)* • [7120] degraded raised bog • [7150] rhynchosporion vegetation | | |

3.1.1 Classification of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems

Technical Report No. 6 claims for terrestrial ecosystems to be considered as part of the classification GWBs, they need to be ‘*directly dependent*’ on the GWB. The report categorises four occasions where groundwater is essential to a terrestrial ecosystem.

A groundwater source directly irrigates the ecosystems and is visible as a spring or seepage.

For example a spring fed fen terrestrial ecosystem where high calcium content of the groundwater precipitates as tufa in the terrestrial ecosystems.

Groundwater collecting above impermeable strata, such as clay, in depressions in the landscape.

These terrestrial ecosystems can be called fens, and their characteristic flora is directly influenced by the chemical composition of the groundwater it receives.

High groundwater tables maintain a seasonally waterlogged condition.

The groundwater in the dune sands discharges in so-called ‘wet slacks.’ The chemical composition of the water is vital in maintaining the terrestrial ecosystems.

A seasonally fluctuating groundwater table floods depressions intermittently.

The resulting lakes, which are seasonal (ephemeral), have a characteristic flora which is directly related to their ecological or socio-economic significance (for example Turlochs, Ireland).

Figure 6: Four categories displaying how terrestrial ecosystems are groundwater dependent

Pollardstown Fen SAC is directly dependent on ground water. It is the largest spring-fed fen in Ireland and has a well-developed and specialised flora and fauna. Owing to the rarity of this habitat and the numbers of rare organisms found there, the site is rated of international importance. Ballynafagh Lake SAC is also directly dependent on ground water due to the presence of alkaline fen habitat.

Ballynafagh Bog SAC, Mouds Bog SAC and River Barrow And River Nore SAC contain raised bog habitat where GWB can act as an indirect support, maintaining upward hydraulic gradients to promote water retention within the overlying peat substrate (Regan et al., 2019)⁷. However, functionally, raised bogs are ombrotrophic systems thus not groundwater dependent in the traditional sense.

In accordance with the Figure 6, Pollardstown Fen SAC and Ballynafagh Lake SAC are the only Natura 2000 site in 15km from Kildare Town LAP area that are directly dependent on ground waterbodies. For the purpose of this technical note Ballynafagh Bog SAC, Mouds Bog SAC and River Barrow And River Nore SAC potential indirect impacts from changes to groundwater have been considered.

3.2 Stage 2: Conceptual model of the GWB

3.2.1 Existing Geohydrology Baseline for the Kildare Town LAP Area

Bedrock Geology

The Barrow catchment, of which Kildare Town is surrounded, is underlain in its flat northern area by limestones of varying purity which continue down the western side of the catchment. On the eastern side of the catchment, granites dominate, culminating in the summits of the Backstairs Mountains.

⁷ [Research Report 403.pdf \(epa.ie\)](#)

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According to the report ‘The Geological Heritage of Kildare’(GSI, 2005), the predominant rock type in County Kildare is sedimentary rock, limestone of Carboniferous age in particular⁸.

Figure 7 shows the Kildare Town LAP area is situated over Boston Hill Formation (nodular & muddy limestone & shale) to the north -west and Rickardstown Formation (cherty often dolomitised limestone) to the south-east. There is a smaller proportion of Milford Formation (Peloidal calcarenitic limestone) to the southern boundary of the Kildare Town LAP area.

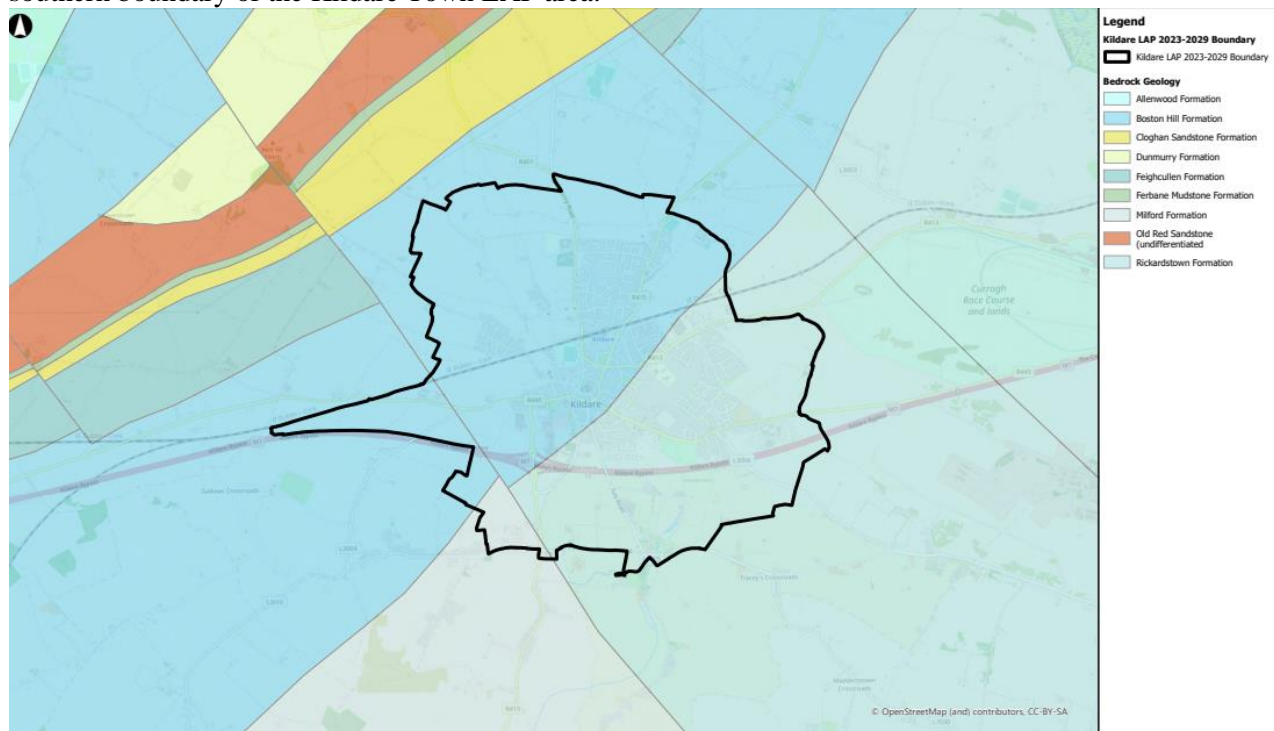


Figure 7: Kildare Town Bedrock Geology 100K (Source: GSI)

The soils underlying the study area are identified by the GSI as being predominantly ‘Made Ground’ in the urban centre. Made Ground consists of materials modified by people, including those associated with mineral exploitation and waste disposal. They include materials deposited as a result of human activities or geological material modified artificially so that their physical properties (structure, cohesion and compaction) have been drastically altered.

Other soils identified in the plan area include shallow and deep well drained minerals soils, typically grey, brown podzolic soil. It has a soil horizon of clay material, and the parent material is mainly limestone. Overall, the soil in this area is well suited for agriculture and forestry. The bedrock geology of Kildare Town is classified as Visean limestone and calcareous shale and Tournaisian limestone according to GSI’s Bedrock Geology records.

⁸ Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) (2005) The Geological Heritage of Kildare. Available at: Geology of Kildare - Kildare County Council (kildarecoco.ie)

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Ground Waterbody Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status from 2016-2021 names the three WFD groundwater bodies underlying the Kildare Town LAP area;

- Bagenalstown Upper;
- Curragh Gravels West; and
- Kildare.

The dominant ground waterbody underlying of Kildare Town is Curragh Gravels West. It has been assessed by the EPA as overall ‘Good’ status. To the west the Kildare Town LAP area is underlain by the Kildare ground waterbody which is also listed as having a good overall status by the EPA. To the south-west the Kildare Town LAP area is underlain by the Bagenalstown Upper ground waterbody which is also listed as having a good overall status by the EPA⁹. The distinct ground waterbodies are shown in Figure 8.

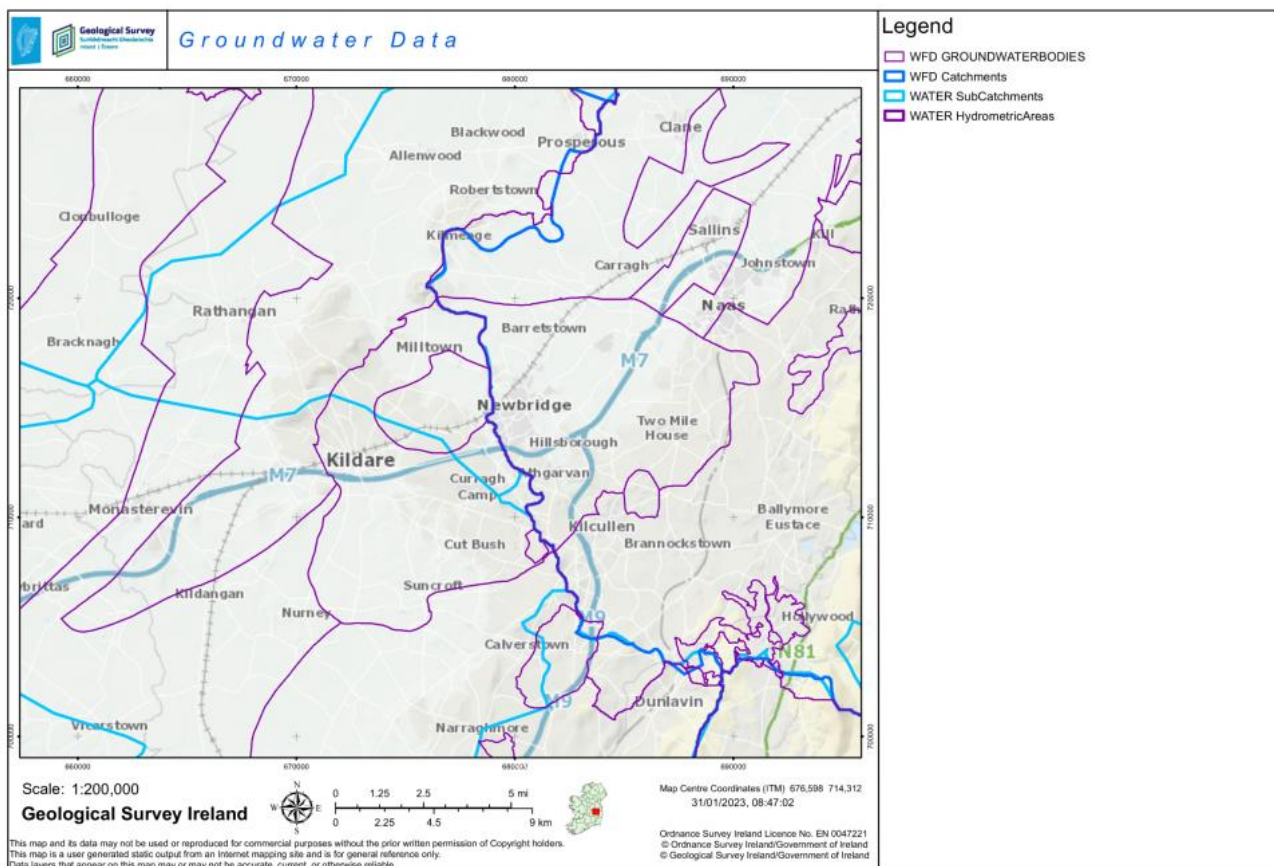


Figure 8: WFD Waterbodies (Source: GSI)

⁹ EPA Maps Ground Waterbody WFD Status 2016-2021. Accessed 30 January 2023

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Aquifers

Bedrock Aquifer

An aquifer is defined as ‘an underground body of water-bearing rock or unconsolidated materials (gravel or sand) from which groundwater can be extracted in useful amounts. GSI¹⁰ has recorded bedrock aquifers in Kildare Town as having ‘Regionally Important Aquifers - Karstified (diffuse).’ Regionally Important Aquifers are capable of supplying regionally important abstractions (e.g., large public water supplies), or excellent yields (>400m³/d).

Locally Important Aquifers were also recorded within the Kildare Town LAP area. ‘Locally Important Aquifers’ include bedrock which is moderately productive only in Local Zones. Locally Important Aquifers are capable of supplying locally important abstractions (e.g., smaller public water supplies, group schemes), or good yields (100-400m³/d)

Gravel Aquifer

The Curragh gravel aquifer underlies Kildare Town LAP area and has been recorded by GSI as ‘Regionally important gravel aquifer’ and is approximately 201.64 km¹¹. A map of Curragh gravel aquifer can be seen in Figure 9. The Curragh has a large catchment area. Its hydrogeology is significant as it is an important source of baseflow for rivers and streams, it influences the ecology of a number of interesting habitats, and it is the source of water for Pollardstown Fen. In terms of groundwater body classifications for the WFD, a separate groundwater body has been delineated by the GSI within the Curragh GWB for Pollardstown Fen.

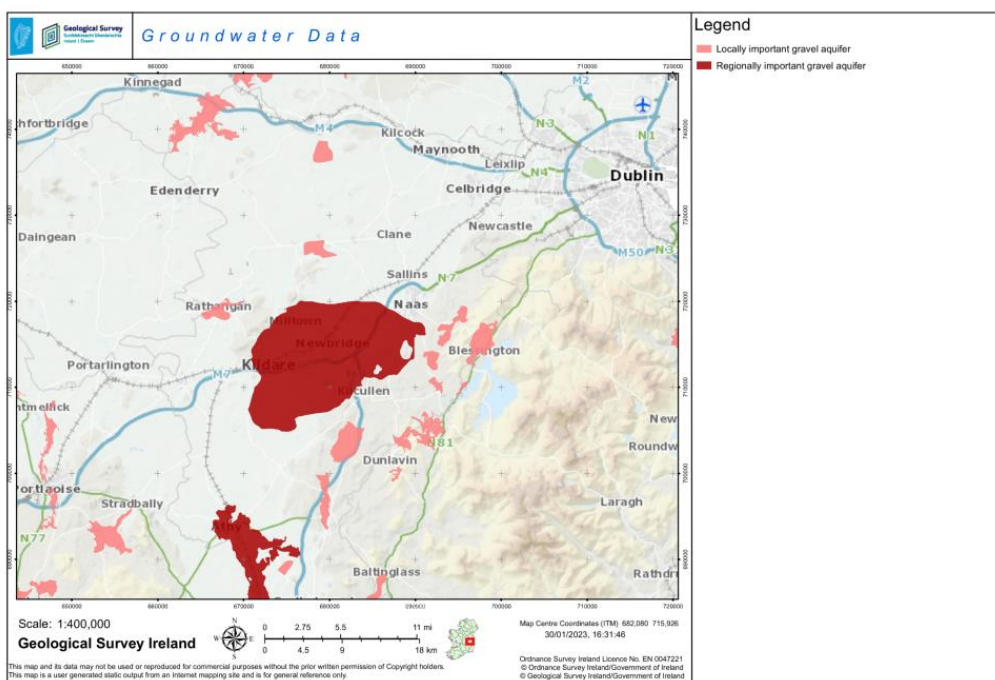


Figure 9: Gravel Aquifers Surrounding Kildare Town (Source: GSI)

¹⁰ Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources (arcgis.com) Groundwater Resources (Aquifers) Bedrock Aquifers. Accessed 30 January 2023

¹¹ Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources (arcgis.com) Groundwater Resources (Aquifers). Gravel Aquifer. Accessed 30 January 2023

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Recharge

The Curragh gravel aquifer is recharged from rainwater percolating through the topsoil and unsaturated sand and gravel deposits. The Kildare LAP area has a varied recharge rate with between 51-100mm per year in the centre of Kildare Town. This rate increases to between 351-400mm per year outside of the urban area.

Vulnerability

The vulnerability rating for the groundwater underlying the majority area of Kildare Town has been recorded by GSI as being an area of high. However, in some cases it has been recorded by GSI as moderate. Groundwater Vulnerability is shown in Figure 10.

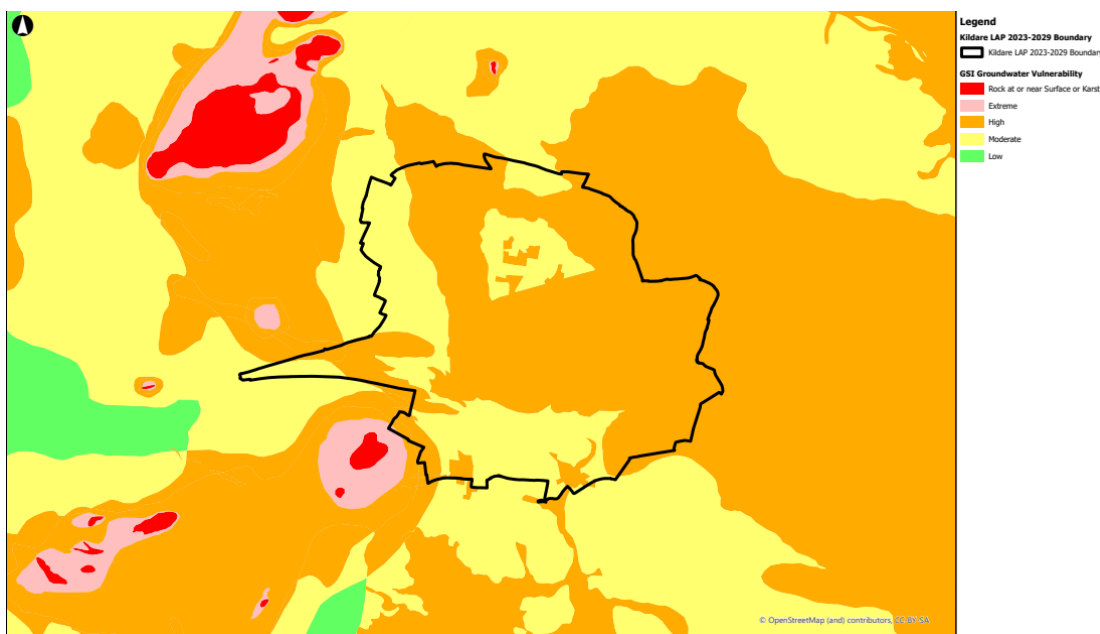


Figure 10: Groundwater Vulnerability Surrounding the Kildare Town LAP Area

Permeability

The permeability of the majority of Kildare Town LAP are subsoils is high. There are areas with moderate permeability north of the railway and south of the M7.

3.2.2 Pollardstown Fen SAC

Pollardstown Fen SAC is situated 3km north-east of Kildare Town LAP area. As mentioned it is groundwater fed by the Curragh Gravel Aquifer, which is vital when considering QIs conservation objectives.

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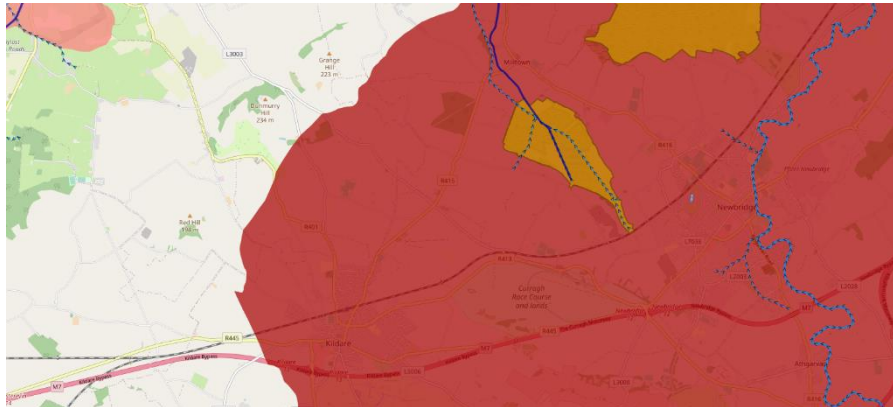


Figure 11: River flow Direction and Network in the Curragh Gravel Aquifer underlying Pollardstown Fen (Source: EPA Maps)

A schematic catchment map of the Curragh Gravel Aquifer was historically prepared by Dr. Les Brown (Misstear et al., 2008)¹². This map showed groundwater flow direction towards Pollardstown Fen SAC (Figure 12). However, it should be noted this map was prepared based on topography only and not groundwater head.

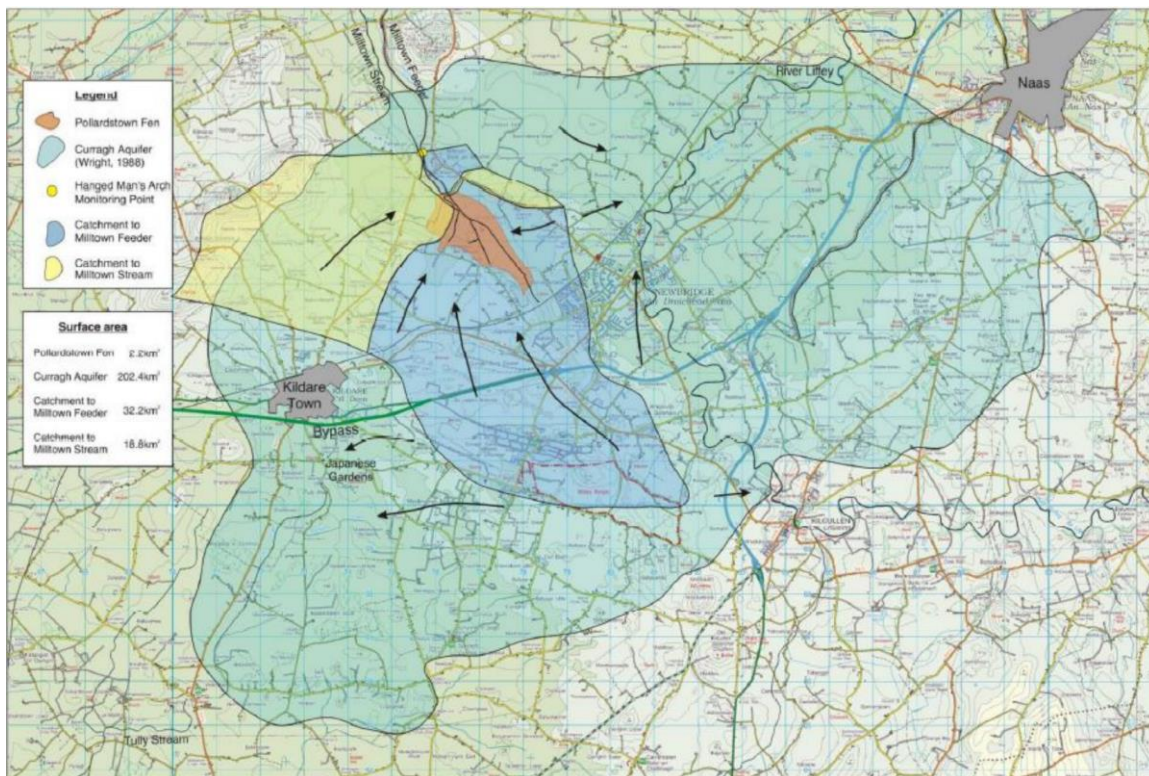


Figure 12: Groundwater Flow Direction from Curragh Gravel Aquifer to Pollardstown Fen (Source: Misstear et al, 2008)

¹² Misstear, B. D. R., Brown, L. & Johnston, P. M. (2008) Estimation of groundwater recharge in a major sand and gravel aquifer in Ireland using multiple approaches. *Hydrogeo. J.*, doi: 10.1007/s10040-008-0376-0.

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A detailed groundwater level mapping was undertaken by Mr. Richard Langford in 2011 in conjunction with Trinity College, Dublin that involved the recording and application of water levels. This included a groundwater monitoring (via boreholes) at the Fen margin and across the Curragh Aquifer. These measurements were used to confirm the regional groundwater flow direction south of Pollardstown Fen SAC to be northeast, shown in Figure 12.

Importantly it was noted that there is a divide north-east of Kildare. South of this divide, groundwater flows south-west across Kildare Town. North of the divide, groundwater flows north-east to Pollardstown Fen SAC. The EIA Water & Hydrogeology Chapter for Magee Barracks Phase 1 (John Spain Associates, 2019)¹³ displays this divide in Figure 13.

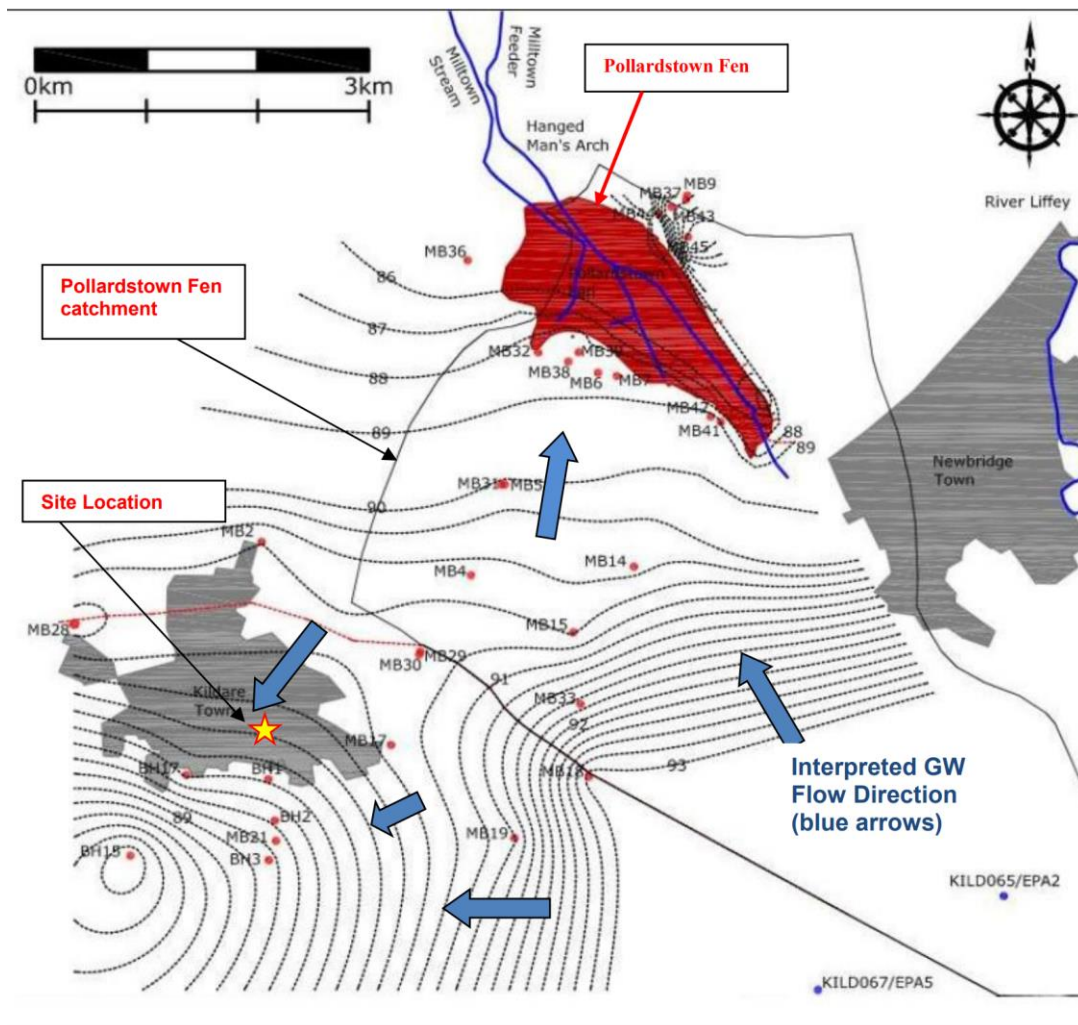


Figure 13: Interpreted Groundwater Contours (Curragh Aquifer) and Fen Catchment (John Spain Associates, 2019)

¹³ Magee Barracks Phase 1 EIA Chapter 9 – Water & Hydrogeology (John Spain Associates, 2019) Chapter 9 - Water and Hydrogeology.pdf (pleanala.ie)

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Figure 13 shows Kildare Town is located south of this divide and therefore groundwater is interpreted to flow locally in a south-west direction across the site and not towards Pollardstown Fen. This is consistent with Misstear et al., 2008 and Langford 2011.

3.2.3 Mouds Bog SAC

Mouds Bog SAC is located 5.5km north-east of Kildare Town LAP area. As mentioned it is an ombrotrophic system and not directly dependent of groundwater. It is also situated over the regionally important Curragh gravel aquifers that underlies Kildare Town LAP area and Pollardstown Fen SAC.

Mould Bog SAC is located north-east of Pollaradstown Fen SAC. According to Figure 12 and Figure 13 groundwater flow from at Kildare Town is west, thus the opposite direction to Mouds Bog SAC.

Given there are no QIs in Mouds Bog SAC directly dependent on groundwater and the direction of groundwater flow in the Curragh aquifer, no likely significant effects expected on the QIs of the Mouds Bog SAC.

3.2.4 River Barrow And River Nore SAC

The River Barrow and River Nore SAC is located 6km west of Kildare Town LAP area. It located outside of the Curragh gravel aquifer, approximately 7.5km west.

A proportion of the Kildare Town LAP area is within the WFD ground water bodies of Kildare and Bagenalstown Upper. Given the topography groundwater flow is estimated to be in a south-west direction, thus extending the distance to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC to approximately 8.5km.

Given there are no QIs in The River Barrow and Nore SAC directly dependent on groundwater, the considerable distance between the groundwater would be required to travel and rate of percolation there are no likely significant effects expected on the QIs of the River Barrow and Nore SAC. In addition, the River Barrow and Nore SAC is outside of the regionally important Curragh Aquifer.

3.2.5 Ballynafagh Bog SAC

Ballynafagh Bog SAC is located 14.7km north-east of Kildare Town LAP area. It is also an ombrotrophic system and not directly dependent of groundwater. It is also outside of the regionally important Curragh gravel aquifers that underlies Kildare Town LAP area and Pollardstown Fen SAC.

Ballynafagh Bog SAC is situated in the Kildare WFD ground waterbody. However, given there are no QIs in Ballynafagh Bog SAC directly dependent on groundwater and the considerable distance between the groundwater would be required to travel and rate of percolation there are no likely significant effects expected on the QIs of the Ballynafagh Bog SAC.

3.2.6 Ballynafagh Lake SAC

Ballynafagh Lake SAC is located 13.2km north-east of Kildare Town LAP area. Although originally a reservoir, Ballynafagh Lake has developed interesting plant communities, including alkaline fen. Fens are directly dependent on groundwater.

A section of the Blackwood Feeder is also included SAC. This hydrologically connects Ballynafagh Lake to the Grand Canal and is of particular conservation significance for the populations of two rare snail species that it supports. The Grand Canal flows east towards Dublin. Surface water also flows south-west from the Ballynafagh Lake SAC via the Slate River.

The site is located in the Kildare Groundwater body, approximately 13.2km from the Kildare Town LAP area and 6km from the Curragh Gravel Aquifer.

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Ballynafagh Lake SAC is not geohydrologically linked to the Kildare Town LAP area as topographically the groundwater flow appears to flow in a south-west direction, north of Kildare Town. It is also outside of the Curragh Gravel Aquifer that Kildare Town is located on, the considerable distance groundwater would be required to travel, the rate and nature of the percolation process there are no likely significant effects expected on the QIs of the Ballynafagh Lake SAC.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations



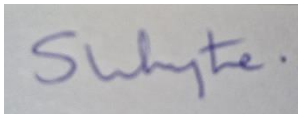
It has been concluded that there is no viable pathway for effect to Mouds Bog SAC, he River Barrow and River Nore SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC due to distance, groundwater flow direction and situation outside the realms of the Curragh Gravel aquifer.

The evidence above demonstrates a lack of connection between the Ballynafagh Lake SAC to Kildare Town LAP area via groundwater flow direction. There is also a lack of connection from Kildare Town LAP area to Pollardstown Fen SAC area via groundwater flow direction. The Kildare Town LAP area lies south of the north-east divide. Therefore, groundwater flows west across Kildare Town.

All Natura 2000 sites have been excluded for likely significant effects given the lack of sufficient geohydrological pathways between the Kildare Town LAP area and the Natura 2000 sites.

It is view of Arup that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not, therefore, required.

DOCUMENT CHECKING

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| Signature |  |  |  |