

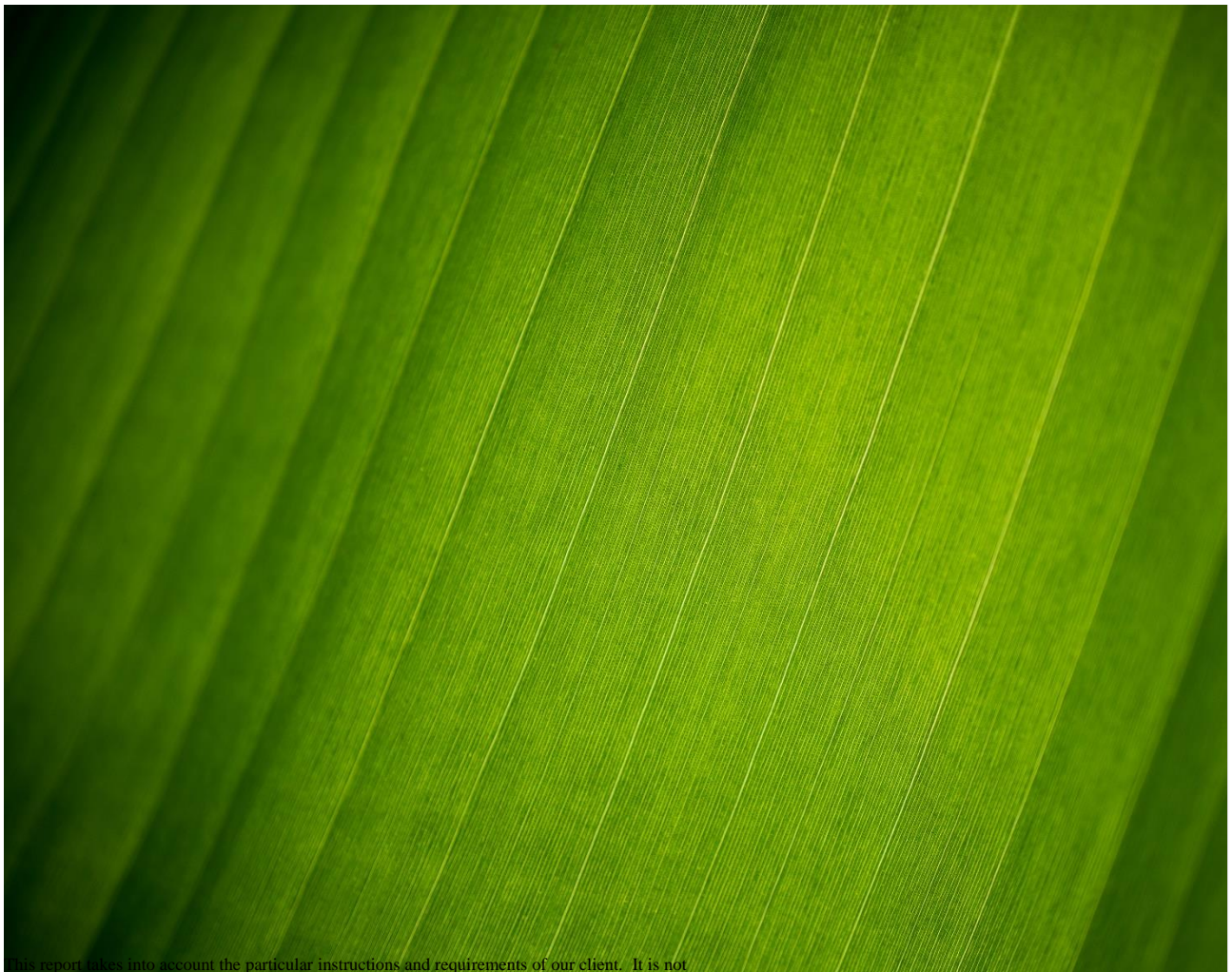
Kildare County Council

Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No.1 – Kilcullen Settlement Plan of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report

Reference:

02 | 4 February 2025





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

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Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Report Aim	1
1.2	Kildare County Development Plan Background	1
1.3	Legislative Context	2
1.4	Relationship with the SEA Directive	2
1.5	Report Structure	2
2.	The Proposed Material Alterations	3
2.1	Overview	3
2.2	Proposed Material Alterations	3
2.3	Geographic Area	4
3.	Appropriate Assessment Process	5
3.1	Appropriate Assessment Stages	5
3.2	Definitions	5
3.3	Guidance, Methodology and Data Sources	6
4.	Screening Assessment	7
4.1	Overview	7
4.2	Assessment Criteria and Screening	7
4.3	Conclusion of the previous AA Screening of the Draft Plan	7
4.4	Impact Assessment of the Proposed Material Alterations	7
4.5	In-Combination Effects	12
5.	Summary and Conclusion	13
5.1	Summary	13
5.2	Conclusion	13

Tables

Table 1 Screening assessment of the Proposed Material Alterations of the draft Plan	7
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Figures

Figure 1 Geographic area of the Settlement Plan	4
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1. Introduction

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) report has been prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd (Arup) on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC) in connection with the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No.1 – Kilcullen Settlement Plan of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (hereafter referred to as the ‘draft Plan’). For the purposes of this report, the Proposed Material Alterations shall be referred to as ‘PMAs’.

This report should be read in conjunction with the draft Plan and the Screening for AA report¹. Based on submissions and observations received on the draft Plan, KCC have proposed some material alterations to the draft Plan.

Arup has been appointed by KCC to undertake AA Screening of the PMAs on the draft Plan. The draft Plan development process is being carried out in parallel with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process and the outcomes will feed into the Plan.

1.1 Report Aim

This AA Screening report has been prepared to provide information for the ‘competent authority’² regarding the potential for ‘Likely Significant Effects’ (LSE) of the PMAs of the draft Plan, on European sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the draft Plan.

This report contains the information specified in the Planning and Development Act 2024. The draft Plan covers the Kilcullen area, which lies within KCC, who is the competent authority for the draft Plan.

1.2 Kildare County Development Plan Background

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

- **Volume 1 Written Statement** - The Written Statement constitutes the main body of the document which comprises the Vision, Core Strategy, development management standards and the overarching policies and objectives of the Plan.
- **Volume 2 Small Towns and Villages Strategy** - The Small Towns and Villages Strategy (STVS) provides a coherent planning framework for the small towns, villages, and rural settlements across the county. The Strategy includes land use zoning maps and specific objectives which are underpinned by the strategic vision and the overarching guiding principles of the Kildare CDP.

KCC is currently preparing a proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029. The purpose of the proposed Variation is to incorporate the town of Kilcullen into Volume 2 of the Kildare CDP. This will ensure that a planning framework is in place for Kilcullen, in the form of a ‘Settlement Plan.’

This Screening for AA report should be read in conjunction with the SEA Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) of the Kildare County Development Plan, as well as the SEA and AA Screening of the Proposed Variation. All mitigation measures proposed as part of SEA Environmental Report and NIS of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 CDP will be applied to all proposed Material Alterations, to minimize any potential for environmental impacts

¹ Arup (2024) Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report

² Per the Planning & Development Act 2024 the competent authority is defined as “A competent authority, in relation to an urban area plan proposed to be made under *Chapter 6* of *Part 3* or a proposed amendment to or revocation of an urban area plan under that Chapter, the planning authority within whose functional area the settlement to which the urban area plan concerned relates is situate,”

1.3 Legislative Context

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

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

The Habitats Directive has been transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) (as amended), and by Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act, 2024. Under the Birds & Natural Habitats Regulations, prior to submitting for approval a plan that is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of either a SPA or SAC, competent authorities or public authority are required to consider whether the plan may have a significant effect on such a site; and where this is the case, that an AA of the Plan must be carried out.

1.4 Relationship with the SEA Directive

In the preparation of this AA Screening report, the approach has been conducted in parallel with the requirements of the SEA process (2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law). Article 3.2(b) of the SEA Directive expressly links to AA. To facilitate an informed assessment under both processes, it is necessary to consider both the draft and final versions of the plan.

1.5 Report Structure

The report is structured below:

- Section 2 provides an overview of the Proposed Material Alterations;
- Section 3 outlines the AA process guidance, data and methodology used to inform the assessment;
- Section 4 sets out the AA Screening assessment; and
- Section 5 provides the summary and conclusion of the report.

2. The Proposed Material Alterations

2.1 Overview

The draft Plan and associated PMAs provides the main public statement of planning policies and objectives for the Settlement Plan. The draft Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Kilcullen in the context of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031 for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. It is also informed by Ministerial Guidelines issued pursuant to Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 together with EU requirements regarding SEA and AA.

The Kilcullen Local Area Plan 2014-2022 is the existing spatial framework for development locations and land use in Kilcullen. A recent decision has been made by KCC not to undertake a review of the Kilcullen LAP. Instead, KCC proposes to undertake a proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 to incorporate Kilcullen into Volume 2 of the CDP.

Thus, the proposed Variation of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 relates to the incorporation, into Volume 2 of the CDP, of a ‘Small Town and Environs Plan’ for Kilcullen.

Following public consultation of the draft Plan, the Chief Executives prepared and distributed to the elected members of the County Council a report on the submissions received, including an opinion thereon and any recommended amendments to the Draft Plan. The PMAs which form the basis of this report have been developed following the period of public consultation.

This Screening for AA report should be read in conjunction with the SEA Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) of the Kildare County Development Plan, as well as the SEA and AA Screening of the Proposed Variation. All mitigation measures proposed as part of SEA Environmental Report and NIS of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 CDP will be applied to all proposed Material Alterations, to minimize any potential for environmental impacts.

2.2 Proposed Material Alterations

There are a number of objectives of the draft Plan for which there are PMAs in addition to the removal and addition of text within the main body of the draft Plan and amendments to maps and drawings. The PMAs include the addition or removal of text within the draft objectives for the purposes of providing further clarity, nominating stakeholders and identifying locations for implementation. The PMAs to drawings and maps provides further clarity on design and locations.

2.3 Geographic Area

The Settlement Plan boundary is illustrated in

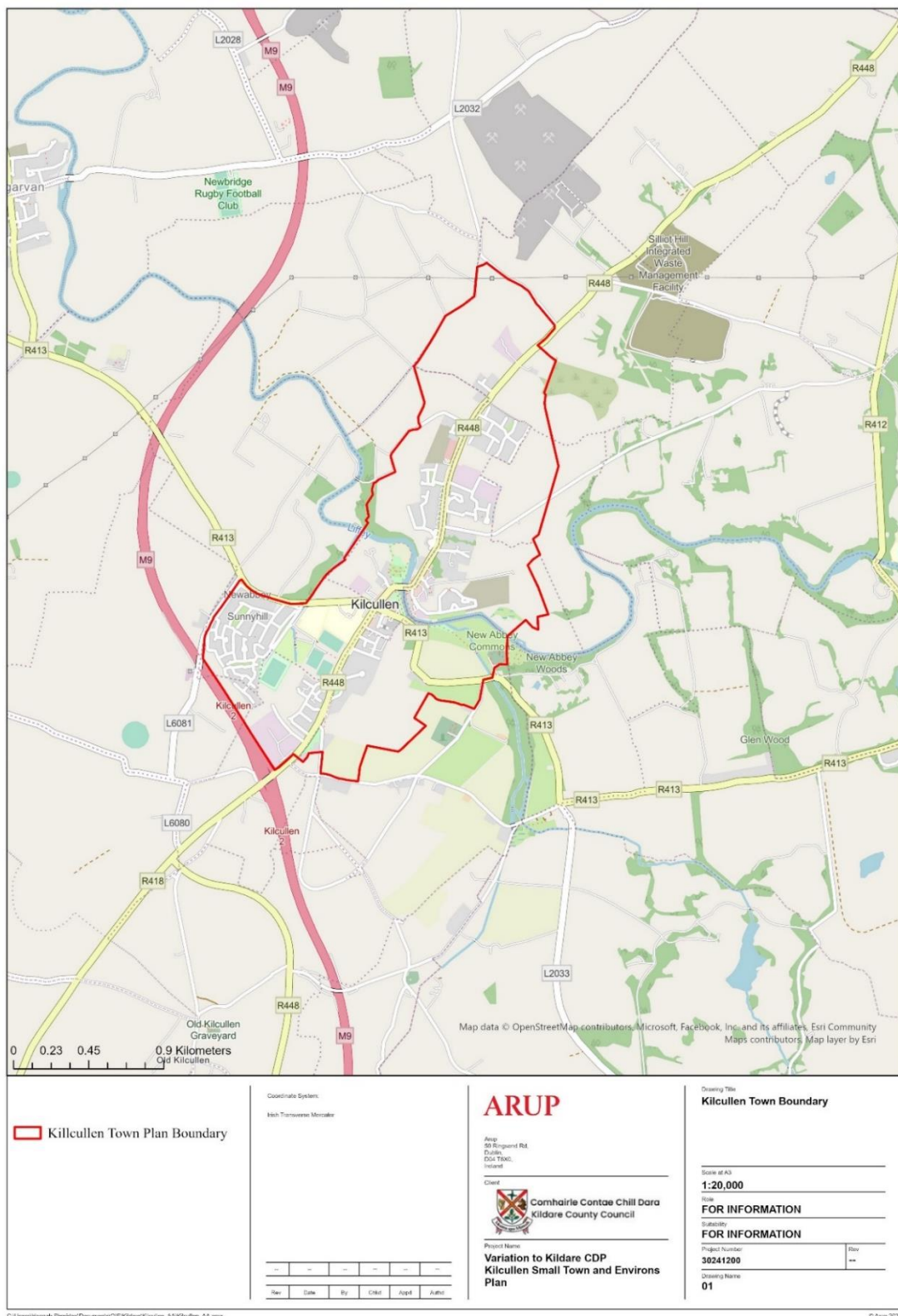


Figure 1
below.

Figure 1 Geographic area of the Settlement Plan

3. Appropriate Assessment Process

3.1 Appropriate Assessment Stages

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

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

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

3.2 Definitions

3.2.1 European Sites

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

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I³ habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II⁴ species (other than birds) as designated by the Habitats Directive.

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

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

3.2.2 Conservation Objective

Conservation Objectives (COs) for the European sites are defined for the relevant QIs and SCIs. In its most general sense, a CO is the specification of the overall target for the species and/or habitat types for which a site is designated in order for it to contribute to maintaining or reaching favourable conservation status⁵.

3.2.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

The Source-Pathway-Receptor model is used to assess where a potential effect may result by examining the source, its pathway and the receptor. As per guidance from the OPR⁶ these can be defined as follows:

- **Source:** The origin of a potential effect which may include characteristics of a plan or project that have the potential to result in effects e.g. direct impacts such as loss of habitat;
- **Pathway:** How the potential effect may occur on the source. These are identifiable through linkages that may occur through the plan or project and European sites e.g. direct pathways such as physical proximity, hydrological connections or indirect pathways such as disturbance to migrating species; and

³ Annex I habitats are habitats whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

⁴ Annex II species are animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

⁵ Commission Note on Setting Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites (November 2012) European Commission, Doc. Hab.12-04/06.

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

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

- **Receptor:** The European site network and respective QIs/SCIs, their ecological condition and sensitivities e.g. freshwater pearl mussel is sensitive to siltation in water.

3.2.4 Zone of Influence

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

3.3 Guidance, Methodology and Data Sources

The guidance, data and methodology as referenced within the original AA Screening report⁷ of the draft Plan has been applied in this report on the PMAs. For a comprehensive list, please refer to Section 3.4 of the AA Screening Report of the draft plan.

⁷ Arup (2024) Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan. Screening for Appropriate Assessment report. April 2024.

4. Screening Assessment

4.1 Overview

The scope of the PMAs to the draft Plan has a scale of application across the boundary of Kilcullen Town.

Conservation objectives of relevant European sites can be accessed on www.npws.ie and have been considered as part of the screening process, but for the purposes of brevity, these have not been reproduced.

4.2 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

In line with Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, any plans or projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require AA. The PMAs and the draft Plan are not primarily directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.

4.3 Conclusion of the previous AA Screening of the Draft Plan

A Screening for AA⁷ of the draft plan was carried out in 2024 and concluded no likely significant effects due to the lack of pathways for effect. Whilst sources of impact, in line with the source-pathway-receptor method, were identified during this assessment, no pathways for effect were identified. As a result, no receptors were considered at risk of a potential source of impact and the draft Plan concluded in no likely significant effects.

It is recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the Screening for AA⁷ of the draft Plan.

4.4 Impact Assessment of the Proposed Material Alterations

The PMAs to the draft Plan provides new objectives, removes previous objectives, provides text amendments and text removal in addition to amendments to maps contained within the draft Plan. The PMAs have been assessed below in Table 1 in line with the methodologies applied in the Screening for AA⁷ submitted on the draft Plan. The PMAs have been reviewed for sources of impact and pathways for effect. Text highlighted in *red italics* in Table 1 represents any proposed new text and text highlighted in ~~strikethrough blue~~ represents proposed text removals.

In consideration of the potential for likely significant effects and in cognisance of the previous Screening for AA report, the geographic area of the draft Plan was reviewed for any changes. No changes to the geographic area are proposed within the PMAs. Each PMA has been reviewed for its potential to give rise to likely significant effect (see Table 1). The review has found that a lack of viable pathways for effect exists, as was identified within the original Screening for AA⁷ report carried out on the draft Plan in 2024.

Table 1 Screening assessment of the Proposed Material Alterations of the draft Plan

Objective No.	Proposed Material Alteration	Screening Assessment
No.1	Amend table to reflect zoning changes and amend site labels	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA.
No. 2	Text addition	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 3	Amend Objective ST KL12, as follows: ST KL12 To leverage funding from relevant national or other appropriate sources to support the development of	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA

Objective No.	Proposed Material Alteration	Screening Assessment
	projects/proposals which will serve to improve the public realm and other civic spaces within the town, <i>including the Market Square and Bentley's Lane Regeneration Plan. Please note: Bentley's Lane is in private ownership.</i>	
No. 4	Amend Objective ST KL16, as follows; (i) Require that any planning application at the Opportunity site (See OP2 on LUZ Map and Town Centre Map) includes a landmark mixed-use development which shall consolidate this town centre location thereby creating a strong presence at this infill location. <i>Consideration should be given to the provision of car parking during the preparation of the masterplan, and through the development management process.</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No 5.	Lands Measuring 2.1 hectares, amend from 'A Town Centre / Opportunity Site' to 'E(1) – Community and Education'.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No 6.	Amend Objective ST KL27, as follows; Facilitate the improvement and expansion of educational, sports, recreational and cultural facilities for St. Brigid's Primary School and the Cross and Passion College Secondary School. <i>Land Use Zoning E(1) has been identified to facilitate the expansion and delivery of educational and community services for the town when required.</i> where <i>E(1) Newbridge Road, Kilcullen Settlement Plan – These lands comprise 2.1ha and have been identified to accommodate the expansion of education and community facilities (see objectives ST KL 27 and ST KL29</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 7	Lands Measuring 2.23 hectares, amend from 'A Town Centre / Opportunity Site' to 'E(2) – Community and Education'.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 8	Include the following Specific Objective to 'E – Community and Educational' Land Use;	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 9	Amend Objective ST KL15, as follows; ST KL15 (iii) Any proposed development located within the Opportunity Site shall have regard to the Greenway route identified within the Mobility objectives Map. <i>(iii) To require the preparation of a town centre car parking strategy to demonstrate that sufficient car parking provision is made on site or at alternative locations in the town to protect the primacy of the town centre.</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 10	Insert new objective and update reference order accordingly; <i>ST KL29 Facilitate and support the provision of a new youth hub centre/ suitable space at an appropriate and accessible location benefitting from a suitable Land Use Zoning Objective (LUZO).</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 11	Amend Objective ST KL22, as follows; ST KL22 Facilitate the provision of a BMX and Skateboarding <i>Park on F: Open Space and Amenity lands</i> adjacent to the existing Kilcullen GAA pitches (please refer to Maps attached) <i>or on appropriately zoned land.</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA

Objective No.	Proposed Material Alteration	Screening Assessment
No. 12	<p>Insert new objective and update reference order accordingly;</p> <p><i>ST KL37 To reinforce and support the Main Street and Core Retail Area (Footnote) of the town as the priority location for future retail development, ensuring quality of design and integration/linkage within the existing urban form/layout being fundamental pre-requisites.</i></p> <p><i>(Footnote) Kilcullen Core Retail area is defined in Map V1 – 8.5 in Chapter 8 Urban Centres & Retail, Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029</i></p>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 13	<p>Insert new objective as follows;</p> <p><i>ST KL38 To recognise and support the continued operation of independent retailers within Kilcullen Town Centre and to acknowledge the value of this aspect of retail provision including saddlers, butchers etc as an intrinsic part of town's identity.</i></p>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 14	<p>Amend Objective ST KL48 as follows;</p> <p><i>ST KL48 Ensure that development along urban watercourses must comply with the Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance—‘Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment’—(2020), including the maintenance of a minimum riparian zone of 35 metres for river channels greater than 10 metres in width, and 20 metres for rivers channels less than 10 metres in width. Development within this zone will only be considered for water compatible developments.</i></p> <p><i>ST KL51 Ensure all development proposals along the River Liffey Corridor comply with Chapter 12: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure (notably BI O41 and Table 12.4), The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (OPW, 2009) and ‘Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment’ (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020)</i></p>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 15	<p>Insert new objective and update reference order accordingly;</p> <p><i>ST KL52 Collaborate and support Uisce Éireann and other inter agency service departments with the preparation and implementation of future Storm Water Separation Programs / Drainage Area Plans for Kilcullen where feasible.</i></p>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 16	<p>Amend Objective ST KL 52 as follows:</p> <p><i>ST KL562 Investigate To the designation of an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) to protect the historic urban core of Kilcullen through the preparation of a detailed assessment, analysis and report, and to resist the demolition of and conserve/enhance buildings of significance identified through the NIAH in advance of any ACA designation within twelve months of the adoption of this plan.</i></p>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 17	<p>Amend Objective ST KL53 as follows;</p> <p><i>STKL57 (xii) Mature Beech Tree on the New Abbey Road (R413) adjacent River Lodge House (See Heritage Map for Location)</i></p> <p>Note: Update Map V2A-6 (Natural and Built Heritage) as follows (Proposed inclusion outlined in yellow);</p>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 18	<p>Insert new objective as follows;</p> <p><i>ST KL89 Collaborate with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport for Ireland (TFI) Local Link Service providers to improve existing bus stop facilities and supporting infrastructure, including the</i></p>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA

Objective No.	Proposed Material Alteration	Screening Assessment
	<i>identification of alternative bus stop facilities which can become fully accessible.</i>	
No. 19	Amend Objective ST KL83 as follows; ST KL87 <i>To work with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to identify within 12 months of the adoption of the Settlement Plan, a suitable location to facilitate a bus turning point in the town that can support existing Local Link and public transport service providers. Locations such as business campus north and south of the town should be considered.</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 20	Insert new objective as follows; <i>ST KL90 – To prepare all necessary evidence-based assessments in advance of progressing item ‘Y’ in Table 5.4 ‘Priority Road and Bridge Projects’ of Chapter 5, Volume 1, Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 21	Insert new objective and update reference order accordingly; <i>ST KL91 Support the provision of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) on public and private land in accordance with County Development Plan standards.</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 22	Amend zoning on Lands Measuring 0.17 hectares, from ‘C(5) New Residential’ to ‘F – Open Space and Amenity’	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 23	Lands Measuring 1.91 hectares, amend from ‘C (4) New Residential’ to ‘I – Agriculture’. Note: The proposed amendment will require consequential amendments to Table 2.7 of the Proposed Variation.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 24	Lands Measuring 1.48 hectares, amend from ‘C(2) New Residential’ to ‘F – Open Space & Amenity’. Note: The proposed amendment will require consequential amendments to Table 2-7 of the Proposed Variation.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 25	Map V2A-1 – Land Use Zoning Lands Measuring 0.04 hectares, amend from ‘C(2) New Residential’ to ‘I – Agriculture’. Note: The proposed amendment will require consequential amendments to Table 2-7 of the Proposed Variation	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 26	Map V2A-1 – Land Use Zoning Amend zoning on Lands Measuring 0.1 hectares, from ‘SS Service Sites’ to ‘F – Open Space and Amenity’ Note: The proposed amendment will require consequential amendments to Table 2-7 of the Proposed Variation.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 27	Amend zoning on Lands Measuring 4.3 hectares, from ‘SS Service Sites’ to ‘C – New Residential’ Note: The proposed amendment will require consequential amendments to Table 2.7 of the Proposed Variation.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 28	Amend zoning on Lands Measuring 1.97 hectares, from ‘C(4) New Residential’ to ‘I – Agriculture’	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA

Objective No.	Proposed Material Alteration	Screening Assessment
	Note: The proposed amendment will require consequential amendments to Table 2.7 of the Proposed Variation.	
No. 29	Map V2A-1 – Land Use Zoning Replace ‘H – Industry and Warehousing’ lands measuring 7.0ha and surrounding ‘I – Agriculture’ lands with the following new land use zonings and quantum’s as follows; C – New Residential – 1.97ha H – Industry and Warehousing – 7.0ha SR – Strategic Reserve – 8.62ha	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 30	Amend Objective ST KL 8 1 as follows; <i>(iv) It is a requirement that site C(2) New Abbey Road and Site C(4) Nicholastown New Residential lands are connected by a new street corridor that integrates these two developments. The new street corridor may form part of a wider relief road in the future, should this project be supported by a business case. The street corridor will reflect the indicative relief road route identified as far as practical (See Map V2A-3) and connect R448 to R413. The new street will be delivered by developments along the corridor.</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 31	Amend zoning on Lands Measuring 8.68 hectares, from ‘I – Agriculture’ to ‘SS – Service Sites’	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
No. 32	Amend existing map to include and identify additional ‘Recreation and Amenity Spaces’ (see areas outlined in yellow) along the River Liffey Corridor to the east and west of the town within the settlement boundary.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
A	Amend proposed objective TM A2 as follows; Prepare, implement and review (where appropriate) transport and mobility strategies for each settlement commensurate to their scale and complexity to provide an evidence-base for objectives and actions included within settlement plans. Local Transport Plans (LTPs)/ Area Based Transport Assessments (ABTAs) shall be prepared for the Key Towns and Self-Sustaining Growth Town settlements in County Kildare in consultation with TII and the NTA. Smaller settlements will benefit from the preparation of a Transport and Mobility Strategy, <i>based on the ABTA process commensurate to their scale and complexity</i> , to support their settlement plans and objectives / actions. Transport and mobility strategies will be developed to provide a framework for the movement of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport services and private vehicles which are aligned with the hierarchy of users and modal shift targets set out in this Plan. Transport and mobility strategies will include measures for pedestrian, cycle, public transport infrastructure and services, road / street corridor enhancement, demand management and freight management. LTPs/ ABTA’s/ <i>Transport and Mobility Strategies</i> , will be prepared in accordance with appropriate national guidelines, such as the ABTA ‘How to Guide’, Pilot Methodology (September, 2021) and the Area Based Transport Assessment Advice Note (December, 2018) published by NTA / TII.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA
B	ST KL11 Improve, <i>where feasible and practical</i> , the quality of Kilcullen Main Street with new paving, mature trees, streetlamps, high quality seating, street furniture, <i>community notice boards</i> and the reduction in on-street car parking <i>where alternative locations have been identified and underground cabling where</i>	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA

Objective No.	Proposed Material Alteration	Screening Assessment
	<i>possible</i> to mark the importance of this area as the heart of the town centre. (see Town Centre Map)	
C	Amend Objective ST KL17 as follows; ST KL17 Maximise the potential of the River Liffey for tourism and recreational purposes by improving public access to the river, including the provision of a linear park (in conjunction with the relevant statutory authorities) and subject to appropriate environmental <i>and ecological</i> assessments.	As no pathway for effect exists between the implementation of this PMA and a receptor, no likely significant effects shall arise from this PMA

4.5 In-Combination Effects

The purpose of the in-combination assessment is to ascertain whether the draft Plan may give rise to effects in-combination with other plans and/or projects. In the application of the S-P-R method, this report has found that no viable pathways for effect exist for the draft Plan, and as such, no receptors are at risk of impacts. Arising from this, the consideration of in-combination effects is not required given that the draft Plan alone, shall not result in LSE.

5. Summary and Conclusion

5.1 Summary

A series of Proposed Material Alterations has been put forward to the Proposed Variation No.1 – Kilcullen Settlement Plan of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029. A Screening for AA has been carried out in line with Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 in line with the methodology carried out in the Screening for AA⁷ of the draft Plan in 2024. It is recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the Screening for AA⁷ of the draft Plan.

Following review of the PMAs it has been determined the potential for likely significant effects arising from the implementation of the PMAs, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would not arise. This conclusion is informed by the fact that no pathways for effect exist as the geographic area within the draft Plan has not changed and none of the PMAs have been determined to give rise to a likely significant effect.

5.2 Conclusion

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the best available information, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant effects on any European sites, whether arising from the PMAs alone or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded, for the reasons set out in Section 4.4 above. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the proposed PMAs and their potential relationship with all European sites within the ZoI, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation No.1 – Kilcullen Settlement Plan of Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 do not require an Appropriate Assessment.