

SCREENING FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

FOR
PROPOSED VARIATION No. 2
TO THE
WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028
(AS VARIED)

for: **Wicklow County Council**



by: **CAAS Ltd.**



SEPTEMBER 2024

Table of Contents

Section 1	Introduction and Background.....	1
1.1	Introduction and Legislative Requirements	1
1.2	Proposed Variation No. 2	1
1.3	Consultations	2
Section 2	SEA Screening	5
2.1	Introduction.....	5
2.2	Screening for Appropriate Assessment	5
2.3	Requirement for Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.....	5
2.4	SEA Screening Analysis	5
2.5	Schedule 2A.....	33
Section 3	Screening for SEA Concluding Advice	37
	Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes.....	38

Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction and Legislative Requirements

This is the Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied).

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or variation to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive¹ requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans and programmes. Screening is the process for determining whether a particular plan- or variation to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

Under Article 7 (13K) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), Wicklow County Council is required to determine whether any Proposed Variation needs to be subject to SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on Proposed Variation No. 2. This report should be read in conjunction with the documents cited within, including the Proposed Variation and the Screening for AA Report.

1.2 Proposed Variation No. 2

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Wicklow County Council. The Plan has already been varied in 2022 with Variation No. 1².

The aim of Proposed Variation No. 2 is to ensure consistency of the draft and final Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan with the County Development Plan 2022-2028 i.e. to ensure that the zoning and key development objectives of the Local Area Plan clearly form part of the County Development Plan.

Furthermore, Proposed Variation No. 2 provides a structure and context (including amendments to Volume 1 of the Plan, sub-sections 1.2 "Structure of the Plan" and 3.5 "Zoning" and Map 17.09 "Wicklow Landscape Category Map" (to reflect revised LAP boundary), and the insertion into Volume 2 of a new Part of the Plan ("Part 5 Local Area Plans"), including associated "Introduction to Local Area Plans" text that allows for the coherent and consistent integration of Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan zoning and development objectives into the County Development Plan.

For further detail, the Proposed Variation document should be referred to.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

² Variation No. 1 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 updated the Plan as follows: rezone 0.81ha of land at Ballygannon, Rathdrum, from 'RN – New Residential' to 'OS2 – Passive Open Space' and amend the written text of the Rathdrum Town Plan to reflect the changes consequent from the rezoning. Variation No. 1 ('Rathdrum Town Plan') was screened for the need to undertake SEA and it was determined that SEA was not required.

1.3 Consultations

As part of the screening process, environmental authorities³ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to whether or not implementation of Proposed Variation No. 2 would be likely to have significant effects on the environment may be made to the Council. Three submissions were received, from the Environmental Protection Agency, Kildare County Council and South Dublin County Council. The submissions from Kildare County Council and South Dublin County Council provided acknowledgement and did not include any detailed information or recommendations. The Environmental Protection Agency's submission provided detailed information and recommendations and its text is presented and responded to on Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Issues Raised in Submission and Responses

Ref.	Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised	SEA Response
1. Environmental Protection Agency		
1A	<p>We acknowledge your notice, dated 08th March 2024, in relation to the Proposed Variation 2 Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening.</p> <p>The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into plans and programmes¹ and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan or programme. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans or programmes.</p> <p>As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via our guidance document '<u>SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources</u>'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use plans. In finalising your SEA screening determination, we suggest that you take this guidance document into account and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The SEA Screening process has and will continue to take the guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' into account.</p>
1B	<p>SEA Determination</p> <p>If a proposed SEA determination hasn't been made regarding the plan or programme, you should determine whether implementing the plan or programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2A (S.I. No. 436 of 2004, as amended) or Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended), as appropriate, set out the '<i>Criteria for determining whether a Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment</i>' to use to determine whether the plan or programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Guidance on the SEA process, including an SEA pack and checklist, is available on our website at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-resources-and-guidance/.</p> <p>We recommend that you take the available guidance into account in making your SEA Screening Determination and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Noted. Following completion of this report, Wicklow County Council will make a determination as to whether implementing the Proposed Variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Following the making of the determination, a copy of the decision, including, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, will be made available for public inspection in the Council's offices and on the Council's website. A copy of the determination will also be sent to the environmental authorities consulted.</p> <p>The criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive [Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended] have been and will be taken into account throughout the SEA Screening process.</p>
1C	<p>EPA SEA Screening Guidance</p> <p>Our <u>Good Practice Guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening</u> (EPA, 2021) provides specific stand-alone guidance to assist plan or programme makers and SEA practitioners. It focuses primarily on plans/programmes in the non-land use sector in Ireland and includes an elaboration of the steps needed for screening, the legislative landscape underpinning SEA screening, and step-by-step process and templates to assist in preparing the required documentation.</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</p> <p>The <u>Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities</u> (DHLGH, 2022) provides advice on carrying out SEA in the land-use planning sector for those plans listed in S.I. No.436 of 2004, as amended. These plans comprise regional, county and local plans, including Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, County or City Development Plans, variations of</p>	<p>The Ministerial SEA Guidelines and the EPA's Guidance on the SEA process have been and will be taken into account throughout the SEA Screening process.</p>

³ The following environmental authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Wexford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kildare County Council; South Dublin County Council; and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

Ref.	Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised	SEA Response
	Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes for Strategic Development Zones. The Guidelines replace previous guidance for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities published in 2004.	
1D	<p>Sustainable Development</p> <p>In proposing and in implementing the plan or programme, you should ensure that the plan or programme is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the plan or programme.</p> <p>In considering the plan or programme, you should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans.</p> <p>You should also ensure that the plan or programme aligns with any key relevant higher- level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>	<p>Wicklow County Council will ensure that the Plan as varied and its implementation is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure will be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan as varied.</p> <p>In considering the Proposed Variation, Wicklow County Council has taken into account the need to align with national, sectoral, regional and local commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Wicklow County Council will ensure that implementation of the Plan as varied aligns with and is consistent with higher-level plans and programmes, including the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>
1D	<p>State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2020</p> <p>In preparing the plan or programme and associated SEA screening, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described in our published State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the plan or programme.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation preparation and associated SEA Screening process has and will continue to take the State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) into account.</p>
1E	<p>Available Guidance & Resources</p> <p>Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEA process guidance and checklists - SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory - Topic specific SEA guidance (including Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring (EPA, 2020), Integrating climatic factors into SEA (EPA, 2019), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012)) <p>You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/</p> <p>Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) WebTool</p> <p>This tool is a decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. It is available at www.enviromap.ie. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners examine environmental considerations, anticipate potential land-use conflicts, and help identify suitable development locations while also protecting the environment.</p> <p>EPA SEA WebGIS Tool</p> <p>Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now publicly available at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA. It allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.</p> <p>Catchments.ie</p> <p>Our https://www.catchments.ie/maps/ website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.</p>	<p>Noted. These tools, applications, guidance and resources have and will be taken into account through the SEA Screening process.</p>
1F	<p>Future amendments to the plan or programme</p> <p>Where changes to the plan or programme are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the plan or programme are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 2A (S.I. No. 436 of 2004, as amended) or Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended) of the SEA Regulations, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Where changes to the Proposed Variation are made prior to finalisation these will be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive [Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended].</p>
1G	<p>Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>You should ensure that the plan or programme complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant. Where an Appropriate Assessment is required, the key findings and recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the plan or programme.</p>	<p>The findings of the Screening for AA process have been taken into account by the SEA and Proposed Variation preparation process – refer to Section 2.2.</p>
1H	<p>Environmental Authorities</p> <p>Under the SEA Regulations, prior to making your SEA determination you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and, • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. <p>For land use plans covered under S.I. No. 436 of 2004, as amended, you should also consult with:</p>	<p>The relevant environmental authorities have been consulted through the SEA Screening process.</p>

Ref.	Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised	SEA Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan. 	
1I	<p>SEA Determination</p> <p>As soon as practicable after making your determination as to whether SEA is required or not, you should make a copy of your decision, including, if appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection in your offices and on your website. You should also send a copy of your determination to the relevant environmental authorities consulted.</p>	<p>Noted. Following completion of this report, Wicklow County Council will make a determination as to whether implementing the Proposed Variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Following the making of the determination, a copy of the decision, including, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, will be made available for public inspection in the Council's offices and on the Council's website. A copy of the determination will also be sent to the environmental authorities consulted.</p>
1J	<p>If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Section 2 SEA Screening

2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether Proposed Variation No. 2 would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended (see Section 2.5).

2.2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive⁴ and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for likely significant effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

The Proposed Variation is being subject to a screening for AA process in order to establish whether or not AA must be undertaken. The accompanying Screening for AA Report identifies that Proposed Variation No. 2 is not likely to result in significant effects on European sites; consequently Stage 2 AA is demonstrated as not being required.

2.3 Requirement for Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan to which Proposed Variation No. 2 relates have both been subject to Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, ensuring the integration of flood risk management considerations as required by the Flood Risk Management Ministerial Guidelines, therefore Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is not required to be undertaken on the Variation.

2.4 SEA Screening Analysis

The analysis of the Proposed Variation is undertaken with reference to the main interactions with Strategic Environmental Objectives⁵ (SEOs). SEOs align with those used by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) and are detailed in full at Table 2.1. The range of interactions identified with symbols are detailed on Table 2.2.

Using the SEO codes (Table 2.1) and interaction symbols (Table 2.2), Table 2.3 examines whether the Proposed Variation would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.3 is supplemented by Table 2.4 which provides details on, with respect to Proposed Variation No. 2 in combination with the wider planning framework (including the existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied):

- Significant positive effects, likely to occur;

⁴ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁵ Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Proposed Variation can be considered in order to help identify whether any provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

- Potentially significant adverse effects, if unmitigated;
- Likely residual non-significant adverse effects; and
- A selection of mitigation measure(s) from the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) and the emerging Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan.

Effects encompass the full range of effects⁶, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

The examination of the Plan also takes into account relevant criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive '*Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)*' (see Section 2.5).

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes and is subject to a number of high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply (including those detailed in Appendix I). The Development Plan (as varied) will be implemented within areas that have existing plans and programmes for a range of sectors at a range of levels (e.g. National, River Basin District, Regional, County and Local) that are already subject to more specific higher and lower tier SEA and AA. The County Development Plan (as varied) will be consistent with such plans, programmes and legislation and may, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. In this regard, Appendix I includes statutory provisions, plans, policies and strategies that set the context within which the County Development Plan (as varied) and associated Proposed Variation No. 2 are framed.

Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species • Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function • Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species • Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets • To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management • Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services • Safeguard citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource • Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield • Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive • Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments • Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals

⁶ These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals - this includes transport infrastructure Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency Promote continuing improvement in air quality Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended level
Climatic Factors⁷	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan’s framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Table 2.2 Main Interactions and associated Symbols

Symbol	Main Interactions Identified
+	Potential beneficial environmental effects are present already and would be further contributed towards.
-	Potentially adverse environmental effects are present already, would be further contributed towards and would be mitigated so as not to result in significant residual effects ⁸ .
+/-	Potential environmental effects either: are beneficial, present already and would be further contributed towards; or are potentially adverse, present already, would be further contributed towards and would be mitigated so as not to be significant ⁹ .
0	No significant interaction.
*	Please also refer to Section 2.2.
#	Please also refer to Section 2.3.

⁷ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically.

⁸ Including by the measures identified on Table 2.4.

⁹ Including by the measures identified on Table 2.4.

Table 2.3 SEA Screening Analysis of Proposed Variation No. 2

SEO Codes (see Table 2.2) for Main Interactions									
BFF	PHH	S	W	MA	A	C	CH	L	Additional SEA Screening Comments
-/+*	-/+	-/+	-/+#	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	<p>The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Wicklow County Council. The aim of Proposed Variation No. 2 is to ensure consistency of the draft and final Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan with the County Development Plan 2022-2028 i.e. to ensure that the zoning and key development objectives of the Local Area Plan clearly form part of the County Development Plan. Furthermore, Proposed Variation No. 2 provides a structure and context (including amendments to Volume 1 of the Plan, sub-sections 1.2 "Structure of the Plan" and 3.5 "Zoning" and Map 17.09 "Wicklow Landscape Category Map" (to reflect revised LAP boundary), and the insertion into Volume 2 of a new Part of the Plan ("Part 5 Local Area Plans"), including associated "Introduction to Local Area Plans" text that allows for the coherent and consistent integration of Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan zoning and development objectives into the County Development Plan.</p> <p>The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to full SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Local Area Plan, which itself is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with. The emerging conclusions of the SEA for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan include that the Local Area Plan would contribute towards: the proper planning and sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area and the wider County; and that the consequential environmental effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.</p> <p>Taking into account the measures that have been integrated into both the existing County Development Plan (as varied) and the emerging Local Area Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from Proposed Variation No. 2, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Table 2.4 should also be referred to in this regard.</p> <p>Taking into account all of the above, Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, it is advised that SEA is not required.</p>

Table 2.4 Details of environmental effects with respect to Proposed Variation No. 2 in combination with the wider planning framework

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:	Draft Local Area Plan measures, including:
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans – see Appendix I.	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated		
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements, including Wicklow Town-Rathnew) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation). 	<p>SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity</p> <p>Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit or current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p>Tourism and Recreation</p> <p>CPO11.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>Environmental Protection</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are</p>	<p>Tourism Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect Wicklow Town – Rathnew's principal strengths and capitalise on the distinct tourism attractions that are on offer; To ensure a focus on high quality tourism products; To work with tourism bodies to increase the number of tourists visiting the settlement, to increase the length of stay of tourists and to help secure the tourism sector as key economic driver; To preserve the character and distinctiveness of scenic landscapes that are of high amenity value; To protect the conservation objectives of European sites, controlling development with the potential to cause adverse impacts on these, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, is subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive. <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR9 To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the settlement and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided.</p> <p>WTR14 On lands zoned for employment on the 'Murrough North', it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the continued operation of established / permitted existing business / commercial activities subject to ensuring they operate in a manner which is respectful of the local environment, use environmentally friendly / innovative technologies and improve the visual amenity of the area; To resist further expansion / intensification of the existing industries / businesses and consideration will only be given to development that enhances nature conservation; To ensure that no development is permitted which

	<p>and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 			<p>not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Corridor and Route Selection</p> <p>CPO 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>Natural Heritage & Biodiversity Objectives</p> <p>General</p> <p>CPO 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non renewable resource.</p> <p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Protected sites and species</p> <p>CPO 17.4 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019) • National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) 	<p>would give rise to significant adverse impacts upon the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage site operators to improve the overall visual amenity of the area including the provision of additional landscaping using native species appropriate to this natural coastal setting. <p>While the Council acknowledges that these industries are established, permitted and operating businesses / commercial activities, it is important to have regard to (a) the need to ensure no significant adverse impacts on the European Sites arise from the intensification or change of use of this area for industry / employment and (b) the nature restoration goals of the Council and (c) the available of significant areas of zoned employment land within the settlement away from the coast and other environmentally sensitive locations.</p> <p>WTR42 To enhance the amenity value of the Rathnew Stream and to facilitate improved access, subject to the protection of its environmental and ecological value.</p> <p>WTR46 To enhance and protect the built and natural heritage of Rathnew and to facilitate improved access to these amenities.</p> <p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p> <p>WTR52 To ensure that all proposals for development have cognisance of European sites in the area and that no development is allowed which would have a significant adverse effect on the conservation interests of these sites.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront area to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR73 To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.</p> <p>WTR84 To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that contribute greatly to this character.</p> <p>WTR90 To facilitate the development and enhancement of green infrastructure resources, including access to, connectivity between areas of interest and linkages between green spaces including the coast, where feasible within the plan settlement boundary.</p> <p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/</p>
--	--	--	--	---	---

			<p>Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010); • Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same), • Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan; • Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges. <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>Sites & Corridors of ecological & biodiversity value</p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and</p>	<p>Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

				<p>enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</p> <p>CPO 17.18 To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem amenity or the environment generally, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high amenity value generally and in particular where it appears that they are in danger of being felled and in response to requests from local communities.</p> <p>CPO 17.20 Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 17.21 To strongly discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling if such is essential to enable development to proceed.</p> <p>CPO 17.22 To require and ensure the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.</p> <p>CPO 17.23 To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal trails linking up with existing recreational trails, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.</p> <p>In particular, to support the development of existing and examine the feasibility of new walking, cycling, horse riding and water based routes and trails along the following routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from Bray Head, via the Sugarloaf Mountains, joining up with The Wicklow Way; • the extension of the 'Blessington Greenway' walk around the Phoulaphuca reservoir; • the expansion of a lakeshore walk around the Vartry reservoir; • the extension of the old Shillelagh branch recreational trail - railway walk from Arklow to Shillelagh; • the development of a route along the disused Great Southern and Western Railway line (Naas to Tullow branch) through Dunlavin and Baltinglass. • the development of a coastal route from Bray to Arklow as well as links between this potential route and the coast road; • the Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way (as permissive waymarked routes). • the Wicklow to Glendalough "pilgrim walk" incorporating ancient wells. • 'Mountains to the Sea' amenity route incorporating Glendalough, Laragh, Annamoe, Roundwood, Newtownmountkenedy and Kilcoole-Newcastle. <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Recreation and Tourism</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes; • Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16. <p>CPO 11.32 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Light Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development & Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>ecological corridors.</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 19.13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan¹⁰.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of The Murrough cSAC. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of the cSAC, including development that is within the cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon. 2. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching and beach usage, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats. 3. To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla. 4. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding. 5. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design, which takes due cognisance of the historic settlement pattern in the area and to environmental designations. 6. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline. 7. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective. 8. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell. 9. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area. 10. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew. 2. No development will be permitted that has the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SAC, or Wicklow Reef SPA either directly, indirectly or cumulatively. 3. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and 	
--	--	--	--	---	--

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

				<p>recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>4. To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port.</p> <p>5. To retain Wicklow Golf Club at its present location and to preserve the open character of this area, as it acts as an important buffer area between the town and recreation areas further to the south.</p> <p>6. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</p> <p>1. To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Magherabeg pNHA / cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a SAC, including development that is within a SAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites; b) Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc); c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and d) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types; e) automated gates will not be permitted on any development. <p>6. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>7. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline.</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements, including Wicklow Town-Rathnew) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements, including Wicklow Town-Rathnew) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Seveso Sites</p> <p>CPO 9.16 The Seveso Directive 96/82/EC as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC and more recently by Directive 2012/18/EU is concerned with the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous substances and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment. It applies to establishments where dangerous substances are produced, used, handled or stored. This EU directive seeks to ensure the safety of people and the environment in relation to major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances.</p> <p>The European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (the "COMAH Regulations", (SI No. 209 of 2015) implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) and are the main regulations that give effect to this Directive in Irish law. The National Authority for Occupational Safety Health (i.e. the Health and Safety Authority – HSA) has been designated as the central competent authority for enforcement of these regulations.</p> <p>There is one Seveso site in County Wicklow (as of July 2019), located at Sigma Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Arklow.</p> <p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, b) public health and safeguarding of public health, and c) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Residential Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure sufficient zoned and serviced land is available at appropriate locations capable of meeting the housing needs of the targeted population of the settlement over the plan period in a sustainable manner. Notwithstanding the zoning of land for residential purposes, the Planning Authority shall monitor and implement the population targets as set out in the County Development Plan and shall phase and restrict, where necessary, the granting of residential planning permissions to ensure these targets are not exceeded; • To promote and facilitate in-fill housing developments, the use of under-utilised / vacant sites and vacant upper floors for residential use and facilitate higher residential densities at appropriate locations, subject to a high standard of design, layout and finish; • To promote and facilitate the redevelopment of sites in the town and village centres, including identified opportunity sites, where development will positively contribute to the commercial and residential vitality of the town centre; <p>Economic Development and Employment Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and facilitating to the highest degree possible (subject to environmental and other relevant planning considerations) all forms of employment generation; • Support the enhanced role and function of Wicklow as the County Town as a hub for employment, training and education; • Exploitation and development of existing settlement assets to act as a catalyst for major employment growth in the settlement, county and region. To ensure that the appropriate framework and services are in place to allow these assets to be developed to their full employment potential • To attract inward investment / growth in indigenous and foreign industry by providing the infrastructure and zoned land necessary and promoting a healthy community with a high quality environment; • Fostering entrepreneurial activity by promoting and supporting opportunities for training and education, and business start-up and incubator facilities; • Support Wicklow-Rathnew's role in the provision of third level education at the Wicklow County Campus Rathnew (in association with SETU) and in particular, to support the development of the campus as a hub for the Film Industry (Screen Content Creation Sector), the renewable energy sector and the food sector; • To facilitate more intensive economic activity and job creation in the existing town / village centres, in retail and retail services, professional services, tourism and accommodation; • Promote a high quality built and natural environment
---	---	---	--	---	---

					<p>that is attractive to indigenous and foreign industry and employees;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the development of opportunities to capitalise particularly on the settlement's coastal location and to support enhancement and expansion of Wicklow Port and Harbour. <p>Infrastructure Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the development of safe and accessible pedestrian, cycling and traffic routes and excellent public transport facilities; Facilitate and promote the delivery of reliable and effective water, drainage, energy, waste management and communications infrastructure to service the existing and future development needs of the settlement. <p>Heritage Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the natural, architectural, archaeological and maritime heritage of the Wicklow Town – Rathnew area; To enhance the quality of the natural and built environment, to enhance the unique character of Wicklow Town and Rathnew as a place to live, visit and work; To promote greater appreciation of, and access to, local heritage assets. <p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements, including Wicklow Town-Rathnew) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Coastal and riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Soils & Geology</p> <p>CPO 17.27 Geological and soil mapping where available shall be considered in planning decisions relating to settlement, excavation, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), lands with unstable soils / geology or at risk of landslides, and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance.</p> <p>CPO 17.28 Protect and enhance 'County Geological Sites' (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.</p> <p>CPO 17.29 To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland as is deemed necessary, when dealing with any proposals for major developments, which will entail 'significant' ground excavation, such as quarrying, road cuttings, tunnels, major drainage works, and foundations for industrial or large buildings and complexes.</p> <p>CPO 17.30 To facilitate public access to County Geological Heritage Sites, on the principle of "agreed access" subject to appropriate measures being put in place to ensure public health and safety and subject to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.31 To facilitate the Geological Survey of Ireland, and other interested bodies with the interpretation of geological heritage in Wicklow, and to facilitate the development of a "Wicklow Rock Trail", Geopark or other similar geo-tourism initiatives.</p> <p>CPO 17.32 To facilitate the exploitation of mineral resources, in an environmentally sensitive manner, in accordance with the objectives and control measures set out in Chapter 9 and in the Design & Development</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>

	<p>and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.</p>			<p>standards of this plan.</p>	
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements, including Wicklow Town-Rathnew) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. • Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. • Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>CPO4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective: To promote the development of the County's sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p>Water Quality Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.1 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO 13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds,</p>	<p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p> <p>WTR95 Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.</p>

				<p>banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO 13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>Flood Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.01 To support the implementation of recommendations in the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO14.02 To support and facilitate flood management activities, projects or programmes as may arise, including but not limited to those relating to the management of upstream catchments and the use of 'natural water retention' measures , and ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO14.03 To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands; it should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate, and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.</p> <p>CPO 14.04 To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>CPO14.05 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes in the County as identified in current and future FRMPs, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoca River (Arklow) Flood Defence Scheme; - Avoca River (Avoca) Flood Defence Scheme; - Low cost works in accordance with the OPW's Minor Works Scheme; - Coastal Protection Projects, where funding allows; and - Ensure that development proposals support, and do not impede or prevent, progression of such schemes. 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>CPO 14.06 To implement the 'Guidelines on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009).</p> <p>CPO 14.07 To prepare new or update existing flood risk assessments and flood zone maps for all zoned lands within the County as part of the review process for Local Area Plans, zoning variations and Small Town Plans, where considered necessary.</p> <p>CPO 14.08 The zoning of land that has been identified as being at a high or moderate probability of flooding (flood zones A or B) shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and in particular the 'justification test for development plans' (as set out in Section 4.23 and Box 4.1 of the guidelines).</p> <p>CPO 14.09 Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area at risk of flooding shall comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the 'sequential approach' as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. • An appropriately detailed flood risk assessment will be required with all planning applications, to ensure that the development itself is not at risk of flooding and the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment (both up and down stream of the application site), taking into account all sources of flooding. • Restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to that which are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009, as amended) unless the 'plan making justification test' has been applied and passed. • Where a site has been subject to and satisfied the 'plan making justification test' development will only be permitted where a proposal complies with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines. • Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and the SFRA. <p>Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the planning authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'plan making justification test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>CPO 14.10 To prohibit development in river flood plains or other areas known to provide natural attenuation for floodwaters except where the development can clearly be justified with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 'Justification Test'.</p> <p>CPO 14.11 To limit or break up large areas of hard surfacing in new developments and to require all surface car parks to integrate permeability measures such as permeable paving.</p> <p>CPO 14.12 Excessive hard surfacing shall not be permitted for new, or extensions to, residential or commercial developments and all applications will be required to show that sustainable drainage techniques have been employed in the design of the development.</p> <p>CPO 14.13 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

				<p>SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>Water Systems</p> <p>CPO 17.24 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.25 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.</p> <p>CPO 17.26 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>	
<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements, including Wicklow Town-Rathnew) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p>Strategic Objective: To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>CPO 9.54 To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2004, DoEHLG); 'Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)', EPA 2006; 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use Zoning provisions.</p> <p>Community Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the development of a range of high quality community, educational, open space and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the local population. To require new community, open space and recreational facilities be developed in tandem with new housing. To facilitate healthy place-making with a well-designed public realm which includes public spaces,

	<p>and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. • Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. • Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. • Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency. 	<p>services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Increases in waste levels. • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. • Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. • Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation. 	<p>compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. • Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation' 2009; • 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', 2008; and • 'Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry', NPWS 2009. <p>Strategic Objective: To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>Water Infrastructure Objectives Water Supply Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newtownmountkennedy - Rathdrum - Dunlavin - The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>Water Demand Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of water efficient equipment; - Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies; - Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines; - Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment; - The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping; - In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers. <p>Waste Water Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow</p>	<p>parks, playgrounds and safe streets with access for all.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR91 To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways, blueways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicklow to Greystones coastal greenway. Any development proposal within the route corridor study area/ preferred route option will be assessed for acceptability having regard to the potential effects on the future viability of the proposed greenway; • Wicklow to Arklow coastal route; • Wicklow Head Lighthouse Walk <p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

				<p>County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arklow - Blessington - Aughrim - Tinahely - Avoca - Laragh – Glendalough - Lakes area around Blessington - Large and Small Villages <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area; • the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003); • the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and • in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents. <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area;</p> <p>It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p> <p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p>Storm & Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p>Solid Waste Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.1 To require all developments likely to give rise to significant quantities of waste, either by virtue of the scale of the development or the</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>nature of the development (e.g. one that involves demolition) to submit a construction management plan, which will outline, amongst other things, the plan to minimise waste generation and the plan to protect the environment with the safe and efficient disposal of waste from the site.</p> <p>CPO 15.2 To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development & Design Standards of this plan).</p> <p>CPO 15.3 To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites.</p> <p>CPO 15.4 To facilitate the development of waste-to-energy facilities, particularly the use of landfill gas and biological waste.</p> <p>CPO 15.5 To have regard to the Council's duty under the 1996 Waste Management Act (as amended), to provide and operate, or arrange for the provision and operation of, such facilities as may be necessary to promote reuse or for the recovery and disposal of household waste arising within its functional area.</p> <p>CPO 15.6 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>Hazardous Waste Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.7 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.8 In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: (i) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, (ii) public health and safeguarding of public health, and (iii) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. <p>CPO 18.2 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of open space amenities, • sustainable management of water, • protection and management of biodiversity, • protection of cultural heritage, and • protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 19.1 To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Marine Planning Framework following its adoption, and • the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (following its enactment) 	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>CPO 19.2 To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (following its adoption), • the implementation of any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority, • the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow, • the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area, <p>CPO 19.12 To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary along the full coastline of the County and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the Murrough Coastal Protection Study, the draft East Coast Erosion Study and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the plan. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible.</p>	
<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements, including Wicklow Town-Rathnew) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable compact growth; ○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; ○ Drainage, flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. • Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 	<p>Air Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p>Noise Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>Climate change action is one of three cross-cutting key principles of the Plan and has been integrated into the Plan in a proactive way with the inclusion of relevant policies and objectives; strategic policy outcomes incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation into land-use planning, supported by land-use policies and objectives that where relevant incorporate objectives that both mitigate against the source of the causes of climate change and adapt to reduce the impacts of climate change. Climate change action informs objectives in relation to all chapters of the Plan, including the town and settlement plans and the Plan appendices.</p> <p>Given the Plan's remit as a land use framework not all sources and impacts are addressed in the Plan objectives (e.g. impact on insurance costs). The Plan's role in addressing climate change is part of a combined overall effort</p>	<p>As detailed at the beginning of the Plan: It is also important to note that the land-use objectives of this plan aim to support other plans and strategies prepared by Wicklow County Council, including the Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan, the Wicklow Climate Action Plan, Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan, Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan, Wicklow Heritage Plan etc., all which have a wider remit than this LAP.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR32 To maintain the Main Street as a principal vehicular route through the town centre and to exploit any opportunities that arise to improve safety for both vehicles and pedestrians / cyclists.</p> <p>WTR33 To improve the pedestrian and cyclist environment and to promote ease of movement throughout the town centre and avail of any opportunities to improve footpaths, pedestrian routes, road crossings and the quality of service for cyclists including the provision of safe and secure cycle parking at key locations throughout Wicklow town centre.</p> <p>WTR34 To facilitate the improvement of existing and the development of new linkages from the town centre to car/bike parks, amenity areas, to South Quay and to the port / Murrough areas and to the town's environs.</p> <p>WTR37 To continue to facilitate the improvement of public transport user facilities including, inter alia, shelters, covered bicycle parking, information points with maps, routes, timetables, real-time information and designated taxi ranks.</p> <p>WTR38 To facilitate improved access to bus stops particularly crossing points for passengers.</p> <p>WTR39 To facilitate the regeneration of Rathnew Village centre, by improving the public realm, facilitating road, footpath and cycling improvement works, creating</p>

	<p>management and resilience;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and o Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure. 			<p>by Wicklow County Council to fulfil its role in addressing the climate change challenge. Climate change poses a real threat to ecosystems, however these ecosystems including wetlands and woodlands, are important for their role as carbon sinks, water attenuation and flooding protection. As it noted in the RSES, careful land management is needed to ensure that land use changes do not impact on the ability of the natural environment to absorb climate impacts. The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment also have a key role to play in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>The approach taken in crafting the Plan is to identify what are the impacts and sources of climate change, identify the key sectors of the sources of impacts that are relevant to the County Plan as a land use plan and to ensure that these are considered in the crafting of all policies and objectives.</p> <p>Under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, Local Authorities are required to prepare local Climate Action Plans outlining how they are implementing their adopted Climate Action Adaptation and Mitigation strategies. Wicklow's is Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is adopted and being implemented.</p> <p>Building on existing climate action policies, the RSES identifies the following five areas where Climate Change Action should be targeted in the region namely Built Environment, Sustainable Transport, Energy and Waste, Flood Resilience and Water, and Green Infrastructure and Eco-system services. Provisions relating to these areas have been integrated throughout the County Development Plan.</p>	<p>urban spaces with hard and soft landscaped areas within the centre of the village. The regeneration of the centre will be further enhanced following the construction of the RIRR, and the new link road to the Glenealy Road, which will bring about a significant reduction in vehicular traffic travelling through the centre.</p> <p>WTR43 To improve pedestrian movement around the centre by facilitating the provision of pedestrian crossings at appropriate locations, including across the Glenealy Road to the 'Old Village' and across the Rathnew Inner Relief Road (from the VC zoning) to the Wicklow County Campus.</p> <p>WTR44 To encourage the development of a transport hub around the existing bus stops, including improved accessibility, car-parking, bus stop facilities, shelters and covered bicycle parking</p> <p>WTR45 To facilitate the delivery of the remainder of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road.</p> <p>WTR47 To require the vacant lands between the R752 and Charvey Lane to be developed as a single comprehensive development, with a masterplan, that provides for new frontage on the R752 and Charvey Lane, and which addresses all traffic movement issues arising from any development.</p> <p>WTR56 To facilitate the development of pedestrian and cycling links throughout the waterfront area and to the town centre and train station. To consider the feasibility of a new pedestrian/ cycling bridge connecting the Port to the town centre.</p> <p>WTR61 To facilitate the improvement of pedestrian/cyclist/transport movement and access to the Waterfront area, by facilitating the provision of appropriate directional and information signage that increases access to and the legibility of the routes between attractions and facilities in the Waterfront area</p> <p>WTR74 To support the development of linkages to connect Wicklow Town-Rathnew with adjoining towns / villages via cycle and walking trails.</p> <p>WTR75 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of new regional/distributor roads and road improvements¹¹, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road including reconfiguration of road network between Junction 16 and Rathnew Village to re-direct Wicklow Town-bound flows away from the Aldi-Tinakilly traffic lights and the village centre; • A new link road between Tighe's Avenue and the R752 (for Glenealy – Rathdrum bound traffic); • The improvement of the road connections between the Wicklow Town – Rathnew and M11 Junctions 17 and 18, namely the L-1099 and R751, and; • To facilitate and support the improvement of the operational efficiency of the regional / local road network to ensure that the M11 is not utilised as a
--	---	--	--	--	---

¹¹ The detail associated with new transport or green/blue infrastructure projects referred to in this Plan and accompanying Transport Assessment, including locations and associated mapping, that are not already permitted or provided for by existing plans / programmes / etc. is non-binding and indicative. Such new projects shall be subject to feasibility assessment, taking into account the environmental constraints and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for such projects where appropriate. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements.

					<p>'local' route for trips internal to the settlement.</p> <p>WTR76 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of road improvements, including pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, to the existing road network, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading the Rocky Road • Upgrading access roads to schools and public transport services. <p>WTR77 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to active travel and public transport measures, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major public realm improvements in Wicklow Town and Rathnew village centres; • Active Travel Bridge Wicklow Train Station to Port Access Route; • Ballyguilemore footpath; and • Providing improved, safer sustainable transport linkages (including permeability linkages in existing areas) to schools, public transport facilities, shops and services. <p>WTR78 To continue to work with Iarnrod Eireann and the NTA on the improvement of mainline train services to Wicklow Town station and to extend the DART services to Wicklow Town station and to provide for the significant enhancement of facilities and infrastructure at Wicklow train station, including but not limited to enhanced pedestrian and cycling connectivity and enhanced car / bike / bus parking.</p> <p>WTR79 To 'future proof' the development of rail services to reserve land at (a) Rathnew (in the area west of the former Rathnew station) and (b) Merrymeeting for possible future halts / stations.</p> <p>WTR80 To facilitate the upgrading of the Rocky Road, from Junction 17 of the M11 to Wicklow town centre.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR91 To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways, blueways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links:</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow to Greystones coastal greenway. Any development proposal within the route corridor study area/ preferred route option will be assessed for acceptability having regard to the potential effects on the future viability of the proposed greenway; Wicklow to Arklow coastal route; Wicklow Head Lighthouse Walk <p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. 	<p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 5.17 To harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive reuse, recognising its important contribution to placemaking. New development should respect and complement the historic fabric of existing towns and villages – the traditional street patterns, plot sizes, mix of building types, distinctive paving and attractive street furniture.</p> <p>CPO 5.18 To protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets, including attractive streetscapes and historic buildings, through appropriate reuse and regeneration and restrict inappropriate development that would undermine the settlement's identity, heritage and sense of place.</p> <p>Archaeology Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.1 To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>CPO 8.2 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) or any other site of archaeological interest will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedules 08.01 & 08.02 and Maps 8.01 & 8.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.</p>	<p>WTR22 To positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change the use of protected structures within the town centre so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to retention of any special features with use of suitable design, materials and construction methods.</p> <p>WTR23 Proposals to significantly alter or demolish Protected Structures, or special features which contribute to the character of an ACA, only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>WTR30 To facilitate and support suitable proposals to merge or assemble multiple buildings / sites in order to develop modern retailing formats, including department stores or malls, having due regard to the protection of architectural heritage within the Town Centre.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront area to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR62 To facilitate appropriate cultural, tourism, recreational and leisure development in the harbour and Murrough recreational areas including the provision of new clubhouses, pontoons / marinas, shops, cafes and other cultural, leisure and tourism related developments subject to a higher quality of design, as well as the existing environmental, visual and residential amenities in the area.</p> <p>WTR63 To protect the unique historical character and recreational value of the harbour.</p> <p>WTR86 Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features</p>

				<p>CPO 8.5 To facilitate new or improved public access to and erection of appropriate interpretive signage at National Monuments, archaeological sites, castles, sites of historic interest and archaeological landscapes in State or private ownership, as identified in Schedule 08.02 and Map 8.02 of this plan, in co-operation with landowners.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 To protect the integrity of Baltinglass Hills archaeological landscape including identified monuments and their wider setting by resisting development that may adversely impact upon the significance and understanding of this important landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 To support the inscription of Glendalough to Ireland's tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site list and promote a conservation led approach to facilitating visitor access and enjoyment of this internationally significant landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.8 To protect and promote the characteristics of historic towns in County Wicklow identified as zones of archaeological potential in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), ensuring that cognisance is given in relevant development proposals to retaining existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 To protect and promote the conservation of historic burial grounds (those that are generally no longer in use but which may contain sites and features on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or RPS) and support greater public access to these where possible.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.10 To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p> <p>CPO 8.11 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.</p> <p>Record of Protected Structures Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.13 To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures or features of special interest unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. All such cases will be subject to full heritage impact assessment and mitigation.</p> <p>Other Structures & Vernacular Architecture Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.18 To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings,</p>	<p>of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p>WTR87 To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Wicklow quay side through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that are of architectural merit and/or contribute greatly to this character.</p> <p>WTR88 To reinforce the coastal character of the settlement and to provide for the enjoyment of the coast as a recreational and natural asset.</p> <p>WTR89 To facilitate the development of initiatives to highlight Wicklow's maritime heritage in the public realm.</p>
--	--	--	--	---	---

				<p>historic shopfronts, thatched roofs and historic features such as stonewalls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 8.19 Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Area Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.21 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas, the following principles will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA. • The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line. • The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings. • Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible. • A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required. • The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used. • Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA. <p>CPO 8.23 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.</p> <p>Historical & Cultural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.25 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.</p> <p>CPO 8.26 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the public safety issues associated with such sites.</p> <p>CPO 8.27 To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.</p>	
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures. 	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p>Landscape, Views & Prospects</p> <p>CPO 17.35 All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment</p> <p>CPO 17.36 Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p> <p>CPO 17.37 To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts</p> <p>CPO 17.38 To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront area to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR62 To facilitate appropriate cultural, tourism, recreational and leisure development in the harbour and Murrough recreational areas including the provision of new clubhouses, pontoons / marinas, shops, cafes and other cultural, leisure and tourism related developments subject to a higher quality of design, as well as the existing environmental, visual and residential amenities in the area.</p> <p>WTR63 To protect the unique historical character and recreational value of the harbour.</p> <p>WTR73 To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.</p> <p>WTR85 To protect the listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>WTR86 Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p>WTR88 To reinforce the coastal character of the settlement and to provide for the enjoyment of the coast as a recreational and natural asset.</p>

2.5 Schedule 2A

PART 1

1. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources*

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Wicklow County Council. The aim of Proposed Variation No. 2 is to ensure consistency of the draft and final Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan with the County Development Plan 2022-2028 i.e. to ensure that the zoning and key development objectives of the Local Area Plan clearly form part of the County Development Plan. Furthermore, Proposed Variation No. 2 provides a structure and context (including amendments to Volume 1 of the Plan, sub-sections 1.2 "Structure of the Plan" and 3.5 "Zoning" and Map 17.09 "Wicklow Landscape Category Map" (to reflect revised LAP boundary), and the insertion into Volume 2 of a new Part of the Plan ("Part 5 Local Area Plans"), including associated "Introduction to Local Area Plans" text that allows for the coherent and consistent integration of Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan zoning and development objectives into the County Development Plan.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to full SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Local Area Plan, which itself is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with. The emerging conclusions of the SEA for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan include that the Local Area Plan would contribute towards: the proper planning and sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area and the wider County; and that the consequential environmental effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Taking into account the measures that have been integrated into the existing County Development Plan (as varied) and the Local Area Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from Proposed Variation No. 2, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Table 2.4 should also be referred to in this regard.

Taking the above into account, arising from the degree to which Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) sets a framework for projects and other activities, the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

2. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy*

The Variation is proposed to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). The County Development Plan is influenced by higher-level legislation, plans and programmes and influences lower-tier plans. Any future development under the County Development Plan, as varied, would have to comply with the various provisions of the existing Plan that relate to sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment – see Table 2.4.

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which Proposed Variation No. 2 and the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) influence other plans, the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

3. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development*

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) - to which the Proposed Variation relates - has undergone SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Local Area Plan, which itself is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with. The emerging conclusions of the SEA for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan include that the Local Area Plan would contribute towards: the proper planning and sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area and the wider County; and that the consequential environmental effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of Proposed Variation No. 2 and the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

4. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme*

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), to which the Proposed Variation relates, contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, it contributes towards its amelioration.

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to Proposed Variation No. 2 and associated Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

5. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)*

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) to which Proposed Variation No. 2 relates includes various provisions that would contribute towards the implementation of European legislation on the environment. Some of these provisions are identified within Table 2.4. The Local Area Plan, which itself is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with.

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from relevance of Proposed Variation No. 2 and associated Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

PART 2

1. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of Proposed Variation provided under Section 2.4).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.4).

3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.4).

4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.4).

5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.4).

6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.4).

b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.4).

c) intensive land-use.

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.4).

7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status

Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.4).

Section 3 Screening for SEA Concluding Advice

Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan - or variation to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA. The purpose of this report is to provide the findings of the evaluation of the requirement for SEA to be undertaken on Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied).

The Proposed Variation has been examined, including against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A *'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment'* of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011). This SEA Screening Report provides the findings of this examination.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to full SEA, which identified the likely significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the County Development Plan, and facilitated the integration of measures into the County Development Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of the environment with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. The Local Area Plan, which itself is being subject to full SEA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with. The emerging conclusions of the SEA for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan include that the Local Area Plan would contribute towards: the proper planning and sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area and the wider County; and that the consequential environmental effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Taking into account the measures that have been integrated into the existing County Development Plan (as varied) and the Local Area Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, any potential effects arising from Proposed Variation No. 2, would either: be present already (beneficial) and would be further contributed towards, but not to a significant extent; and/or would be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse).

Taking into account all of the above, Proposed Variation No. 2 would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, it is advised that SEA is not required.

This report will be referred to Wicklow County Council in order to inform the making of a Screening for SEA determination in advance of public display of the Proposed Variation and Draft Local Area Plan. The Screening for SEA process will consider any future amendments to the Proposed Variation or Draft Local Area Plan and such consideration may require subsequent determination by the Council, where amendments are proposed.

Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the relevant document to become familiar with the full details of each.

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

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. 	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation 	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. 	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments. 	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making. Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</p>	<p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<p>measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	<p>in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. 	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</p>	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute</p>

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive ○ Sampling Drinking Water Directive ○ Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive ○ Shellfish Directive ○ Freshwater Fish Directive ○ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive ○ Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identified and a Register of Protected Areas. • Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. • Recover costs for water services. 	<p>towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. • Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. • Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). • Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. • Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. • Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. • Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. • Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. • The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. • Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. • Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. • Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. • Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. • The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		responsibilities under the directive are met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. 	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	It identifies three key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and	The convention has three main aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats 	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Natural Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucas. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. 	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Parliament resolutions, including: The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. <p>In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030. Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade. 	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea; • Launching an EU nature restoration plan; • Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and • Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation; • Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs; • Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes. 	
OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy Eutrophication Strategy Hazardous Substances Strategy Offshore Industry Strategy Radioactive Substances Strategy Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)	The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.	Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU	Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants.	National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive (2016/2284/EU) entered into force on 31 December 2016. Replacing earlier legislation, (Directive 2001/81/EC), the new NEC Directive sets 2020 and 2030 emission reduction commitments for five main air pollutants.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)	The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.	The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115	The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use. The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.	The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive. The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss. The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC)	Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.	the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)	Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.	This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), nitrogen oxides (NO _x) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National			
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. • Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To reduce overall travel demand. ○ To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. ○ To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. ○ To reduce transport emissions. ○ To improve accessibility to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ○ ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking ○ improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies <p>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland • Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. • By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fueled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas 	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.	Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government’s high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. 	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compact Growth Enhanced Regional Accessibility Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities Sustainable Mobility A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenity and Heritage Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.	The PLUTO seeks to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (SI No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (SI No. 366 of 2016)	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (SI No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to SI No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 31 of 2014)	These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3 rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector 	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing on and offshore wind, Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing sustainable transport; and Building out robust and efficient networks. 	legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. 	National climate policy in Ireland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice, Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Climate Action Plan 2024	The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.	The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Clean Air Strategy 2023	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
All Island Grid Study 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network (“the grid”) on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system. 	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO₂ emissions compared to portfolio 1 All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security. 	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Water Resources Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland’s water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	<p>Vision: <i>“Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU.”</i></p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,</p>

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i> 	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027	The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.	The Plan's objectives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste; Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts; Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities; Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	<p>towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	<p>NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
2030 Climate and Energy Framework	<p>Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.</p>	<p>Key targets for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels). At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018. At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)	<p>Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</p>	<p>Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030	<p>Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Wildlife Act of 1976	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of</p>
Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	<p>The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the</p>		

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023	Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.		the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature. The 4th NBAP strives for a "whole of government, whole of society" approach to the governance and conservation of biodiversity. The aim is to ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to "act for nature".	This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues: Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. 	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. • Sets groundwater quality standards. • Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. 	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. 	Key strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>need to be enhanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. 	legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Uisce Éireann’s Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. 	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Waste water. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <p>Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.</p>	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity generation on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	<p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Context Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination Enhancing the Visitor Experience Research in the Irish Tourism Sector Supporting Local Communities in Tourism Wider Government Policy International Context Co-ordination Structures 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020	<p>The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i>.</p>	<p>Four objectives of the Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023	<p>10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.</p> <p>Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation Development & Governance Sustainable Funding Model Asset Portfolio Management Participation and Reputation Sustainable Development Climate Action, Environment and Heritage 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	<p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment. The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly; • Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them; • Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers; • Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and • Collecting evidence to track change and measure success. 	<p>This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
SI No. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018	<p>The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.</p>	<p>The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH₃), and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5})), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions.</p> <p>The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns	<p>The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social, cultural</p>	<p>The policy will align other Government policies and target our investment programmes to deliver the best outcomes for town centres.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG 2012)	<p>The Guidelines have five key policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that retail development is plan-led; • Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development; • Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations; • Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and <p>Delivering quality urban design outcomes.</p>	<p>The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024)	<p>The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements.</p>	<p>The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)	<p>Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.</p>	<p>Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, 2024)	The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. • In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended) and National Marine Planning Framework	The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 is one component of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) which was published in summer 2021. Parallel to the National Planning Framework, the NMPF illustrates the vision for Ireland's maritime area.	The legislation seeks to ensure that the consent mechanism for offshore renewable energy projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complies with EU environmental assessment obligations; • complies with Aarhus Convention on public participation; and • enables Ireland to deliver projects conducive to national climate targets for 2030. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997)	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; • to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; • to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midland Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its 11 constituent local authorities: Dublin City Council; Dún Laoghaire County Council; South Dublin County Council; Longford County Council; Louth County Council; Wicklow County Council; Offaly County Council; Laois County Council; Meath County Council; Fingal County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus; • Light Rail; • Heavy Rai; • Integration Measures and Sustainable; • Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare. • This Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022- 2042 (Transport Strategy) replaces the previous framework, titled the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016- 2035, which was approved by the then Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in 	Strategy Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Enhanced Natural and Built Environment - To create a better environment and meet our environmental obligations by transitioning to a clean, low emission transport system, reducing car dependency, and increasing walking, cycling and public transport use, and reducing car dependency. • Connected Communities and Better Quality of Life - To enhance the health and 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	2016. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is: "To provide a sustainable, accessible and effective transport system for the Greater Dublin Area which meets the region's climate change requirements, serves the needs of urban and rural communities, and supports the regional economy." Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy. 	quality of life of our society by improving connectivity between people and places, delivering safe and integrated transport options, and increasing opportunities for walking and cycling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strong Sustainable Economy - To support sustainable economic activity and growth by improving the opportunity for people to travel for work or business where and when they need to, and facilitating the efficient movement of goods. An Inclusive Transport System - To deliver a high quality, equitable and accessible transport system, which caters for the needs of all members of society. 	towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest To describe the site and its management To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Wicklow LECP 2024-2029	The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans including those in force in County Wicklow (including the overarching Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities (including development plans for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, Kildare, Carlow, and Wexford; and local plans for settlements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhance amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025	The Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 has been prepared pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The purpose of the Plan is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area. The Plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area.	It is important to note that when reading the Plan, the policy objectives of the County Development Plan are relevant and, in this regard, both documents should be read in tandem with each other. As detailed at the beginning of the Plan: "This Local Area Plan is consistent with the objectives of the Wicklow County Development Plan. The County Development Plan sets out the overall strategies, objectives and standards for the county. The strategies, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan apply directly in this settlement and shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Local Area Plan."	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Wicklow Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022	To conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all.	Strategic Objectives and Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise awareness of, and enthusiasm for, Wicklow's heritage; 2. Increase understanding of value of Wicklow's heritage 3. Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's heritage 4. Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions 5. Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate existing information 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028	Under the EU Environmental Noise Directive, which was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (as amended), Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans are required to be made or revised every five years. The Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 - 2028 has been prepared jointly by the local authorities of the Dublin Agglomeration (Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Wicklow County Council and Kildare County Council).	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	The Plan is developed around 5 thematic areas for actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance and Leadership 2. Built Environment and Transport 3. Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure 4. Communities: Resilience and Transition 5. Sustainability and Resource Management 	The Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 strategic goals are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt climate focused governance, provide leadership, and build partnerships for climate action. 2. Achieve carbon emissions reduction of 51% and energy efficiency improvement of 50% in our operations by 2030, creating a pathway to net zero by 2050. 3. Support decarbonisation of transport and modal shift from cars to active travel and public transport. 4. Deliver on climate adaptation, biodiversity resilience and enhanced capacity for our environment to adapt to changing conditions. 5. Mobilise and empower climate action in local communities. 6. Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects or impacted by climate change. 7. Mobilise climate action in enterprise and agriculture supporting the transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy. 8. Test the scope and scale of decarbonisation in Arklow with the aim of creating a vibrant town which has low carbon living at its core 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow Town Public Realm Plan	Based on these findings, 4 principal aims for the public realm were identified as follows: A Enhance the environmental quality of Wicklow for the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors B Strengthen the physical, social and economic identity of Wicklow Town by fully maximising existing assets C Provide a positive physical framework for future development, complimentary to the existing historic urban core D Strengthen the role of Wicklow Town as a tourism destination	14 specific objectives were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality streetscapes; • Town centre frontage programme; • Gateways • Dublin road • Marlton road linkage • Church lands • Harbour and bay area • The Murrough • Leitrim River and Broad Lough corridor • Seafront enhancement • Interpretation and orientation strategy • Lighting strategy • Open space and linkage strategy • Hill to sea greenways • Economic and tourism strategy 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020-2025	The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy provides a blueprint for realising the potential of Wicklow's outdoor recreation assets in a manner which prioritises environmental sustainability.	The Strategy identifies five outdoor recreations hubs / clusters – Glendalough, Rathdrum, Blessington/Baltinglass, Tinahely/Shillelagh and East Coast maritime. Objectives identified include: Expansion of the trails network, preparation of an outdoor recreation transport plan and increase awareness of environmental and cultural responsibilities	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

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