

NATURA IMPACT REPORT

IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
OF THE
WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2016-2022

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

for: Wicklow County Council

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This is the Natura Impact Report in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive¹. This report is divided into the following five sections:

Section 1	Introduction
Section 2	Stage 1 Screening
Section 3	Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Section 4	Mitigation Measures
Section 5	Conclusion

1.2 Legislative Context

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as “**The Habitats Directive**”, provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community Interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. These are candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC - codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended), hereafter referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA:

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

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

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

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. These new regulations consolidate the European

¹ Directive 92/43/EEC

Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)(Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in the CJEU judgements.

1.3 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

This Appropriate Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.* Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010.
- *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, European Commission Environment DG, 2002.
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*: European Commission, 2000

Appropriate Assessment comprises up to four stages:

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the **site's** structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the plan should aim to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the plan is still likely to result in impacts on European sites, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it must be rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

In the case of this Natura Impact Report, it is found that the Plan only requires Stage 1 and Stage 2 assessment.

Section 2 Stage 1 Screening

2.1 Description of the Wicklow County Development Plan

2.1.1 Introduction

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 (CDP) sets out the overall strategy for the planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow for the plan period and beyond.

The CDP provides for, and controls, the physical, economic and social development of the County, in the interests of the overall common good and in compliance with environmental controls. It includes a set of development objectives and standards, which set out where land is to be developed, and for what purposes (e.g. housing, shopping, schools, employment, open space, amenity, conservation etc). It informs decisions on where public services such as roads and water services are to be provided, and affects the type of buildings that can be constructed and the use to which land can be put. It affects many facets of daily economic and social life, in terms of where one can live, what services and facilities are available and where job opportunities are to be sited.

2.1.2 Structure of the Plan

The plan consists of a written statement and plans that indicate the development objectives for County Wicklow.

Volume 1 **of the plan contains the primary written statement including the 'Core Strategy' and main chapters of the plan.** The written statement is accompanied by a series of schedules and maps.

Volume 2 contains a set of town / settlement plans for the following settlements: Ashford, Aughrim, Avoca, Baltinglass, Carnew, Donard, Dunlavin, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue, Laragh-Glendalough, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Tinahely.

Volume 3 contains the appendices to the plan that inform and clarify the broader strategic context of the written statement. They include the following; Development & Design standards, Housing Strategy, Wind Strategy, Climate Change Audit, Flood Risk Assessment, Green Infrastructure, Landscape Assessment, Record of Protected Structures, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.

Separate Local Area Plans are in place, or will be in place, for the following towns: Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole, Rathdrum, Blessington and Newtownmountkennedy. These Local Area Plans do not form part of the County Development Plan. However, the County Development Plan does provide the key parameters for these Local Area Plans such as the future population and housing targets and sets out the broad strategy for the future economic and social development of these towns.

2.1.3 Plan Vision

The Vision for the Wicklow CDP is as follows:

For County Wicklow to be a cohesive community of people enjoying distinct but interrelated urban and rural environments; where natural surroundings and important resources are protected; where opportunities abound to live and work in a safe atmosphere, allowing people to enjoy the benefits of well paid jobs, a variety of housing choices, excellent public services, ample cultural and leisure opportunities, and a healthy environment.

2.1.4 Local plans

As mentioned in Section 2.1.2 above, Volume 2 of the Plan contains local plans (town and settlement plans) for 14 towns in the County. Such local plans occur in a hierarchy of plans flowing from national level (National Spatial Strategy) to regional level (Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area) to County level (Wicklow County Development Plan). Local plans only include objectives that are settlement specific and achievable.

Three types of local plans have been included as part of the Plan, Level 5 '**town plans**', Level 6 '**settlement plans**' and one '**Level 7 – land use and tourism plan**'. The '**Core Strategy**' of the Plan outlines the direction for future growth within the county. The key elements of the '**Core Strategy**' in relation to Level 5 and Level 6 towns/settlements are developed under the following headings:

- Settlement, Population & Housing Strategies
- Economic Development Strategy
- Retail Strategy
- Social Development Strategy
- Infrastructure Strategy
- Environmental Strategy

Level 5 towns in County Wicklow are the smaller towns of the County that provide important economic and social services to their populations and immediate hinterland. Such towns normally have a good range of infrastructural services and are suited to accommodating urban generated housing demand. Table 2.1 below presents a summary of proposals for each of the seven Level 5 Towns included in the Plan.

Level 6 settlements in County Wicklow are the smallest 'towns' of the County, but still provide important economic and social services to their populations and rural hinterland. Such towns normally have a reasonable range of infrastructural services and are suited to accommodating some urban generated housing demand, with necessary controls in place to ensure that local demand can also be met. Level 6 'Rural Towns' are differentiated in the County Development Plan from Level 5 'Small Growth Towns' having regard to their more rural character, the rural nature of their catchments and the lower capacity for significant growth.

The Plan also includes one local plan for a Level 7 settlement – Laragh Glendalough. This is differentiated from the **Level 6 'settlement plans'** in its more direct focus on the tourism role of Laragh – Glendalough.

Table 2.2 below presents a summary of the proposed provisions of these Level 6 and Level 7 plans.

Table 2.1: Summary of Level 5 plans

Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
Ashford	<p>The following is a summary of those provisions outlined in the Ashford Town Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce and improve the visual appearance of the central area of the town and encourage development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy. • To identify key sites suitable for development in the town centre and set out design criteria capable of meeting the overall vision for the town core area. • To plan for and encourage the provision of high quality housing, concentrated principally around Ashford town centre and lands within 500m of the town centre. • To improve linkages between Ashford Town Centre and the Nun's Cross area and in particular, to designate lands for new housing in this area, subject to substantial improvement to access routes, for vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists. • To plan for and encourage the development of new employment opportunities, in the form of both new mixed use developments in the town centre and office / light industrial / warehousing development on greenfield lands to the north of the town centre. • To facilitate and support the film industry • To identify and address deficits in social, community and recreational services; to require developers to provide such facilities in tandem with new housing development where appropriate and to require the payment of development levies for the provision of such facilities by the local authority • To ensure that only appropriate land uses are provided on lands identified as being at risk of flooding. • To create functional public spaces and pedestrian routes linked to new development that maximise the natural features of the area. • To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity. In particular, to safeguard the integrity of streams and watercourses which are hydrologically linked to The Murrough Natura 2000 site downstream.
Aughrim	<p>The following is a summary of those provisions outlined in the Aughrim Town Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce and improve the visual appearance of the central area of the town and encourage development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy. • To identify key site(s) suitable for development on zoned town centre lands and set out design criteria capable of meeting the overall vision for the town core area. • To plan for and encourage the provision of high quality design housing in keeping with the character of the area. • To plan for and encourage the development of new employment/tourism opportunities, in the form of both new mixed use development on lands within and adjoining the town core area. • To identify and address deficits in social, community and recreational services; to require developers to provide such facilities in tandem with new housing development where appropriate and to require the payment of development levies for the provision of such facilities by the local authority. • To ensure that only appropriate land uses are provided on lands identified as being at risk of flooding. • To create functional public spaces and pedestrian routes linked to new development that maximise the natural features of the area. • To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity.
Baltinglass	<p>The following is a summary of those provisions outlined in the Baltinglass Town Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce and improve the visual appearance of the central area of the town and encourage development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy. • To identify key sites suitable for development in the town centre and set out design criteria capable of meeting the overall vision for the town core area. • To plan for and encourage the provision of high quality housing, concentrated principally around Baltinglass town centre and lands within 1km of the town centre. • To improve linkages between Baltinglass core town centre/existing community infrastructure and lands earmarked for future development west of the N81 at Bawnogue and in particular, to designate lands for new housing in this area, subject to substantial improvements to access routes, for vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists. • To plan for and encourage the development of new employment opportunities, in the form of both new mixed use developments at the Mart Site and the development of

Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
	<p>employment lands to the east of the N81 at Bawnogue and along the R747 in the form of office / light industrial / warehousing development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and address deficits in social, community and recreational services; to require developers to provide such facilities in tandem with new housing development where appropriate and to require the payment of development levies for the provision of such facilities by the local authority. • To ensure that only appropriate land uses are provided on lands identified as being at risk of flooding. • To create functional public spaces and pedestrian routes linked to new development that maximise the natural features of the area. • To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity and in particular, to safeguard the integrity of the River Slaney SAC.
Carnew	<p>The following is a summary of those provisions outlined in the Carnew Town Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce and improve the visual appearance of the central area of the town and encourage development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy. • To identify key sites suitable for development in the town centre and set out design criteria capable of meeting the overall vision for the town core area. • To plan for and encourage the provision of high quality housing, concentrated principally around Carnew town centre and lands within 1km of the town centre. • To improve linkages between the core town centre/existing community infrastructure and lands earmarked for future development in the north of the plan area and to designate lands for new housing in this area, subject to substantial improvement to access routes for both vehicles and pedestrians/cyclists. • To plan for and encourage the development of new employment opportunities, in the form of both new mixed use developments within the town centre and the development of employment lands to the east of the plan area along the Aughrim Road in the form of office / light industrial / warehousing development. • To identify and address deficits in social, community and recreational services; to require developers to provide such facilities in tandem with new housing development where appropriate and to require the payment of development levies for the provision of such facilities by the local authority • To create functional public spaces and pedestrian routes linked to new development that maximise the natural features of the area. • To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity.
Dunlavin	<p>The following is a summary of those provisions outlines in the Dunlavin Town Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for and encouraging the provision of high quality housing and employment, social and community facilities, and a range of recreational options, in a quality environment. • Facilitating the provision of new and improved infrastructure to meet the demands of the existing population and future residents. • Reinforcing and improving the visual appearance of the central area of the town and encouraging development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy. • Improving linkages between the town core and peripheral housing areas. • Creating functional public spaces linked to new development. • Ensuring the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity.
Enniskerry	<p>The following is a summary of those provisions outlined in the Enniskerry Town Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing and improving the visual appearance of the central area of the settlement with particular attention on the town centre area which is an architectural conservation area, and encouraging development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy. • Improving linkages between the town centre and its environs. • Facilitating the provision of infrastructure to meet the demand for development and future population needs in a sustainable manner. • To improve linkages between Enniskerry town centre and the Ballyman, Cookstown and Parknasilloge areas and in particular, to designate lands for new housing in these areas, subject to improvements to access routes by both vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. • To plan for and encourage the development of new employment opportunities, in the form of both new mixed use developments in the town centre and employment development on greenfield lands at Parknasilloge.

Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and address deficits in social, community and recreational services; to require developers to provide such facilities in tandem with new housing development where appropriate and to require the payment of development levies for the provision of such facilities by the local authority. • To ensure that lands at risk of flooding are not designated for new development. • To create functional public spaces and pedestrian routes linked to new development that maximise the natural features of the area. • Ensuring the protection of natural habitats (in particular the protected habitats at Knocksink Wood and Ballyman Glen), cultural heritage, ecological resources and quality landscapes and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Tinahely	<p>The following is a summary of those provisions outlined in the Tinahely Town Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reinforce and improve the visual appearance of the central area of the town and encourage development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy. • To identify key sites suitable for development in the town centre and set out design criteria capable of meeting the overall vision for the town core area. • To improve linkages between Tinahely town centre and residential and community lands to the east across the Derry River. • To plan for and encourage the development of new employment opportunities, in the form of both new mixed use developments in the town centre and office / light industrial / warehousing development on greenfield lands to the south east of the river. • To identify and address deficits in social, community and recreational services; to require developers to provide such facilities in tandem with new housing development where appropriate and/or to require the payment of development levies for the provision of such facilities by the local authority. • To support the development of Tinahely as a major tourist destination in south Wicklow, particularly given its location on the disused Woodenbridge to Shillelagh railway line, which is intended to be developed as a continuous green route. • To create functional public spaces and pedestrian routes linked to new development that maximise the natural features of the area. • To protect the character and setting of the town centre in accordance with the provision of the designated Tinahely Architectural Conservation Area. • To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity, and in particular to maintain the ecological integrity of the Slaney River Valley SAC. • To ensure that only appropriate land uses are provided on lands identified as being at risk of flooding.

Table 2.2: Summary of Level 6 and 7 plans

Settlement Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
Avoca	<p>The following is a summary of the development related objectives outlined in the Avoca Settlement Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To facilitate and promote the development of a range of high quality community and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the local population, and in particular to allow for the development of youth-related developments, including an equipped play space. 2. To particularly facilitate and promote tourist developments that are associated with the following tourism products or themes: (i) the area's mining heritage, (ii) The Meeting of the Waters / Thomas Moore, (iii) outdoor recreational activities e.g. walking / Red Kite Walk Loop, activities associated with River Avoca etc. (iv) 'the arts' including painting, hand weaving etc, 3. In the Primary Zone <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To encourage and facilitate the redevelopment of derelict and underused structures at Nagle's property for a mixed-use development. Any proposed development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design and shall include uses that reflect its landmark location within the settlement. Any proposed development shall include proposals for improving pedestrian and traffic safety at the

Settlement Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
	<p>intersection.</p> <p>(b) To promote the safe movement of traffic and pedestrians in and around this area, with particular emphasis on (i) improving the safety of turning movements between the bridge and main street, (ii) improving pedestrian safety and (ii) facilitating the development of additional car parking facilities by extending the existing Church car park or by providing facilities at an alternative appropriate location,</p> <p>(c) To protect and preserve the public open space area located within the town centre, north of Hendley's shop.</p> <p>(d) To protect and improve the traditional character and natural setting/backdrop of the town centre.</p> <p>(e) To allow for the development of a public toilet at a suitable location.</p> <p>(f) To facilitate the appropriate development of the railway station.</p> <p>4. In the Secondary Zone</p> <p>(a) Preserve the use of Rooster Park (identified at AV1) for recreational and open space use.</p> <p>(b) Any proposal for development on lands identified AV2 located at Kilmagig Upper shall include proposals for the upgrade of access from the public road and shall include proposals for the provision of adequate sightlines, in accordance with the relevant standards. In the interests of protecting the visual amenity of the area, any future development proposal shall include proposals for (i) the landscaping of any retaining works that are required for sightlines, and (ii) the retention of a line of existing trees along the southern perimeter of the site adjoining the existing public road and existing access laneway.</p> <p>(c) Any proposal for development on lands identified AV3 at Knockanree Lower shall include proposals Level 6 Settlement Plans Avoca Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 for the appropriate upgrade and widening of the existing access way that adjoins the northern boundary of the Community Centre. In the interests of protecting the visual amenity of the area, any future development proposal shall ensure the design, materials, layout, landscaping and screening proposals integrate the development, as far as is possible, with the natural features and landscape of the site. In this regard, particular attention shall be paid to ensuring that the amenity of views of the site from L-9167-19 at Knockanree are protected, as far as possible.</p>
Donard	<p>The following is a summary of the development related objectives outlined in the Donard Settlement Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To facilitate and promote the development of a range of high quality community and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the local population, and in particular to allow for the development of an equipped play space. 2. To particularly support recreation and heritage related tourist developments of an appropriate scale and design that would promote the natural and historic assets of the town such as its proximity to Lugnaquilla Mountain, the Wicklow Mountains National Park, archaeological sites and those sites associated with the 1798 rebellion. Initiatives centred on the development of outdoor recreational activities such as horse riding, walking and climbing will be encouraged. 3. To protect and enhance the natural heritage of the town and in particular to have regard to the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Brown's Beck River. 4. In the Primary Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support existing uses and facilitate the development of new uses that add to the vitality and vibrancy of the primary town core. • To protect and enhance the historic and architectural fabric of the town. 5. In the Secondary Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any developments on lands identified as DON 1 on the plan map shall include the

Settlement Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
	<p>provision of a continuous footpath along the roadside frontage of the site linking the site and adjoining lands to the west to the primary zone and the provision of a link road from Irishtown Road to the GAA fields and the caravan park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing stone walls and mature trees shall be retained other than in extenuating circumstances related to public health and safety. Where stone walls impede sightlines for new development, it will be a requirement to re-instate the wall using the original materials along the required set back distance to serve the new entrance. <p>6. In the Tertiary Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve the use of the Donard GAA grounds (identified as DON 2 on the plan map) as recreational and active open space use. • Prior to the granting of any permission on lands identified as DON 3, a masterplan for the area shall be agreed with the Local Authority, which shall address the infrastructural requirements of the overall area and the manner in which such infrastructure is to be delivered and funded.
Kilmacanogue	<p>The following is a summary of the development related objectives outlined in the Kilmacanogue Settlement Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve and improve public and private open space and recreation facilities, including walking routes linking the town of Kilmacanogue to the summit of the Great Sugar Loaf and reinforcing the role of the town as a service base for recreational users. 2. To carry out a feasibility study and public consultation to investigate the possibility of providing a new road to the east of Kilmacanogue which would, amongst other things, provide alternative access to properties currently directly accessed from route N11. 3. To allow for development of up to 25 new dwellings on lands identified as KM1 on Map No.1, contingent on the development on these lands of public active open space measuring not less than 1 ha. 4. To seek to facilitate infill residential development at appropriate locations particularly where shared vehicular entrances can be achieved and where a clustering of dwellings can be accommodated. 5. To preserve lands at Kilmacanogue GAA on lands identified as KM2 on Map No.1, for recreational and active space only.
Newcastle	<p>The following is a summary of the development related objectives of the Newcastle Settlement Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve and provide roads, footpaths and cycleways where required and at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the realignment of the junction of Sea Road/R761. • at the junction of the L5050 and the R761 and along the L5050 between the town centre and St. Francis School. • along the R761 from the L5050 to the north of the town. • along the L5550 (Sea Road) from Hunters Leap/the boat repair yard to the R761. • along Leamore Road from the town centre to the plan boundary. 2. To facilitate the provision of pedestrian and cycling linkages within and between existing and new housing/mixed use development throughout the settlement. 3. Existing mature trees and boundaries throughout the settlement shall be retained where considered appropriate by the Planning Authority and integrated appropriately into any new development proposal. 4. Development proposals on secondary and tertiary lands that front onto a public road shall provide a green buffer area between the road edge and any boundary / planting of at least 6m deep along the public road. 5. On the lands identified as NC1 on Map No. 1, the following shall be provided as part of the development of these lands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A linear landscaped park along the full length of the Newcastle River from the R761 to the L5050 as well as a 'town park' or 'village green' across the road front of the R761. The town park / village green shall have a depth of not less than 25m from the regional road (generally matching the line of the rear wall of the Oratory), while the width and layout of the riverine linear park shall be determined at the application stage having regard to the requirement to (a) protect the river from adverse environmental impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the development having regard to its hydrological links to the Murrough Wetlands SAC / SPA, (b) to maintain a suitable undeveloped buffer along the river in the interest of flood risk management and protection of local flora and fauna (not less than 10m) and (c) the requirement to provide for an area of land suitable for the creation of walks / paths etc.

Settlement Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 50% of the total lands identified in the objective boundary shall be developed prior to the provision of these open spaces. • Pedestrian and cycle links from the R761 (in the Primary Development lands) to the L5050 along the linear park. • Protection of established trees in the grounds of Oaklawn House and along the Newcastle River. • Reserve accesses to the lands to the rear of the secondary development lands for future development. <p>6. As part of the development of the lands identified as NC2 on Map No.1, the following shall be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community / recreation area of at least 0.4ha, to be located close to the Primary development lands. • Reservation of a minimum of 1.2ha of the secondary development land for education use. <p>7. As part of the development of the lands identified as NC3 on Map No. 1, to provide 0.2ha of an Active Play Area, to be located close to the R761 and at the southern end of the lands.</p> <p>8. As part of the development of the lands identified as NC4 on Map No. 1, to provide 1.5ha of Active Open Space that shall be leveled, drained and developed for the provision of a team sports field. No more than 50% of the total development lands within the objective boundary shall be developed prior to the provision of the active open space.</p> <p>9. The lands identified as NC5 on Map No.1 shall be limited to the development of eight residential units.</p>
Roundwood	<p>The following is a summary of the development related objectives outlined in the Roundwood Settlement Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve and provide roads, footpaths and cycleways where required and at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • along the L-5059 between the town centre and St. Laurence O'Toole National School; • along the R765 from junction with R755 towards 'Waters Bridge'; and • along the R755 from Health Clinic to GAA Club. • along the R755 from Roundwood Caravan Park to the Vartry Ground; • along L5077 from junction with R764 to the old schoolhouse; • at the junction of R764 /R755; and • along the R764 from Kavanagh's Vartry House to Roundwood Park gates. 2. To facilitate the provision of pedestrian and cycling linkages within and between existing and new housing/mixed use development throughout the settlement. 3. To provide for a footbridge at Mullinaveigue Bridge on the R755 to connect the Vartry Reservoir Loop Walks for pedestrians. 4. Due to the inherent risk of leakage from waste-water pumping chambers or treatment plants, these installations and any other development that would have a significant risk to the Vartry reservoir will not be permitted within 200m of the reservoir shore. 5. All development proposals shall appropriately address the protection of waterways connected to the Vartry Reservoir, which is designated a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) and is hydrologically linked to protected European sites downstream 6. To maintain views eastwards from the main street of the Vartry Reservoir; development proposals for lands between the main street and the reservoir shall be designed to maintain views following evaluation and agreement of principal vistas. 7. To protect established trees and boundaries within the area. 8. To provide for additional car parking and a set-down area, on the lands across the road from the school identified as RD1 on Map No. 1. 9. To provide for a town centre extension and a 'village green' on the lands identified as RD2 on Map No. 1. in accordance with the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 500sqm of commercial floor space shall be provided, particularly in the form of new street / village green facing ground floor retail / retail services / professional service uses. • A 'village green' with a minimum width of 15m with hard and soft landscaping, located between the nearer edge of the footpath of the main street to the eastern edge of the plan boundary at the Reservoir buffer. No more than 50% of the lands within the objective boundary shall be developed prior to the provision of the 'village green'. • Vehicular/pedestrian/cycle access/links from the main street to the Primary

Settlement Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
	<p>development lands to the south (RD5) and provision of pedestrian/cycle access/links to the Secondary development lands to the north (RD3) and towards the Reservoir.</p> <p>10. On the lands identified as RD5 on Map 1, to ensure that any development proposals allow for future connectivity to the lands to the north and south (RD2 and RD4)</p> <p>11. To provide for secondary development uses on the lands identified as RD3 on Map No. 1 and the following shall also be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and cycle access/link to the RD2 Primary Development Area to the south. • 0.2ha of children’s play area at an appropriate location close to the Primary Development Area. • Reserve the existing tree lined corner (0.7ha) along the R755 road from development. <p>12. To provide for secondary development uses on the secondary lands identified as RD4 on Map No. 1 and the following shall also be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.37ha of active open space on the tertiary development lands, these lands shall be leveled, drained and rendered suitable for active open space use. No more than 50% of the secondary development lands shall be developed prior to the provision of the active open space. • Development proposals shall allow for future connectivity to the lands to the north (RD5). <p>13. On the secondary lands identified as RD6 on Map No. 1 (measuring 5.5ha), only employment and open space development shall be permitted. A maximum area of 2ha may be developed for employment / enterprise uses; the format, scale and usage of this employment area shall be appropriate to the location in a Level 6 Rural Town and shall accord with the employment strategy set out in Chapter 5 of the Plan. No employment development may occur until the active open space area has been laid out and developed for sporting use (with necessary ancillary facilities such as car parking) or transferred to a sporting body.</p>
Shillelagh	<p>The following is a summary of the development related objectives of the Shillelagh Settlement Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To facilitate and promote the development of a range of high quality community and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the local population and in particular to allow for the development of sport, play and recreation developments and the further expansion of the local community park. 2. To particularly facilitate and promote tourist developments that are associated with the provision of walking routes within and linking the area to surrounding settlements such as the Tinahely railway walk, Tomnafinnogue Wood and Coolattin Estate and Golf Course. 3. To safeguard the integrity of the Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, including the use of adequate buffer zones between the river and proposed developments. 4. In the Primary Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage and facilitate the redevelopment of derelict and underused sites and structures along railway road, in particular: the former station buildings, the site of former St. Fiach’s hall and the former car sales lands. Any proposed developments shall be of an exceptionally high quality design and shall include uses that reflect the location of these areas within the settlement. The redevelopment of the former car sales lands shall incorporate an appropriate buffer to the existing river and be laid out in a manner which provides passive supervision of this area whilst also facilitating a potential walkway linking this area directly to the local community park along the stream. • To encourage and facilitate the development of lands adjoining and to the rear of ‘Walkers’ shop for mixed use development. The development of these lands shall provide for an active street frontage and be of a high architectural design that reflects and complements the character of the existing town core. The development of these lands shall provide for a through access to lands identified as SHILL1. • To promote the safe movement of traffic and pedestrians in and around the core area, with particular emphasis on (i) improving the safety of turning movements between the bridge/railway road and main street, (ii) improving pedestrian safety, (iii) improving the provision of footpaths. • To protect and preserve the public open space/community park area located within the

Settlement Town	Summary of Proposed Developments
	<p>town centre, north of Walker's Shop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and improve the traditional character and natural setting/backdrop of the town centre. <p>5. In the Secondary Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the use of Fair Green for recreational and active open space use. • To support and facilitate the continued operation and expansion of existing employment sites • Any proposal for development on lands identified SHILL1 shall ensure the residential amenity of the existing buildings fronting onto the main street is protected. In the interests of protecting the visual amenity of the area, any future development proposal shall include proposals for extensive landscaping of these lands and the use of finishes which complement and enhance the character of the town core to the immediate north. • Any proposal for development on lands within SHILL2 shall be accompanied by a flood risk assessment and proposals for the appropriate upgrade and widening of the existing access roadway to the north. In the interests of protecting the visual amenity of the area, any future development proposal shall ensure the design, materials, layout, landscaping and screening proposals integrate the development, as far as is possible, with the natural features and landscape of the site. In this regard, particular attention shall be paid to ensuring that adequate screening of any proposed development is carried out along the southern boundary. • The development of SHILL3 lands shall provide for a comprehensive mixed use development containing residential/tourist and open space uses. The design and layout of the overall development shall provide for a low density development pattern with expansive open space areas in particular along the existing stream. The overall development of these lands shall facilitate a high level of pedestrian connectivity to the town core. <p>6. In the Tertiary Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain the existing Active Open Space uses on lands identified SHILL4.
Laragh-Glendalough	<p>The following is a summary of those provisions outlined in the Laragh – Glendalough Settlement Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions for housing development within the town • The growth and promotion of the tourism industry in the Laragh and Glendalough area, and the provision to improve tourism infrastructure (accommodation, restaurants, cafes, etc) • The development of a range of community and recreational facilities • Improvement works to pedestrian links in the towns • The provision to develop a park and ride facility • Promote the development of pedestrian links between Laragh village, Glendalough and all recreational facilities, where possible, including the Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way

2.1.5 Relationship with other Relevant Plans and Strategies

The Wicklow County Development Plan is consistent with higher order strategic policy documents including the 'National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002-2020', 'Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) 2010-2022', the National Transport Authority's Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2016-2035 and associated Integrated Implementation Programme and Grid25 and associated Implementation Programme.

Other national plans, policies or strategies that influence the objectives of the development plan are considered within the main chapters of the development plan where they relate to a particular topic or land use.

There are a number of environmental considerations that have a significant bearing on the overall development objectives of the Plan. Under the Habitats and Birds Directive and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, both an Appropriate Assessment and a Strategic Environmental Assessment were carried out for the entire development plan including the written statement, maps and objectives, and also appendices. The plan had regard to both assessments with resultant changes being made to the Plan throughout the plan process.

In addition, the Plan has had regard to other relevant environmental legislation. Such legislation is outlined in the relevant chapters of the Plan and includes, but is not exclusive to, the Water Framework Directive, Floods Directive, Shellfish Directive, Waste Water Treatment Directive, the Wildlife Acts, National Monuments Acts and Waste Management Acts. It is considered that the development objectives in the plan are consistent, in as far as practicable, with the conservation and protection of the environment.

2.1.5.1 Other Lower Tier Plans

Local Area Plans are in place for a number of towns through the County and these will be reviewed during the lifetime of the County Development Plan. Towns with existing LAPs are targeted for growth having regard to their position within the settlement hierarchy of the County and the scale and character of the individual settlement. LAPs have been prepared for Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole, Rathdrum, Blessington and Newtownmountkennedy.

2.1.5.2 Environmental Protection Objectives

The Plan is subject to a number of high level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply.

Examples of Environmental Protection Objectives include:

- EU Habitats Directive – the aim of which is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of Member States
- Water Framework Directive – the aim of which is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which, among other things, prevents deterioration in the status of all water bodies and protects, enhances and restores all waters with the aim of achieving good status by 2015.

2.2 European Sites in and within 15 km of the Plan Area

2.2.1 SACs and SPAs

This section of the screening process describes the European sites within a 15km potential zone of impact of the Plan Area. The distance of 15 km is currently recommended in the DoE document *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects - Guidance for Planning Authorities*, however, sites beyond this distance should also be considered where there are hydrological linkages or other pathways that extend beyond 15 km thereby ensuring that all potentially affected European sites are included in the screening process. A map indicating the locations of the sites is presented in Figure 1.

Based on the above approach, a total of 30 European sites, comprising 23 SACs, and 7 SPAs require consideration in the AA process. Table 2.3 and Table 2.4 below list the European sites that are a) within County Wicklow, b) within 15km of the county boundary. The qualifying features of each site are also presented (see 2.2.1.1 below). In order to determine the potential for impacts from the Plan, information on the qualifying features, known vulnerabilities and threats to site integrity pertaining to all potentially affected European sites was reviewed and is presented in Appendix I. This information was derived from a variety of sources, including:

- **Ireland's** Article 17 Report to the European Commission "**Status** of EU Protected Habitats and Species in **Ireland**" (NPWS, 2013).
- Site Synopses
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms

Since the conservation objectives for the European sites focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the qualifying features of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential implications of the implementing the Plan against the qualifying features of each site.

2.2.1.1 Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs)

Those relevant cSAC sites are selected for a range of different habitats and species listed on Annex I and Annex II of the habitats directive, known as Qualifying Interests (QIs). In summary, those QIs for which cSAC sites are selected are presented in Table 2.3 and Table 2.4. Those SPA sites listed have been selected for the protection of selected bird species which have European importance. Each SPA has been selected for one or a combination of the following:

- Listed rare and vulnerable species (as listed on Annex I of EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC);
- Regularly occurring migratory species, such as ducks, geese, and waders;
- Wetlands, especially those of international importance, which attract large numbers of migratory birds each year.

The features for which SPAs have been selected are referred to as Special Conservation Interests (SCIs). Those SCIs for which sites are selected are presented in Table 2.3 and Table 2.4 below.

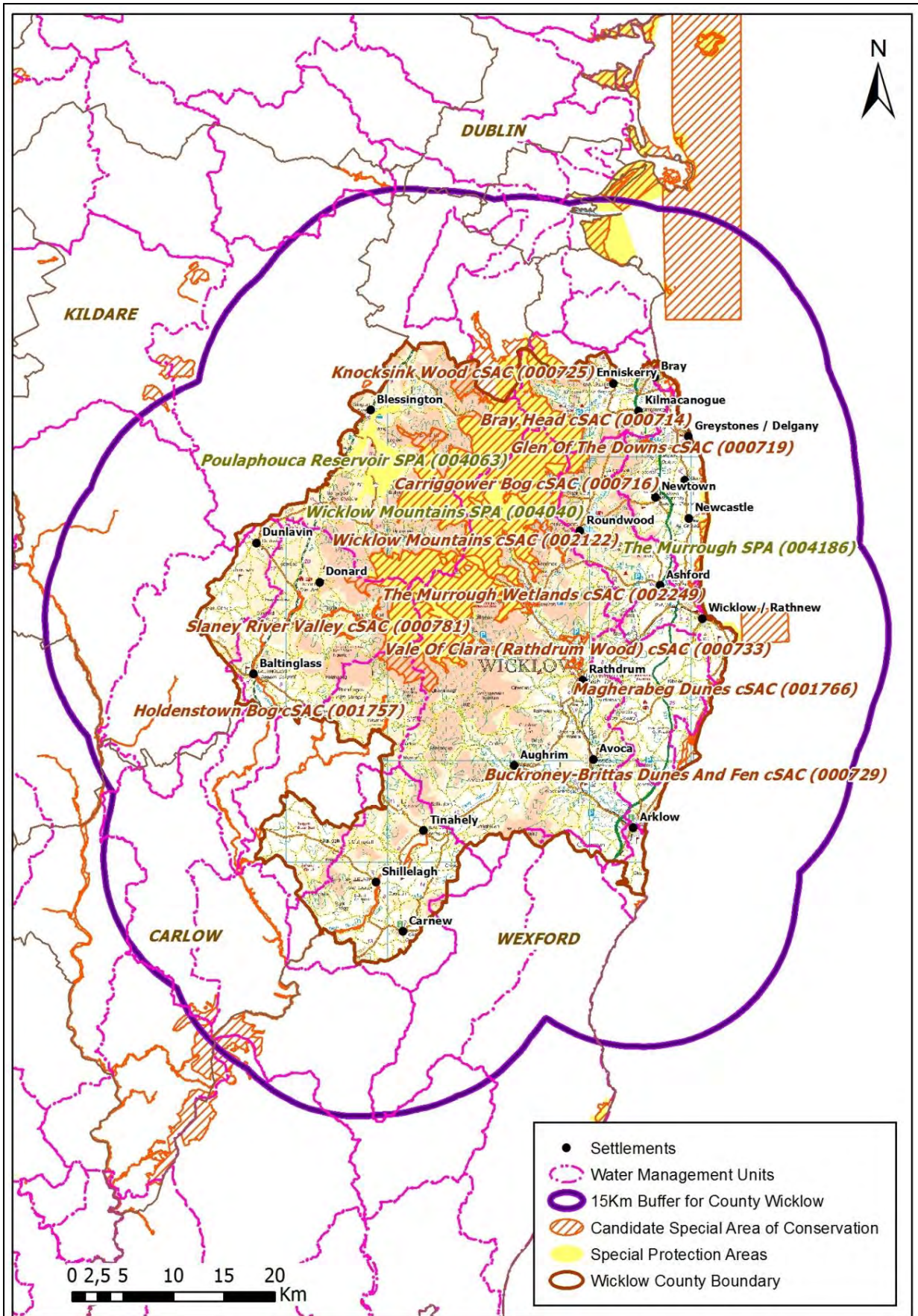


Figure 1 European sites within Co. Wicklow and within 15 km of the County Boundary

Table 2.3 European Sites in County Wicklow and their qualifying features
(listed according to their NPWS site code, see Figure 1 for corresponding locations)

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features (QIs or SCIs)
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Alkaline fens; Petrifying springs*
000714	Bray Head SAC	Dry heaths; Sea cliffs
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	Transition mires
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	Old oak woodlands
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	Old oak woodlands
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Petrifying springs*; Residual alluvial forests
000729	Buckroneys-Brittans Dunes and Fen SAC	Alkaline fens; Decalcified dune heath*; Drift lines; Dune slack; Dunes with creeping willow; Embryonic shifting dunes; Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*; Marram dunes (white dunes); Mediterranean salt meadows; Perennial vegetation of stony banks
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	Old oak woodlands
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Estuaries; Floating river vegetation; Old oak woodlands; Residual alluvial forests*; Tidal mudflats; Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>); Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>); Common Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>); Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>); Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>); River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>); Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>); Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	Transition mires
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	Decalcified dune heath*; Drift lines; Embryonic shifting dunes; Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*; Marram dunes (white dunes); Petrifying springs*
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Alpine and subalpine heath; Blanket bog (active)*; Calcareous rocky slopes; Dry heaths; Dystrophic lakes; Old oak woodlands; Siliceous rocky slopes; Siliceous scree; Soft water lakes with base rich influences; Species-rich nardus upland grassland*; Wet heath; Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Alkaline fens; Atlantic salt meadows; Cladium fen*; Drift lines; Mediterranean salt meadows; Perennial vegetation of stony banks

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features (QIs or SCIs)
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	Reefs
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>); Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)
004186	The Murrough SPA	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>); Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>); Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>); Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>); Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>); Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>); Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>); Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>); Wetland and Waterbirds

*Indicates priority habitat

Table 2.4 European Sites within 15 km (or beyond that are ecologically connected) of County Wicklow and their qualifying features

(listed according to their NPWS site code)

Site Name	Location	Qualifying features (QIs or SCIs)
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Atlantic salt meadows; Drift lines; Dune slack; Embryonic shifting dunes; Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*; Marram dunes (white dunes); Mediterranean salt meadows; Salicornia mud; Tidal mudflats; Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>)
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Tidal mudflats
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Alkaline fens; Cladium fen*; Petrifying springs; Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>); Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>); Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Transition mires
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	Dry heaths; Wet heath
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Molinia meadows; Orchid-rich calcareous grassland*; Petrifying springs*
001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	Petrifying springs* Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>); Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	Decalcified dune heath* Drift lines; Embryonic shifting dunes; Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*; Marram dunes (white dunes)
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Atlantic salt meadows; Dry heaths; Estuaries; Floating river vegetation; Hydrophilous tall herb; Mediterranean salt meadows;

Site Name	Location	Qualifying features (QIs or SCIs)
		<p>Old oak woodlands; Petrifying springs*; Residual alluvial forests*; Salicornia mud; Tidal mudflats; Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>); Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>); Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>); Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>); Irish Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>); Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>); Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>); River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>); Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>); Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>); White-Clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)</p>
004006	North Bull Island SPA	<p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>); Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>); Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>); Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>); Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>); Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>); Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>); Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>); Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>); Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>); Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>); Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>); Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>); Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>); Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>); Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>); Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>); Wetlands & Waterbirds</p>
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	<p>Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>); Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>); Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>); Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougalli</i>); Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>); Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>); Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>); Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>); Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>); Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>); Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>); Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>); Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>); Wetlands & Waterbirds</p>
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	<p>Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)</p>

Site Name	Location	Qualifying features (QIs or SCIs)
		Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) Wetland and Waterbirds

2.3 Assessment Criteria

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

Under the Habitats Directive, Plans that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive. This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). The relationship should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the Plan, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s).

The Wicklow CDP includes measures that will benefit the protection of European designated sites, however its primary purpose is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to provide for development. Therefore, the Plan is not considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

2.3.2 Elements of the Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Significant Effects

2.3.2.1 Elements of the Wicklow County Development Plan Written Statement with Potential to Give Rise to Significant Effects

This screening assessment process identifies whether the changes brought about by the Plan are likely to cause any direct, indirect or secondary impacts (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 network of sites. During this assessment, a number of factors were taken into account including the sites' conservation objectives and known threats. The overall aim of the assessment is to attempt to predict the consequences that can be reasonably foreseen by implementation of a policy or objective.

It should be noted that the objectives that make up the Plan are generally strategic in nature and therefore the impact assessment can at best be generalised.

In general, any development that may result from implementation of the Plan, such as construction of housing, roads, rail, water and wastewater infrastructure, gas, electricity, provision of tourism facilities and telecommunications infrastructure could lead to significant effects depending on where development is sited, the scale and characteristics of development and types and quantities of emissions. The individual elements of the Plan that may result in impacts on European sites have been identified as including the following:

- Chapter 3; Settlement Strategy:
 - Increased populations in towns throughout the county
- Chapter 4; Housing:
 - New housing development throughout the county
- Chapter 5; Enterprise, Employment and the Rural Economy
 - Promotion and facilitation of economic development, principally concentrated in the major settlements in the County
 - The development of commercial port activities
 - The promotion of certain industrial/commercial development in rural areas
 - The promotion of state and private afforestation
 - The development of the County's fisheries and aquaculture industry, including the development of infrastructure for these industries
 - **The facilitation of and development of the County's natural aggregate resources**
 - **The facilitation of and exploitation of the County's minerals, and the development and diversification of the County's rock industry**
 - Providing for employment development at locations shown on maps 5.01-5.07

- Chapter 6; Town Centres and Retail
 - The promotion of new retail developments and associated infrastructure, including car parking
 - The consideration of large retail warehouses outside of towns
 - The promotion of and encouragement of tourism retail
- Chapter 7; Tourism
 - The expansion of new and existing tourism development
 - The development of tourism in rural areas and associated ancillary developments
 - The development of a variety of accommodation types, including hotels and hostels
 - The improvement of and extension of existing tourism accommodation
 - The development of integrated tourism, leisure and recreational complexes
 - The promotion of, and facilitation of tourism infrastructure within the county
 - The provision to provide for new walking, cycling, and driving trails, including ancillary facilities, and the development of linkages between trails.
 - The encouragement of the development of hill walking trails, and the expansion of existing trails
 - The promotion of the extensive use of the coastal strip on the east of the County
 - The promotion of the recreational use of the coastline, rivers and lakes for activities such as game fishing, boat sailing, etc.
 - Provision for holiday home development at Baltyboys Golf Club - seemap 7.01
 - Provision for development at existing / proposed integrated tourism / leisure / recreational complexes at locations shown on maps 7.02 - 7.06
 - Provision for the development of an Arts, Crafts and Interpretive Centre at Sexton's **garden** Centre, Glen of the Downs (Map 7.08)
- Chapter 8; Community
 - Provision for new schools, and the development of Third Level education facilities within the County
 - The development of new hospitals, nursing homes, and medical centres and the expansion of existing medical facilities within the County
 - The facilitation of the development of new residential and day care facilities throughout the County
 - **The development of 'Retirement Villages'**
 - The development of new, improved, or expanded places of worship and burial grounds
 - The development of open space for recreational uses
 - Provision for new or extended residential care facilities for the elderly at the locations as shown on maps 8.01-8.02
- Chapter 9; Infrastructure
 - Section 9.1; Roads and Transportation:
 - The facilitation of park and ride facilities
 - Enhancement of existing parking facilities
 - Improvement works, and development of new footpaths
 - The construction of bus shelters
 - To provide for increased capacity to the DART service along the coastal route of the County
 - The re-opening of the Dublin – Rosslare Line, and associated works
 - Improvement works to foot and cycleways, including the development of new paths, and developments of these paths/cycleways off-road
 - The provision for cycling and walking amenity routes throughout the County
 - Improvement works to regional roads, including associated bridges and ancillary infrastructure

- The provision to bring national and secondary roads up to appropriate standards
- Upgrades and major improvement works to national roads within the County, including widening and, improvements to junctions, and major upgrades to interchanges on national routes
- The provision of a new northern access route from Greystones to the N11
- The provision to provide for new local roads and upgrade works to existing roads
- The facilitation of the development of the aviation sector, including the development of aerodromes, and air strips
- Section 9.2 Water Infrastructure and Flooding:
 - To facilitate the provision of water supplies and wastewater disposal facilities
- Section 9.3 Waste and Environmental Emissions:
 - The development of existing and new waste recovery facilities, and waste to energy facilities
 - The development of sites, services, and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household waste
- Section 9.4 Telecommunications
 - The promotion of and facilitation of telecommunications infrastructure throughout the County
 - Facilitating the development and expansion of communication, information and broadcasting networks
- Section 9.5 Climate Change and Energy:
 - The encouragement of and development of wind energy in the County
 - The development of wind measurement masts
 - The development of off-shore wind energy projects
 - The development of new river / lake based hydroelectricity plants
 - Development of off-shore hydroelectricity projects
 - Development of projects that convert biomass to gas or electricity, and other small scale electricity generation installations
 - The development of electricity transmission and distribution, and landing locations for cross channel power interconnectors
- Chapter 10 Heritage
 - To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between 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 and wildlife corridors
 - To promote and facilitate the development of coastal paths linking up with existing recreational paths/ strategic walkways/cycleways, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities
 - To facilitate the use of natural areas for active outdoor pursuits
 - To facilitate the continuation of the development of the coastal walking and cycling route between Greystones and Wicklow Town
 - To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO
- Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management
 - To facilitate the provision/reinforcement of coastal defences and protection measures as identified in the Murrough Coastal Protection Study
 - To maintain and enhance **public right of ways, and coastal walks along the county's coastline**
 - To facilitate the development of services and facilities for visitors such as suitable signage, footpath surfaces, notice and maps
 - To provide for a high quality integrated harbour/marina mixed development at Greystones linked to a linear coastal public park and any future heritage park

- To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching
- To provide for the upgrading of Kilcoole train station and associated facilities
- To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five-mile point and Ballybla
- To provide for outdoor and indoor recreation developments such as golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks

2.3.2.2 Elements of the Town & Settlement Plans with Potential to Give Rise to Significant Effects

As mentioned in Section 2.1.2 above, 14 local plans have been prepared as part of the Wicklow CDP. These local plans are to be screened for appropriate assessment in conjunction with the main Wicklow CDP written statement. Elements of these plans with the potential to lead to significant effects are presented in Table 2.5 and Table 2.6 below.

Tables 2.5 and 2.6 identify the elements of the individual town and settlement plans that could potentially give rise to impacts and the sites that are likely to be affected. The sites have been selected based on the nature of the Plan provisions, their location in relation to the settlements and their qualifying interests.

Table 2.7 screens potential impacts due to the entire Plan (including the various elements of the settlement plans) on each individual European site.

Table 4.1 and Table 4.2 provide further assessment of potential impacts associated with Plan elements and summarise the mitigation incorporated into the Plan in order to address identified impacts.

Table 2.5: Elements of Level 5 plans with the potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites

Settlement Town	Elements of the Plan	Site (s) potentially affected ²
Ashford	Objectives: ASH3; ASH4; ASH6; ASH7; ASH8	The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC
	Action Area 2: Development works in this area where the existing stream is to be incorporated into the design of the development.	
	Development of the film industry	
Aughrim	N/A	N/A
Baltinglass	Objectives: BALT2; BALT3; BALT4; BALT5; BALT6; BALT8; BALT9	Slaney River Valley SAC Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA
	Developments at Action Area 1 Action Area 2 and Action Area 3. These Action Areas occur in close proximity or within the Slaney River Valley SAC.	
	Specific Local Objective 1: Provisions in this area include works potentially within the Slaney River Valley SAC- such as the proposed development of a pedestrian foot bridge and road bridge	
Carnew	Objectives: CAR2; CAR3; CAR4; CAR5; CAR7; CAR8; CAR9; CAR10	Slaney River Valley SAC
Dunlavin	Objectives: DUN2 – DUN10	Slaney River Valley SAC
Enniskerry	Objectives: ENN5 – ENN15	Ballyman Glen SAC Knocksink Wood SAC

² Objectives are coded according to the numbering system adopted in the main text of the Plan.

Settlement Town	Elements of the Plan	Site (s) potentially affected ²
	<p>Action Area 1: The Zoning of Action Area 1 (AA1) in Enniskerry occurs immediately adjacent to Knocksink Wood SAC, was the subject of a submission and was informed by the findings of the AA. AA1 provides provisions for residential, open space, employment and community zone. Considering the avoidance of incompatible land uses on sensitive lands and the other mitigation that has been integrated into the Plan, no effects on the SAC are foreseen as a result of development that might occur under the Plan.</p> <p>Specific Local Objective 1: SLO1 occurs in close proximity to the Ballyman Glen SAC. Provisions for this SLO include the facilitation of new dwellings in the area.</p>	
Tinahely	<p>Objectives: TN1 – TN7; TN11 – TN17</p> <p>Specific Lands Objective 1 Lands in this area occur adjacent to the River Derry which forms part of the Slaney River Valley SAC. Developments in this land area include mixed use and commercial area of the town centre, to allow for the creation of new streets and squares and to provide for off street car parking for the core of the town.</p>	Slaney River Valley SAC

Table 2.6: Elements of Level 6/7 plans with the potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites

Settlement Town	Elements of the Plan	Site (s) potentially affected
Avoca	N/A	N/A
Donard	Donard Specific Development Objectives: These objectives provide for the development of new housing, community and recreational facilities, tourism developments, and provisions for a new link road.	Slaney River Valley SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA
Kilmacanogue	Kilmacanogue Specific Development Objectives: These objectives provide for the development of public and private open space (including walkways), to investigate the feasibility of a new road within the town, and new residential developments.	Bray Head SAC Glen of the Downs SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Ballyman Glen SAC
Newcastle	Newcastle Specific Local Objectives: These objectives provide for new housing and infrastructural improvement works, and provision to develop new roads, footpaths and cycleways in various locations within the town and its environs. These objectives also provide for pedestrian and cycling linkages. Objective No.5 provides for the development of a linear park along the Newcastle River, including pedestrian and cycle links along the landscaped linear park. The Newcastle River is directly connected to The Murrough Wetlands SAC and SPA.	The Murrough Wetlands SAC The Murrough SPA
Roundwood	Roundwood Specific Development Objectives: These objectives provide for new housing and road improvement works, development of pedestrian and cycle linkages (including provision for a footbridge at Mullinaveigue Bridge on the R755 to connect the Vartry Reservoir Loop Walks for pedestrians),	Wicklow Mountains SAC Carriggower Bog SAC The Murrough Wetlands SAC The Murrough SPA Wicklow Mountains SPA

Settlement Town	Elements of the Plan	Site (s) potentially affected
	additional car parking, extension of the town centre which includes the provision to provide for a new village green. These objectives also include the provision for connectivity to the town centre.	
Shillelagh	Shillelagh Specific Development Objectives: These objectives provide for new housing, the development of recreational facilities, tourism developments, and improvement works to the town's appearance . The Objectives on Primary Lands within the town also allow for the provision for improvement works to footpaths within the town.	Slaney River Valley SAC
Laragh - Glendalough	Objectives: LG1 – LG18; LG24; LG27; LG31; LG36; LG37	Wicklow Mountains SAC (Within Plan boundary) Wicklow Mountains SPA (Within Plan boundary) Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC

2.3.3 Direct, Indirect or Secondary Impacts

As outlined in the European Commission Environment DG document "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the Plan can be categorised under a number of headings:

- Loss / reduction of habitat area (e.g. due to the development of new projects);
- Disturbance to Key Species (e.g. increased public access to protected sites, or during the construction phase of infrastructure projects);
- Habitat or species fragmentation;
- Reduction in species density;
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value such as changes in water quality / quantity (e.g., alteration to drainage regime in sensitive wetland areas; run-off of pollutants during construction and operation of developments).

In determining the potential for significant effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity of the European sites, secondly, the Plan and the potential effects associated with its implementation on the sites were considered. In summary, it is concluded that there is potential for significant impacts, if unmitigated, on twenty European sites. The potential impacts associated with the provisions of the Plan are discussed in the following sections.

2.3.3.1 Loss / Reduction of Habitat Area

Direct habitat loss is caused where there is complete removal of a habitat type. Habitat loss can also occur through the reduction of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions. It can arise from the introduction of invasive species, toxic contamination, or physical alteration.

Loss or reduction of habitat area may occur through the construction of new accommodation facilities, tourism facilities/infrastructure, wind energy developments, new road links, etc. Direct loss or reduction of habitat area will be confined to works which take place within or in very close proximity to a European site(s). Direct habitat loss may potentially arise from projects such as the provision for the development of a pedestrian foot bridge and road bridge over the River Slaney as part of the Baltinglass Town Plan.

2.3.3.2 Disturbance to Key Species

Key species are defined as those listed on the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive for which sites are designated. Disturbance to species supported by a European site is likely

to be amplified where there is an increase in activity levels from developments within or adjacent to designated areas. Sources of disturbance include noise, vibration, light, emanating from construction and / or operational activities.

In relation to the activities provided for by the Plan, disturbance to key species could result from construction associated with any new transport infrastructure, wind energy developments, tourism developments, quarrying activities, etc. Similarly, the use of transport infrastructure, wind energy, and quarrying during the operational phase could also give rise to disturbance where they are in proximity to a European site(s).

Any significant increases in traffic caused by increased retail, commercial, or tourism requirements could also lead to increased disturbance to sensitive species where transport infrastructure is located within or close by relevant European sites.

2.3.3.3 Habitat / Species Fragmentation

Habitat and species fragmentation can occur through the breaking up of or loss of habitats resulting in interference with existing ecological units. Fragmentation can also result from impediments to the natural movements of species. This is relevant where important corridors for movement or migration are likely to be disrupted such as along river corridors when construction may introduce a barrier to the free movement of species from one area of habitat to another. Habitat / species fragmentation may arise from the construction of new transport infrastructure required during the development of the Plan, and is particularly relevant to linear developments such as road and rail.

2.3.3.4 Reduction in Species Density

Reduction in species density may result from loss / reduction of habitat area, disturbance, or fragmentation, either individually or in combination. In addition, changes in habitat quality could lead to reductions in populations of sensitive species.

In relation to the Plan, reductions in species density could also occur where collision risks are introduced to previously undeveloped areas where vulnerable species may be present. The development of overhead power lines, wind energy could present a collision hazard to vulnerable bird species. The development of rail and roads in particularly sensitive locations could result in collision between vehicles and wildlife.

The provision for the development of a pedestrian foot bridge and road bridge over the River Slaney as part of the Baltinglass Town Plan could also present a collision risk to bird species, noting that the river is used as a migratory route for wildfowl associated with the Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA.

2.3.3.5 Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value

The key indicators of conservation value for sites likely to be affected by the implementation of the Plan include surface water and groundwater quality and quantity.

Any deterioration in water quality within surface and ground water dependant ecosystems can lead to direct and indirect impacts on a range of habitats and species of conservation importance. Similarly, changes in water quantity (water table height; flow regime; flow rates etc) can also impact on many habitats and species that are associated with freshwater and marine European sites.

In relation to the Plan, the main sources of such impacts may include:

- potential discharge of silt laden waters or other pollutants from construction related projects (road works, rail development, afforestation, etc);
- potential discharge of contaminated (hydrocarbons) runoff from transport infrastructure during operation phase;
- hydrological alteration of groundwater / surface water volume or flows due to construction activities or changes in land-use;
- amplified pressures on watercourse from increased tourism activity along water ways.

2.4 Outcome of screening

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European site and describes any likely significant effects of the implementation of the Plan. This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions, or mitigation measures.

In determining the potential for significant effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity of each European site, secondly, the individual elements of the Plan and the potential effect they may cause on each site were considered.

Impacts on sites outside of Co. Wicklow are likely to be of an indirect nature, such as extensive drainage or eutrophication of watercourses in Co. Wicklow affecting surface or groundwater dependant sites downstream, rather than direct habitat loss or disturbance of species.

Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- where it can be shown that there are no hydrological links between activities in Co. Wicklow and the site to be screened
- where the site is located at such a distance from Co. Wicklow that impacts are not foreseen
- where known threats or vulnerabilities at a site cannot be linked to potential impacts that may arise from implementation of the Plan.

The outcome of screening of individual European sites considered in this assessment is presented in Table 2.7.

Table 2.7: Screening of European sites within County Wicklow

Site Code	Site Name	Relationship with the Plan	Potential Impacts resulting from the implementation of the Plan	Stage II AA Required
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Within 15km of the Plan Area	Considering the QI's of this site, and it's location in relation to the Plan, no impacts are foreseen.	No
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Within 15km of the Plan Area	Considering the QI's of this site, and it's location in relation to the Plan, no impacts are foreseen on this site.	No
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Within 15km of the Plan Area	This site occurs upstream of developments in County Wicklow. Considering the location of this site in relation to the Plan, no adverse impacts on this site are foreseen.	No
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Within 15km of the Plan Area	Although Red Bog Kildare SAC occurs ca 1km from the Plan Area, there are no hydrological links to the site and it is deemed to be sufficiently removed from the Plan Area.	No
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Within the Plan Area	Developments such as those relating to Enniskerry town, along with those provisions outlined in the Plan, adverse impacts on this site cannot be ruled out.	Yes
000714	Bray Head SAC	Within the Plan Area	Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been defined, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	Within the Plan Area	Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been identified, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	Within the Plan Area	Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been identified, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Relationship with the Plan	Potential Impacts resulting from the implementation of the Plan	Stage II AA Required
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	Within the Plan Area	Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been identified, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Within the Plan Area	Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been identified, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
000729	Buckroneys-Brittans Dunes and Fen SAC	Within the Plan Area	Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been identified, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	Within the Plan Area	Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been identified, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	Within 15 Km of the Plan Area	Considering the QIs of this site and its proximity to the Plan Area, and the absence of a hydrological link to the Plan, no adverse impacts on the Blackstairs Mountains SAC area foreseen.	No
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Within the Plan Area	The Slaney River Valley SAC occurs in the south of the County, within the Plan Area. Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been identified, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Within 15 km of the Plan Area	Glenasmole Valley occurs within ca 1.8 km from the Plan Area. The source of the River Dodder which flows through the site occurs on the Wicklow Mountains within the Plan Area. Activities, such as tourism, development to the Plan in proximity to the Wicklow Mountains may lead to adverse impacts on the Glenasmole Valley SAC	Yes
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	Within 15 km of the Plan Area	This SAC occurs ca 14 km from the Plan Area at its nearest point. The site occurs upstream of the Plan Area and therefore adverse impacts on the Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC are not foreseen.	No
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	Within 15 km of the Plan Area	Kilpatrick Sand Dunes SAC occurs immediately adjacent to the Plan Area. The QIs of the site are vulnerable to direct impacts such as recreational pressures and inappropriate levels of grazing. It is therefore considered that it is unlikely that the Kilpatrick Sand Dunes SAC will be adversely impacted on by the implementation of the Plan.	No
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	Within the Plan Area	Holdenstown Bog SAC occurs in the south of the county, within the Plan Area. Although certain developments of the Plan are specified, the remaining development locations have not been identified, therefore adverse impacts on European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	Within the Plan Area	Located in the east of the county, within the Plan Area, the QIs of this site are particularly	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Relationship with the Plan	Potential Impacts resulting from the implementation of the Plan	Stage II AA Required
			vulnerable to tourism developments along the county's coastline.	
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Within the Plan Area	The Wicklow Mountains SAC are vulnerable to tourism, and other developments proposed by the Plan. Adverse impacts on this site cannot be ruled out at this stage of the assessment.	Yes
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Within 15 km of the Plan Area	Habitats and species of this site are vulnerable to changes in water quality. The site occurs downstream of the Plan Area and therefore adverse impacts resulting from the implementation of the Plan cannot be ruled out at this stage.	Yes
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Within the Plan Area	The Murrough Wetlands occur along the south-east of the County and are vulnerable to developments proposed by the Plan, particularly those works associated with the Newcastle Settlement Plan.	Yes
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	Within the Plan Area	The Wicklow Reefs Sac is an offshore site, removed from the mainland. The Plan however provisions the development of various tourism, and alternative energy developments which may lead to potential impacts on the site should such developments be located in proximity to the SAC.	Yes
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Within 15 km of the Plan Area	This SPA is well removed from the Plan Area and adverse affects from the implementation of the Plan Area are not foreseen.	No
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	Within 15 km of the Plan Area	This SPA is well removed from the Plan Area and adverse affects from the implementation of the Plan Area are not foreseen.	No
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Within the Plan Area	The Wicklow Mountains are vulnerable to wind energy, and tourism development proposals provisioned for in the Plan should these developments be located in proximity to the SPA.	Yes
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Within the Plan Area	The Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA occurs in the west of the county, developments which may occur in proximity to the site may lead to disturbance and displacement of the geese and gulls for which the site is designated.	Yes
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	Within the Plan Area	This site is particularly vulnerable to coastal developments arising from tourism, and renewable energy developments.	Yes
004186	The Murrough SPA	Within the Plan Area	The Murrough Wetlands occur along the south-east of the County and are vulnerable to developments proposed by the Plan, particularly those works associated with the Newcastle Settlement Plan.	Yes
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slob's SPA	Beyond 15km of the Plan area	Wildfowl such as Greenland White Fronted Geese use the River Slaney Valley as a migration route to and from the site. The development of bridges, or other structures, over the River Slaney could present a collision risk to such bird species.	Yes

2.5 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European sites. Table 2.8 lists the plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European sites. The plans or projects are listed according to a spatial hierarchy of International, National, Regional/Local Projects and Plans.

Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Plan, it is recognised that the identification of cumulative impacts is limited and that the assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level.

Table 2.8 Plans & Projects Likely to Cause In-Combination Effects with the Wicklow CDP

Directive	Purpose	Interactions resulting in Cumulative Impacts
International		
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	This directive establishes a regime, which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding. With trends such as climate change and increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones, this poses a threat of flooding in coastal and river basin areas.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure such as flood walls or flood defences. Avoidance on, or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible, favouring infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the plan.
Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further pollution.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.

Directive	Purpose	Interactions resulting in Cumulative Impacts
Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Objective is to encourage the appropriate use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man. To this end, it prohibits the use of untreated sludge on agricultural land unless it is injected or incorporated into the soil.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
The Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (96/61/EC)	Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land from industrial sources.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
National		
National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020	Objectives of the NSS are to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by more effective planning. Objectives in relation to the CDP are discussed above.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation.
Grid 25	Grid25 is a high-level strategy outlining how EirGrid intends to undertake the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short, medium and longer terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply. The Grid25 strategy thereby seeks to implement the provisions of the 2007 Government White Paper on Energy - "Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland" in terms of development of electricity transmission infrastructure. The Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) is a practical strategic overview of how the early stages of Grid25 are intended to be implemented.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new electrical infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation.
Energy Policy framework 2007-2020, Governments White Paper	This policy states that the Government is committed to delivering a significant growth in renewable energy as a contribution to fuel diversity in power generation with a 2020 target of 33% electricity consumption	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new wind energy infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation

Directive	Purpose	Interactions resulting in Cumulative Impacts
<p>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016</p>	<p>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>	<p>Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new water services infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation
<p>Smarter Travel – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020</p>	<p>Sustainable transport investment programme to encourage transport initiatives such as cycling, car sharing, the use of public transport etc.</p>	<p>Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new water services infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation
<p>National Cycle Policy Framework 2009-2020</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new water services infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation
<p>Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan</p>	<p>Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically</p>	<p>Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new water services infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation
Regional		
<p>Regional Planning Guidelines For The Greater Dublin Area 2010 - 2022.</p>	<p>Policy document which aims to direct the future growth of the Greater Dublin Region over the medium to long term and works to implement the strategic planning framework set out in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS)</p>	<p>Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation

Directive	Purpose	Interactions resulting in Cumulative Impacts
National Transport Authority's Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2016-2035	The Strategy outlines transport development objectives for the Greater Dublin Area over a twenty year period.	Potential for in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new transport infrastructure, or increase capacity of existing infrastructure/services. Provisions for the development of transport infrastructure may potentially result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation
Local		
Dublin City Development Plan 2016 - 2022 Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 Wexford County development Plan 2013-2019 Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 South County Dublin Development Plan 2016 - 2022	Overall strategies for the proper planning and sustainable development of the administrative area of the relevant Local Authorities.	Wicklow shares its boundary with a number of counties in the east and south-east. Furthermore a number of European sites are located in more than one county. Similar development plans are in existence throughout the region, accordingly these plans acting alone or in combination can have a cumulative impact on European sites located within County Wicklow. Provision of infrastructure may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation
County Wicklow Wind Energy Strategy	The Strategy supports a plan led approach to wind energy development in County Wicklow and sets out a) Favoured areas b) Less favoured areas and c) Not favoured areas.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation
Local Area Plans for the following towns: Bray; Wicklow-Rathnew; Arklow; Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole; Rathdrum; Blessington; Newtownmountkennedy.	Local Area Plans provide strategies for development in towns throughout the county.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure. Provision of infrastructure may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Alteration of hydrology • Deterioration in water quality • Disturbance during construction / operation

2.6 Conclusions

The likely impacts that will arise from the implementation of the Wicklow County Development Plan have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. On the basis of the findings of this screening for appropriate assessment (AA), it is concluded that the Plan:

- (i) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site and
- (ii) could, in the absence of mitigation, result in adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network.

Therefore, applying the Precautionary Principle and in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, a Stage 2 AA is required. That stage is set out in Section 3 of this report.

Section 3 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction

The main objective of this stage (Stage 2) in the AA is to determine whether the Plan would result in significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site with respect to the **site's** structure, function, and/or conservation objectives.

The Stage 1 Screening has created a list of sites with potential to be affected by the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, Stage 2 AA is required. The potential adverse effects considered at this stage will either be effects occurring as a result of the application of the Plan alone or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects.

In total, 20 sites have been identified that may be adversely affected through the implementation of the Plan. These sites are categorised into different ecosystem types as presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: European Sites subject to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

Rivers and Lakes	Bogs	Coastal and marine	Woodlands and uplands	SPAs
River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Carriggower Bog SAC	Bray Head SAC	Ballyman Glen SAC	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA
Slaney River Valley SAC	Holdenstown Bog SAC	Buckronev – Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	The Murrough SPA
		Magherabeg Dunes SAC	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Wicklow Head SPA
		The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Glen of the Downs SAC	Wicklow Mountains SPA
		Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA	Knocksink Wood SAC	
			Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	
			Wicklow Mountains SAC	
			Wicklow Reefs SAC	

3.2 Potential Significant Effects

As outlined in the European Commission Environment DG document "*Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*", impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the Plan can be categorised under a number of headings:

- Loss / reduction of habitat area (e.g. due to the development of new projects)
- Disturbance to Key Species (e.g. increased public access to protected sites, or during the construction phase of infrastructure projects)
- Habitat or species fragmentation
- Reduction in species density
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value such as decrease in water quality / quantity (e.g. through inadequate wastewater treatment, run-off of pollutants during construction and operation of developments, agricultural runoff)

The Plan is a high level plan that provides a framework for sustainable development within County Wicklow over the period 2016 to 2022. The Plan does not prescribe the particular locations (site specific) of any developments of infrastructure other than some infrastructural works that are site specific. Overall, the Plan underpins the development of housing, communities and urban centres with

supporting transport, water, waste, energy, and communication infrastructure within the County. The Town and Settlement Plans that form part of the Plan prescribe specific locations for development. Where specific development is known, the potential impacts on European sites have been assessed accordingly.

Water Services

It is noted that Irish Water, being the Water Services body for the State and County Wicklow, is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout the County. Private water supplies provide an alternative for areas that are not served by public water supply infrastructure and comprise mainly of wells for single dwellings and group water schemes for rural clusters and small settlements. Farms and commercial developments outside of settlements will usually also have their own private supplies. While the Local Authority has a limited role in the provision of such private supplies, for domestic supplies it does administer grants schemes where available and undertakes monitoring.

Various provisions from the County Development Plan (including in Section 9.2 Water Infrastructure and Flooding) have been integrated into Plan committing the Council, in order to facilitate Irish Water in ensuring the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development, including securing the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and other smaller, localised water improvement schemes.

Irish water has prepared a "Water Services Strategic Plan" and associated "Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016", which have been subjected to their own environmental assessment processes as relevant and appropriate. In combination with the provisions in these higher-level documents, the County Development Plan will contribute towards sustainable development and the appropriate protection and management of the environment, including Natura 2000 sites.

Nonetheless, individual surface or groundwater abstractions have the potential to result in adverse effects on environmental components including Natura 2000 sites. Potential adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites could occur as a result construction works (water abstraction, transportation or treatment) and new or intensified abstractions of water which could reduce the flow of waters that support surface or ground water dependent habitats and species. Where there are multiple abstractions, these have the potential to cumulatively contribute towards such adverse effects.

Such potential effects include direct habitat loss (including loss of wetlands), habitat damage (e.g. damage to wetlands), reductions in water quality, disturbance to species including sensitive aquatic species.

Potential adverse effects will be mitigated by the various provisions that have been integrated into Plan, including those detailed at Section 4 of this report. Projects will be subjected their own consent procedures with associated Appropriate Assessment requirements as relevant and appropriate.

Walking and Cycling Provisions

Various provisions from the County Development Plan (including in Chapter 7 Tourism, Chapter 9 Infrastructure and Chapter 10 Heritage) have been integrated into Plan that provide for the improvement of cycleway and walkway facilities thereby promoting these forms of transport.

An emphasis on walking and cycling as alternatives to vehicular transport is set out in higher level **policy including the "Smarter Travel – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020", the "National Cycle Policy Framework 2009-2020" and the "Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan" which have been subjected to their own environmental assessment processes as relevant and appropriate.** In combination with the provisions in these higher-level documents, the County Development Plan will contribute towards smarter travel and the appropriate protection and management of the environment, including Natura 2000 sites.

By their nature, cycleways and walkways will contribute towards the cycle network and the walking network. The cycle and the walking network are part of the entire transport network including road, rail and air transport infrastructure and services.

By being part of these larger networks, individual walkway and cycleway projects have the potential to cumulatively contribute towards a variety of environmental effects, including contributions towards sustainable mobility and reduced emissions to air as well as various potentially adverse effects on environmental components including Natura 2000 sites. Such potential effects on Natura 2000 sites could occur directly through construction of walkways or cycleways within or in proximity to a designated site or indirectly by providing new or improved access to sites that are potentially sensitive to disturbance and visitor pressures.

Such potential effects are most likely to arise along sensitive river corridors or along the coastal strip³ and include direct habitat loss (including loss of wetlands), habitat fragmentation, habitat damage (e.g. visitor pressure such as trampling, damage to wetlands), reductions in water quality, disturbance to species including birds and effects arising from the introduction of invasive species.

Potential adverse effects will be mitigated by the various provisions that have been integrated into Plan, including those detailed at Section 4 of this report. Projects will be subjected their own consent procedures with associated Appropriate Assessment requirements as relevant and appropriate.

3.2.1 Reduction of Habitat Area

Direct habitat loss is caused where there is removal of habitat features within an area. Habitat loss can also occur through the reduction of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions. It can arise from the introduction of invasive species, toxic contamination or physical alteration.

There is a potential that any designated site within the functional area of the Plan may be adversely affected in this manner through the implementation of the Plan. Development either in isolation or in combination with other similar developments can potentially lead to significant adverse impacts on the environment with long term consequences. Construction of housing and commercial/industrial properties could lead to loss of habitats if inappropriately located within the boundaries of a designated site. Indirectly, habitat loss may also occur through draining of development lands adjacent to or hydro-geologically linked to designated sites that support surface or ground water dependant habitats such as bogs and rivers (see Table 3.1 above).

The Plan supports the development adjacent to and/or within European designated sites. The development of housing, infrastructure, commercial/industrial or touristic routes such as walkways and cycleways could potentially lead to habitat loss through inappropriately sited developments. Those European sites that could potentially be affected by habitat loss include those sites listed in Table 3.1 above that are designated for terrestrial habitats and species. As developments within the Plan have not been specifically located reduction of habitat area on any European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage. Therefore all European sites listed in Table 2.3 above may potentially be affected by habitat loss. Those European sites which may be potentially affected by habitat loss due to specific works located in Settlement Town Plans are presented in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2 European sites potentially affected by reduction of habitat area

Site Code	Site Name	Relevant provision of the Plan
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Level 5 Settlement Plans: Baltinglass; Tinahely Level 6 Settlement Plan: Shillelagh
002122 / 004040	Wicklow Mountains SAC / SPA	Level 7 Plan – Laragh - Glendalough

³ Including at the following sites: River Barrow and River Nore SAC, Slaney River Valley SA, Bray Head SAC, Buckronev – Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC, Magherabeg Dunes SAC, The Murrough Wetlands SAC, Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SPA, Wicklow Mountains SPA and Wexford Harbour and Sloba SPA

3.2.2 Fragmentation

Habitat and species fragmentation can occur through the breaking up of or loss of habitats resulting in interference with existing ecological resources. Fragmentation can also result from impediments to the natural movements of species. This is relevant where important corridors for movement or migration are likely to be disrupted such as along river corridors when construction introduces a barrier to the free movement of species from one area of habitat to another.

Installation of linear infrastructure e.g. roads and other transportation links, water and wastewater pipelines, electricity supply lines, can have a negative impact over a wide distance where such infrastructure crosses designated sites. Impacts can include habitat or species fragmentation where, for example, electricity supply lines or wind turbines may interrupt the flight paths of birds or newly installed bridges disturb the migration of salmon. Disturbance impacts to birds, as outlined in Section 3.2.3 below may also lead to fragmentation of bird populations. European sites that could potentially be affected by fragmentation include those sites listed above that are designated for terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species.

3.2.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance to species supported by a European site is likely to increase where there is an increase in activity levels from recreation and amenity or from developments within or adjacent to designated areas. Sources of disturbance include noise, vibration, light, construction and operation activities or other sources of disturbance arising from recreation and amenity or from the inappropriate timing of works.

The European sites potentially affected include the Slaney River Valley SAC and the Wicklow Mountains SAC, both of which have otter designated as qualifying interests. Otter are vulnerable to disturbance due to construction works, aquaculture practices, and increased amenity uses along waterways arising from proposed developments as part of the Plan. In addition, all SPAs that occur within the Plan Area are vulnerable to disturbance to key species from the implementation of the Plan.

The Plan supports the development of infrastructural development and the promotion of tourism and recreation. These projects have the potential to cause disturbance impacts to key species if located in proximity to relevant European sites, particularly the Slaney River Valley cSAC for which pedestrian and road crossings are proposed as part of the Baltinglass Settlement Plan.

The proposed crossings, depending on their detailed design, may also present a risk to migrating wildfowl from the Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA. This risk would need to be considered at project level in the context of potential cumulative effects associated with other built structures along the migration route.

Table 3.3: European sites and QIs / SCIs vulnerable to disturbance to key species from the implementation of the Plan

Site Code	Site Name	QI (s) and SCI (s) potentially affected by the Plan
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Atlantic Salmon; Brook Lamprey; Common Seal; Freshwater Pearl Mussel; Otter; River Lamprey; Sea Lamprey; Twaite Shad
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Otter
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Merlin; Peregrine Falcon
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Greylag Geese; Lesser Black-backed Gull
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	Kittiwake
004186	The Murrough SPA	Little Tern;

Site Code	Site Name	QI (s) and SCI (s) potentially affected by the Plan
		Red-throated diver; lack-headed Gull; Greylag Goose; Herring Gull; Light-bellied Brent Goose; Teal; Wigeon; Wetlands & Waterbirds

3.2.4 Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value

The key indicators of conservation value for the majority of European sites in County Wicklow are surface water quality and quantity. Impacts on European sites may occur where there are hydrological connections between the sites and development areas. Implementation of the Plan may result in alterations to the hydrological regime or physical environment of sites through water abstraction, drainage, and discharges to watercourses, coastal waters or groundwater resources. The provision of water supplies and the disposal of wastewater will be of particular importance.

Development located in proximity to groundwater dependent habitats may interfere with the hydro geological regime that supports groundwater-dependent qualifying interests. Developments which may be carried out as part of the Plan could potentially interfere with the hydrogeological regime of those sites listed in Table 3.4 below, therefore potentially reducing the habitat quality of those sites.

Table 3.4: European sites and QIs/SCIs potentially impacted on by the implementation of the Plan

Site Code	Site Name	Location in relation to the Plan	QI (s) and SCI (s) potentially affected by the Plan
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Within the Plan Area	Alkaline fens; Petrifying springs*
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	Within the Plan Area	Transition mires
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Within the Plan Area	Petrifying springs*
000729	Buckronev – Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	Within the Plan Area	Alkaline fens
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Within the Plan Area	Atlantic Salmon; Brook Lamprey; Common Seal; Freshwater Pearl Mussel; Otter; River Lamprey; Sea Lamprey; Twaite Shad
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Within 15 km of the Plan Area	Petrifying springs
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	Within the Plan Area	Transition mires
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	Within the Plan Area	Petrifying Springs
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Within the Plan Area	Dystrophic lakes; Soft water lakes with base rich influences
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Within the Plan Area	Alkaline Fen; Cladium Fen
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Within 15 km of the Plan Area	Petrifying Springs* Atlantic Salmon; Brook Lamprey; Irish Pearl Mussel; Freshwater Pearl Mussel; Otter; River Lamprey; Sea Lamprey; Twaite Shad; White-Clawed Crayfish

3.3 Conservation Objectives

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. The Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) is in the process of drawing up Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) for all European sites.

These SSCO's aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site. The maintenance (or restoration) of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

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

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

For those sites where no SSCO's are available, the DAHG has provided generic Conservation Objectives for designated European sites. Generic Conservation Objectives for cSACs have been provided as follows:

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

One generic Conservation Objective has been provided for SPAs as follows:

- *To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA*

SSCOs have been published (as of September 2015) for 3 European sites that have been screened in for Stage II AA (see summary data relating to each site presented in Appendix I). The conservation objectives of each qualifying habitat and species for European sites are presented as a selection of attributes against which targets are set. Detailed SSCO's are likely to be more useful for project level AA. In this assessment they have been useful in determining the sensitivity of particular QIs and SCIs. Those European sites screened in for Stage 2 AA which have SSCO's prepared are as follows:

- River Barrow and River Nore SAC
- Slaney River Valley SAC
- Wicklow Reefs SAC

Section 4 Mitigation Measures

4.1 Introduction

Where it cannot be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effects from implementation of the Plan, mitigation measures have been devised. The measures that have been incorporated are compatible with those proposed by the SEA Environmental Report and with other relevant plans and programmes e.g. Programme of Measures proposed by the River Basin Management Plan and SEA.

4.2 Measures to protect Habitats and Species

As outlined in Section 2.3.2 above of this assessment a number of significant effects that could impact on habitats and species have been identified.

Measures have been included in the objectives of the Plan that will ensure these impacts are avoided. As a result of the Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan, a number of objectives have been introduced and existing objectives amended to strengthen the protection afforded to European sites.

All developments within the plan area will be subject to project level AAs. This will ensure that project level effects, which cannot be predicted at the Development Plan level, will be mitigated and encroachment on protected sites through inappropriate development will be avoided.

Mitigation provided for by Objectives incorporated into the County Wicklow Development Plan that will act to protect the Natura 2000 network are presented in Table 4.1 below, this table identifies the potential impacts on European sites and the mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan to alleviate these pressures. Table 4.2 below presents the elements of the Town Plans with the potential to cause adverse impacts on European sites arising from the provisions of the Settlement Town Plans that accompany the Plan.

Table 4.1 Mitigation against the potential impacts associated with provisions of the Plan

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁴
<p>Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased populations throughout the county 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance to key species Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	All qualifying features of those European sites listed in Table 3.1 above	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 3 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy: Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8</p> <p>Chapter 10: Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH6; NH8 – NH27; NH30 – NH44</p>
<p>Chapter 4: Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New housing developments throughout the county 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance to key species Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Those European sites which occur within the Plan Area, and those sites which occur outside the Plan Area that have water dependant QIs and are hydrologically connected to the Plan Area.	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 4 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 9: Infrastructure: Water Objectives WI2; WI11 Flood Management Objectives FL8; FL9</p> <p>Chapter 10: Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH6; NH8 – NH33</p> <p>Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management: General Coastal Zone Management Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM3 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ3; CZ5; CZ6; CZ7; CZ8; CZ9; CZ10; CZ12</p>
<p>Chapter 5: Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion and facilitation of economic development, principally concentrated in the major settlements in the County The development of commercial port activities The promotion of certain industrial/commercial development in rural areas The promotion of state and private afforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance to key species Habitat/species fragmentation Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	All those European sites which occur within the Plan Area.	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 5 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 5 Settlement Strategy: Agricultural Objectives AGR1; AGR4; AGR5: Forestry Objectives FTY2; FTY3; FTY5 Fishing Objectives FSH1 Extractive Industry Objectives EX1; EX4</p> <p>Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH27; NH29 – NH34; NH36 – NH40</p> <p>Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management</p>

⁴ Objectives are coded according to the numbering system adopted in the main text of the Plan.

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the County's fisheries and aquaculture industry, including the development of infrastructure for these industries The facilitation of and development of the County's natural aggregate resources The facilitation of and exploitation of the County's minerals, and the development and diversification of the County's rock industry 			General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ2; CZ6; CZ7; CZ8; CZ9; CZ10; CZ12
Objective EMP12: To provide for employment development at the following locations as shown on maps 5.01-5.07:			
Mountkennedy Demesne, Kilpedder (Map 5.01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	The Murrough Wetlands cSAC and the Murrough SPA downstream	Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH27; NH29 – NH34; NH36 – NH40
Rath East / Knockloe, Tullow (Map 5.02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts not likely 	Not applicable	
Scratenagh crossroads (Map 5.03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Buckrone-y-Brittis Dunes and Fen cSAC downstream	
Kilpedder Interchange (Map 5.04)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	The Murrough Wetlands cSAC and the Murrough SPA downstream	
Inchanappa South and Ballyhenry, Ashford (Map 5.05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	The Murrough Wetlands cSAC and the Murrough SPA downstream	
Killadreenan, Newtownmountkennedy (Map 5.06)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts not likely 	Not applicable	
Timore, Newcastle (Map 5.07)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts not likely 	Not applicable	
Chapter 6 Retail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The promotion of new retail developments and associated infrastructure, including car parking The consideration of large retail warehouses outside of towns The promotion of and encouragement of tourism retail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to key species Habitat/species fragmentation Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	All those European sites within the Plan Area	The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 6 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites: Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives: T4 Chapter 9 Infrastructure: Water Objectives WI2; WI11 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH23; NH30 – NH34

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁴
<p>Chapter 7 Tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expansion of new and existing tourism development • The development of tourism in rural areas and associated ancillary developments • The development of a variety of accommodation types, including hotels and hostels • The improvement of and extension of existing tourism accommodation • The development of integrated tourism, leisure and recreational complexes • The promotion of, and facilitation of tourism infrastructure within the county • The provision to provide for new walking, cycling, and driving trails, including ancillary facilities, and the development of linkages between trails. • The encouragement of the development of hill walking trails, and the expansion of existing trails • The promotion of the extensive use of the coastal strip on the east of the County • The promotion of the recreational use of the coastline, rivers and lakes for activities such as game fishing, boat sailing, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>All European sites which occur within the Plan Area</p>	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 7 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives T4 Chapter 9 Infrastructure: Flooding Objectives FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH44 Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ2; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12</p>
<p>Objective T19 To provide for holiday home development (subject to Objective T14) at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baltyboys Golf Club (up to 4 units on a site of 1.3ha as shown on Map 07.01) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality • Disturbance to key species • 	<p>Poulaphuca Reservoir SPA to east and west</p>	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 7 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives T4 Chapter 9 Infrastructure: Flooding Objectives FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH44 Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ2; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12</p>
<p>Objective T20 To support development at existing / proposed integrated tourism / leisure / recreational complexes at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Druids Glen Golf Club, Woodstock Demesne (Map 7.03) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The Murrough Wetlands cSAC and the Murrough SPA downstream</p>	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 7 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives T4 Chapter 9 Infrastructure: Flooding Objectives FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH44 Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ2; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12</p>

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballinahinch Lower, Newtownmountkennedy (Map 7.04) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	The Murrough Wetlands cSAC and the Murrough SPA downstream	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brook Lodge, Macreddin West, Aughrim (Map 7.05) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts not likely 	Not applicable	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rathsallagh House, Dunlavin (Map 7.06) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	River Barrow and River Nore cSAC downstream	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack White's Cross (Map 07.08) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Buckroneys-Brittias Dunes and Fen cSAC to the west of site	
Objective T30 To support the development of craft/artisan centres at established tourist facilities. In particular, the Council will support the development of an Arts, Crafts and Interpretive Centre at Sexton's garden Centre, Glen Of The Downs (Map 0708).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	The Murrough Wetlands cSAC and the Murrough SPA downstream. Note: Glen of the Downs cSAC nearby however qualifying interest 'old oak woodlands' is not potentially effected	
Chapter 8 Community Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision to provide for new schools, and the development of Third Level education facilities within the County The development of new hospitals, nursing homes, and medical centres and the expansion of existing medical facilities within the County The facilitation of the development of new residential and day care facilities throughout the County The development of 'Retirement Villages' The development of new, improved, or expanded places of worship and burial grounds The development of open space for recreational uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to key species Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	European sites that occur within the Plan Area and those SACs that occur outside the Plan Area but are hydrologically linked to the County	The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 8 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites: Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy: Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8 Chapter 9: Infrastructure: Water Objectives WI11; WI12 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH23; NH30 – NH33;
Objective CD17: To provide for new or extended residential care facilities for the elderly at the following locations as shown on maps 8.01-8.02: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballinahinch Lower, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	The Murrough Wetlands cSAC and the Murrough SPA downstream.	The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 8 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites: Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy:

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁴
Newtownmountkennedy (c. 8ha as shown on Map 8.01)			Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8 Chapter 9: Infrastructure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Killickabawn, Kilpedder (c. 6ha as shown on Map 8.02) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	The Murrough Wetlands cSAC and the Murrough SPA downstream	Water Objectives WI11; WI12 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH23; NH30 – NH33;
<p>Chapter 9: Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facilitation of park and ride facilities Enhancement of existing parking facilities Improvement works, and development of new footpaths The construction of bus shelters To provide for increased capacity to the DART service along the coastal route of the County The re-opening of the Dublin – Rosslare Line, and associated works Improvement works to foot and cycleways, including the development of new paths, and developments of these paths/cycleways off-road The provision to provide for cycling and walking amenity routes throughout the County Improvement works to regional roads, including associated bridges and ancillary infrastructure Upgrades and major improvement works to national roads within the County, including widening and, improvements to junctions, and major upgrades to interchanges on national routes The provision of a new northern access route from Greystones to the N11 The provision to provide for new local roads and upgrade works to existing roads The facilitation of the development of the aviation sector, including the development of aerodromes, and air strips To facilitate the provision of water supplies and wastewater disposal facilities The development of existing and new waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance to key species Habitat/species fragmentation Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	All those European sites listed in Table 3.1 above	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 9 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy: Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8</p> <p>Chapter 9 Infrastructure: Public Transport Objectives RT14; Water Objectives WI2; WI11 Flooding Objectives FL8; FL9 Solid Waste Management Objectives WE12 Wind Energy Objectives CCE6 Hydro Energy Objectives CCE11 Telecommunications Objectives T3 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH44 Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management: General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives C72; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12</p>

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁴
<p>recovery facilities, and waste to energy facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of sites, services, and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes • The encouragement of and development of wind energy in the County • The development of wind measurement masts • The development of off-shore wind energy projects • The development of new river / lake based hydroelectricity plants • Development of off-shore hydroelectricity projects • Development of projects that convert biomass to gas or electricity, and other small scale electricity generation installations • The development of electricity transmission and distribution, and landing locations for cross channel power interconnectors • The promotion of and facilitation of telecommunications infrastructure throughout the County • Facilitate the development and expansion of communication, information and broadcasting networks 			
<p>Chapter 10 Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between 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 and wildlife corridors • To promote and facilitate the development of coastal paths linking up with existing recreational paths / strategic walkways / cycleways, creating new linkages between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Habitat / species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>All those European sites listed in Table 3.1 above</p>	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 10 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 5 Settlement Strategy: Extractive Industry Objectives EX1; EX4</p> <p>Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH27; NH29 – NH34; NH36 – NH40</p> <p>Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2, CZM3; CZM7</p> <p>Coastal Cell Objectives C72; CZ5 - CZ10; CZ12</p>

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁴
<p>coastal sites and inward linkages to green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate the use of natural areas for active outdoor pursuits • To facilitate the continuation of the development of the coastal walking and cycling route between Greystones and Wicklow Town • To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAO 			
<p>Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate the provision/reinforcement of coastal defences and protection measures as identified in the Murrough Coastal Protection Study • To maintain and enhance public right of ways, and coastal walks along the county's coastline • To facilitate the development of services and facilities for visitors such as suitable signage, footpath surfaces, notice and maps • To provide for a high quality integrated harbour/marina mixed development at Greystones linked to a linear coastal public park and any future heritage park • To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching • To provide for the upgrading of Kilcoole train station and associated facilities • To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five mile point and Ballybla • The provision to provide for new tourist accommodation • The provision to provide for outdoor and indoor recreation developments such as golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Habitat / species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>Those European sites listed in Table 3.1 above that occur in proximity to the county's coastline.</p>	<p>The following objectives from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 11 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 9 Infrastructure Water Objectives WI2; WI11 Flooding Objectives FL8; FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage Natural Heritage Objectives: NH1 – NH26. NH30 – NH44 Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management General Coastal Zone Objectives: CZM1, CZM2, CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives: CZ2, CZ5 – CZ10, CZ12</p>

Table 4.2 Mitigation against the potential impacts associated with provisions of the Settlement Plans

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
Level 5 Settlement Towns				
Ashford; Auhgrim; Baltinglass; Carnew; Dunlavin; Enniskerry; Laragh – Glendalough; Tinahely	The development and expansion of town centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Disturbance to key species • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Ballyman Glen SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrough Wetlands SAC The Murrough SPA Vale of Clara (Rathdrum) SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>Mitigation for potential impacts resulting from the expansion of Settlement Plan town centres is provide for in the Plan written statement and from individual Settlement Plans.</p> <p>Plan Mitigation:</p> <p>Chapter 8 Community Development: Open Space Objectives CD45</p> <p>Chapter 9 Infrastructure: Water Objectives: WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8; FL9</p> <p>Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34</p> <p>Settlement Plan Mitigation:</p> <p>Ashford Heritage Objectives: ASH12; ASH13; ASH14 Baltinglass Heritage Objectives: BALT9 Carnew Heritage Objectives: CAR9 Dunlavin Heritage Objectives: DUN11 Enniskerry Heritage Objectives: ENN17 Laragh – Glendalough: Heritage Objectives: LG20; LG21 Tinahely Development Strategy: Tinahely Heritage Objectives: TIN18</p> <p>Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area surrounding their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.</p>

⁵ Objectives are coded according to the numbering system adopted in the main text of the Plan.

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
Aughrim; Enniskerry; Tinahely	The development of new streets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Ballyman Glen SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC	<p>Plan Mitigation</p> <p>Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy: Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8</p> <p>Chapter 8 Community Development: Open Space Objectives CD45</p> <p>Chapter 9 Infrastructure: Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives: FL8; FL9</p> <p>Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34</p> <p>Settlement Plan Mitigation Enniskerry Heritage Objectives: ENN17 Tinahely Heritage Objectives: TIN18</p> <p>Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.</p>
Ashford; Aughrim; Baltinglass; Carnew; Dunlavin; Enniskerry; Laragh – Glendalough; Tinahely	Tourism developments in the towns and their environs, including provisions for the development of tourism amenity routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance to key species Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Ballyman Glen SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>Plan Mitigation</p> <p>Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives T4</p> <p>Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 - NH44</p> <p>Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management: General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives: CZ2; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12</p> <p>Settlement Plan Mitigation Ashford Settlement Plan: ASH12; ASH13; ASH14 Baltinglass Heritage Objectives: BAL9 Carnew Heritage Objectives: CAR9 Dunlavin Heritage Objectives: DUN11 Enniskerry Heritage Objectives: ENN17 Laragh – Glendalough: Heritage Objectives: LG20; LG21; LG23 Tinahely Development Strategy Tinahely Heritage Objectives TIN18</p>

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
Laragh - Glendalough	Increased tourism infrastructure such as cafes, restaurants, tourist shops, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to key species • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>Plan Mitigation</p> <p>Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives T4</p> <p>Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 - NH44</p> <p>Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management: General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ2; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12</p> <p>Settlement Plan Mitigation</p> <p>Laragh – Glendalough: Heritage Objectives LG20; LG21</p> <p>Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective</p> <p>To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.</p>
Ashford; Baltinglass; Carnew; Dunlavin; Enniskerry; Laragh – Glendalough; Tinahely	Improvement works to access routes and junctions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to key species • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Ballyman Glen SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrrough SPA The Murrrough Wetlands SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>Plan Mitigation</p> <p>Chapter 9 Infrastructure: General Road Objectives: RT14</p> <p>Water Objectives WI2; WI12</p> <p>Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9</p> <p>Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives: NH1 – NH34</p> <p>Settlement Plan Mitigation</p> <p>Ashford Heritage Objectives: ASH12; ASH13; ASH14</p> <p>Baltinglass Heritage Objectives: BALT9</p> <p>Carnew Heritage Objectives: CAR9</p> <p>Dunlavin Heritage Objectives: DUN11</p> <p>Enniskerry Heritage Objectives: ENN17</p> <p>Laragh – Glendalough: Heritage Objectives: LG20; LG21</p> <p>Tinahely Development Strategy: Tinahely Heritage Objectives: TIN18</p> <p>Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective</p> <p>To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.</p>

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
Ashford; Baltinglass; Dunlavin; Enniskerry; Tinahely	Provisions to provide for new roads and pedestrian links.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to key species Habitat / species fragmentation Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Ballyman Glen SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Plan Mitigation Chapter 9 Infrastructure: General Road Objectives RT14 Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: NH1 – NH34 Settlement Plan Mitigation Ashford Heritage Objectives: ASH12; ASH13; ASH14 Baltinglass Heritage Objectives: BALT9 Dunlavin Heritage Objectives: DUN11 Enniskerry Heritage Objectives: ENN17 Tinahely Heritage Objectives: TIN18 Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.
Laragh Glendalough	- The development of a 'park and ride' facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	Plan Mitigation Chapter 9 Infrastructure: General Road Objectives RT14 Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34 Settlement Plan Mitigation Laragh – Glendalough: Heritage Objectives LG20; LG21 Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.
Ashford; Aughrim; Dunlavin;	The development of new roads, cycleways and footpaths within the towns and their environs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to key species Habitat / species fragmentation Changes to key indicators of environmental 	Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Plan Mitigation Chapter 9 Infrastructure: General Road Objectives RT14 Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: NH1 – NH34 Settlement Plan Mitigation

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
		quality		Ashford Heritage Objectives: ASH12; ASH13; ASH14 Dunlavin Heritage Objectives: DUN11 Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.
Ashford; Baltinglass; Carnew; Dunlavin; Laragh - Glendalough	Provisions to provide for mixed use lands accommodating retail/commercial/residential/community development and film industry in Ashford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to key species Changes to key indicators of conservation concern 	Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	Plan Mitigation Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy: Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives: NH1 – NH34 Settlement Plan Mitigation Ashford Heritage Objectives: ASH12; ASH13; ASH14 Baltinglass Heritage Objectives Carnew Heritage Objectives: CAR9 Dunlavin Heritage Objectives: DUN11 Laragh – Glendalough: Heritage Objectives: LG20; LG21
Ashford; Auhgrim; Baltinglass; Carnew; Dunlavin; Enniskerry; Laragh – Glendalough; Tinahely	Increased housing development within the Settlement Plan Area.		Ballyman Glen SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	Plan Mitigation Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy: Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives: NH1 – NH34 Settlement Plan Mitigation Ashford Heritage Objectives: ASH12; ASH13; ASH14 Baltinglass Heritage Objectives: BAL9 Carnew Heritage Objectives: CAR9 Dunlavin Heritage Objectives: DUN11 Enniskerry Heritage Objectives: ENN17 Laragh – Glendalough: Heritage Objectives: LG20; LG21 Tinahely Development Strategy: Tinahely Heritage Objectives: TIN18 Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
Aughrim; Tinahely	Economic development in a range of industries such as agriculture, forestry, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in key indicators of conservation concern 	Slaney River Valley SAC	<p>Plan Mitigation</p> <p>Chapter 5 Economic Development: Agricultural Objectives AGR1; AGR4; AGR5 Forestry Objectives FTY2; FTY3; FTY5 Fishing Objectives FSH1 Extractive Industry Objectives EX1; EX4 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34</p> <p>Settlement Plan Mitigation Tinahely Heritage Objectives: TIN18 Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.</p>
Baltinglass; Enniskerry; Tinahely	Developments in close proximity or upstream of a European site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance to key species Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrrough SPA The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	<p>Plan Mitigation</p> <p>Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy: Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8 Chapter 5 Economic Development: Agricultural Objectives AGR1; AGR4; AGR5 Forestry Objectives FTY2; FTY3; FTY5 Fishing Objectives FSH1 Extractive Industry Objectives EX1; EX4 Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives T4 Chapter 8 Community Development: Open Space Objectives CD45 Chapter 9 Infrastructure: RT14 Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH44 Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management: General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ2; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12</p> <p>Settlement Plan Mitigation Baltinglass Heritage Objectives: BALT9 Enniskerry Heritage Objectives: ENN17 Tinahely Heritage Objectives: TIN18</p>

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
				Volume 3: Level 5 Settlement Plans Conservation Area Objective To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area outwith their legal boundaries from inappropriate development.
Level 6 Settlement Towns				
Avoca; Donard; Kilmacanogue; Newcastle; Roundwood; Shillelagh	The development of recreational facilities, including tourist developments.		Ballyman Glen SAC Bray Head SAC Carriggower Bog SAC Glen Of the Downs SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	Plan Mitigation Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives: T4 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 - NH44 Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management: General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ2; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12
Avoca; Donard; Kilmacanogue; Newcastle; Roundwood; Shillelagh	Improvement works to infrastructure such as roads, footpaths and pedestrian crossings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to key species • Habitat / species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Ballyman Glen SAC Bray Head SAC Carriggower Bog SAC Glen Of the Downs SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	Plan Mitigation Chapter 9 Infrastructure: General Road Objectives RT14 Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34
Donard; Kilmacanogue; Newcastle; Roundwood	Provision to provide for link roads, and new roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to key species • Habitat / species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Ballyman Glen SAC Bray Head SAC Carriggower Bog SAC Glen of the Downs SAC Knocksink Wood SAC Slaney River Valley SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	Plan Mitigation Chapter 9 Infrastructure: General Road Objectives RT14 Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
Roundwood	Town centre extensions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance to key species Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Carriggower Bog SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	Plan Mitigation: Chapter 8 Community Development: Open Space Objectives CD45 Chapter 9 Infrastructure WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8; FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34
Kilmacanogue; Newcastle	New housing developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to key species Changes in key indicators of conservation concern 	Ballyman Glen SAC Bray Head SAC Glen of the Downs SAC Knocksink Wood SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Plan Mitigation Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy: Settlement Strategy Objectives SS8 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34
Newcastle	Development of a linear park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance to key species Fragmentation 	The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Plan Mitigation Chapter 7 Tourism: General Objectives T4 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 - NH44 Chapter 11 Coastal Zone Management General Coastal Zone Objectives CZM1; CZM2; CZM7 Coastal Cell Objectives CZ2; CZ5 – CZ10; CZ12
Roundwood	The development of new car parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to key species Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	Carriggower Bog SAC The Murrough SPA The Murrough Wetlands SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Mountains SPA	Plan Mitigation Chapter 9 Infrastructure: RT14 Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34
Avoca	Railway station development	N/A	N/A	Plan Mitigation Chapter 9 Infrastructure: General Road Objectives RT14 Water Objectives WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8 FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34

Relevant Settlement(s)	Elements of the relevant plan (s)	Potential Impact	European sites potentially affected	Mitigation ⁵
Avoca	Public toilet development	N/A	N/A	Plan Mitigation: Chapter 8 Community Development: Open Space Objectives CD45 Chapter 9 Infrastructure: WI2; WI12 Flooding Objectives FL8; FL9 Chapter 10 Heritage: Biodiversity Objectives NH1 – NH34

4.2.1 Existing provisions of Plan that mitigate potential effects

In addition to those objectives outlined in Table 4.1 and Table 4.2 above, the Plan and the associated Town and Settlement Plans also contain mitigation in the form of text and strategic objectives. The relevant Strategic Objectives contained within the Plan and associated Town and Settlement Plans that provide additional protection to European sites are presented in 4.2.3 below.

Chapter 3 – Settlement Strategy

Strategic Objective

- To preserve the amenity, character and scenic value of rural areas, and to generally require employment-generating development to locate on zoned land within existing settlements. Notwithstanding this, it is the objective of the Council to support the diversification of the rural economy through the development of appropriate rural based enterprises, which are not detrimental to the character, amenity, scenic value, heritage value and environmental quality of a rural area.

Chapter 5 Economic Development

Fishing 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.**

Extractive Industry Strategic Objective

- **To 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.**

Chapter 10 Heritage

Natural Heritage Strategy

- To conserve and enhance biodiversity in recognition of the many ecosystem services provided to society
- To promote an integrated approach to landscape planning and management in order to protect **the county's unique landscape character.**
- **To conserve and enhance the County's geological heritage**
- To avoid negative impacts upon the natural environment and promote appropriate enhancement of the natural environment as an integral part of any development;
- To support the actions in the County Wicklow Heritage Plan which seek to enhance the **understanding, appreciation and protection of Wicklow's biodiversity including the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.**

4.2.2 Additional mitigation measures in the Town and Settlement Plans

Ashford – Level 5 Town Plan

Development Strategy No. 10

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity. In particular, to safeguard the integrity of streams and watercourses which are hydrologically linked to The Murrough Natura 2000 site downstream.

Aughrim – Level 5 Town Plan

Development Strategy No. 8.

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity.

Baltinglass – Level 5 Town Plan

Development Strategy No. 9.

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity and in particular, to safeguard the integrity of the River Slaney SAC.

Action Area 3

- The development of the action area shall ensure adequate protection and enhancement of the open space zoning and conservation area adjoining the River Slaney.

Specific Local Objectives – SLO 1

- The development of the SLO shall ensure adequate protection and enhancement of the open space zoning and conservation area adjoining the River Slaney.

Carnew – Level 5 Town Plan

Development Strategy No. 8.

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity.

Dunlavin – Level 5 Town Plan

Development Strategy No. 6

- Ensuring the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity.

Opportunity Sites – OP2

Objective

- Any development proposals shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, in particular the graveyard, and habitats of biodiversity value and appropriate buffer zone / mitigating measures shall be provided as required.

Action Area 1

- Any development proposals shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value and appropriate buffer zone/mitigating measures shall be provided as required.

Action Area 2

- Any development proposals shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value and appropriate buffer zone/mitigating measures shall be provided as required.

Enniskerry – Level 5 Town Plan

- The Zoning of Action Area 1 (AA1) in Enniskerry occurs immediately adjacent to Knocksink Wood SAC, was the subject of a submission and was informed by the findings of the AA. AA1 provides provisions for residential, open space, employment and community zone. Considering the avoidance of incompatible land uses on sensitive lands and the other mitigation that has been integrated into the Plan, no effects on the SAC are foreseen as a result of development that might occur under the Plan.

Development Strategy No. 9.

- Ensuring the protection of natural habitats (in particular the protected habitats at Knocksink Wood and Ballyman Glen), cultural heritage, ecological resources and quality landscapes and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

Tinahely – Level 5 Town Plan

Development Strategy No. 9.

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity, and in particular to maintain the ecological integrity of the Slaney River Valley SAC.

Specific Local Objectives – SLO 1

Objective No. 8.

- Any proposal shall have regard for the River Slaney SAC which is in close proximity to this site.

SLO2

Objective No. 6.

- Any proposal shall have regard for the River Slaney SAC which is in close proximity to this site

SLO3

Objective No. 4.

- Any proposal shall have regard for the River Slaney SAC which is hydrologically linked to the stream to the stream in SLO 3.

Donard – Level 6 Settlement Plan

Specific Development Objectives

3. To protect and enhance the natural heritage of the town and in particular to have regard to **the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Brown's Beck River.**

Newcastle – Level 6 Settlement Plan

Specific Local Objectives No. 5.

On the lands identified as NC1 on Map No. 1, the following shall be provided as part of the development of these lands:

- A linear landscaped park along the full length of the Newcastle River from the R761 to the L5050 **as well as a 'town park' or 'village green' across the road front of the R761. The town park / village green** shall have a depth of not less than 25m from the regional road (generally matching the line of the rear wall of the Oratory), while the width and layout of the riverine linear park shall be determined at the application stage having regard to the requirement to (a) protect the river from adverse environmental impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the development having regard to its hydrological links to the Murrough Wetlands SAC / SPA, (b) to maintain a suitable undeveloped buffer along the river in the interest of flood risk management and protection of local flora and fauna (not less than 10m) and (c) the requirement to provide for an area of land suitable for the creation of walks / paths etc. The linear park and town park will be provided in addition to the 15% open space required within housing areas. No more than 50% of the total lands identified in the objective boundary shall be developed prior to the provision of these open spaces.
- Pedestrian and cycle links from the R761 (in the Primary Development lands) to the L5050 along the linear park.
- Protection of established trees in the grounds of Oaklawn House and along the Newcastle River.
- Reserve accesses to the lands to the rear of the secondary development lands for future development.

Roundwood – Level 6 Settlement Plan

Specific Local Objective No. 4.

- All development proposals shall appropriately address the protection of waterways connected to the Vartry Reservoir, which is designated a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) and is hydrologically linked to protected European sites downstream.

Shillelagh – Level 6 Settlement Plan

Specific Development Objective

3. To safeguard the integrity of the Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, including the use of adequate buffer zones between the river and proposed developments.

Laragh – Glendalough - Level 7 Land Use and Tourism Plan

Development Objective:

To create a consolidated and vibrant mixed use settlement centre that is the focal point for the delivery of the retail, commercial, social service and activity needs of the local population and its hinterland; and to promote this settlement centre as a tourism hub which is the prime gathering place for visitors to stay the night, to dine, shop and to organise visits to Glendalough and the other attractions of the area. These lands should have some residential use and should have an animated and high quality streetscape, whilst ensuring the protection of the special character and heritage of this area.

Tourist Attractions Area – Glendalough

Objective: To enhance the visitor experience at Monastic City and Wicklow Mountains National Park, whilst also ensuring that the integrity of the heritage of the area is maintained and improved.

4.2.3 Additional mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan as an outcome of AA

A number of recommendations were made to the Plan written statement to safeguard the integrity of the Natura 2000 network of sites. Recommendations were made in the form of additional text as presented in Table 4.3 below; additional text is shown in green.

Table 4.3 Appropriate assessment recommendations that have been incorporated into the Plan

Section	Additional text / Objective
Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy	
Section 3.2 County Wicklow Settlement Strategy: Level 1 Bray	Further expansion of the town is severely constrained on all sides by the administrative boundary of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, the coast and Bray Head / Sugarloaf mountains to the south and the N/M11 to the west. In order for Bray to achieve its targeted population, lands at Fassaroe to the west of the N/M11 are targeted for new housing and other facilities. The development of a new centre at Fassaroe is largely dependent on the delivery of infrastructure including upgrades to the N/M11 and the delivery of high quality public transport connections to Bray Town Centre and to Dublin City Centre. In addition, the town should continue to consolidate and to densify at suitable locations in a sustainable manner. Planned development in the Fassaroe area shall be required to take into consideration impacts on Natura 2000 sites, particularly the Ballyman Glen SAC which forms the northern boundary of this area.
Level 3 Greystones to Delgany	There is significant potential to expand the range of recreational and tourist facilities associated with its coastal location, the Bray to Greystones cliff walk and the new Greystones Harbour - Marina. Development proposals shall have regard to the Bray Head SAC which is located in close proximity to the town.
Level 4 – Blessington	East and south Blessington is bounded by the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, a man-made lake created in the 1940s by the damming of the River Liffey at Poulaphouca waterfall, and now a designated conservation site.

4.2.4 Changes / additions of text to Level 5 and Level 6 Settlement Plans

A number of changes / additions were recommended to the Settlement Plans which accompany the Plan. These additions were recommended to ensure that the integrity of European sites in the vicinity

of, or downstream of Settlement Plans is maintained throughout the lifetime of the Plan. These additions are presented in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4 Appropriate assessment recommendations to the Plan Settlement Towns

Settlement Plan	Section	Additional text / Objective
Level 5		
Ashford	Heritage Objectives: New Heritage Objective	ASH14 To safeguard the integrity of streams and rivers in the plan area, in particular all watercourses that are hydrologically linked to The Murrough Natura 2000 site, including the use of adequate buffer zones between watercourses and proposed developments.
Enniskerry	Natural Heritage: Amendments to the text of the Natural Heritage Section.	Enniskerry has a rich and diverse natural heritage. Of importance are designated habitats (e.g. Powerscourt Woodland pNHA, Ballyman Glen pNHA, Knocksink Wood pNHA, Knocksink Wood SAC and Ballyman Glen SAC), geological sites, and non-designated habitats for wildlife such as trees, hedgerows, stonewalls and rivers.
	Heritage Objectives: New Heritage Objective	ENN17 To ensure the protection of the integrity of the 'Natura 2000' sites, of Knocksink Wood SAC and Ballyman Glen SAC, in light of the site's conservation objectives.
Tinahely	Heritage Objectives: New Heritage Objective	TIN18 To protect the integrity of the Slaney River Valley SAC, in light of the sites conservation objectives.
Level 6		
Donard	Specific Development Objectives: New Development Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and enhance the natural heritage of the town and in particular to have regard to the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Brown's Beck River.
Newcastle	Specific Development Objectives: Amendments to the text of an existing Development Objective	On the lands identified as NC1 on Map No. 1, the following shall be provided as part of the A linear landscaped park along the full length of the Newcastle River from the R761 to the L5050 as well as a 'town park' or 'village green' across the road front of the R761. The town park / village green shall have a depth of not less than 25m from the regional road (generally matching the line of the rear wall of the Oratory), while the width and layout of the riverine linear park shall be determined at the application stage having regard to the requirement to (a) protect the river from adverse environmental impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the development having regard to its hydrological links to the Murrough Wetlands SAC / SPA, (b) to maintain a suitable undeveloped buffer along the river in the interest of flood risk management and protection of local flora and fauna (not less than 10m) and (c) the requirement to provide for an area of land suitable for the creation of walks / paths etc. The linear park and town park will be provided in addition to the 15% open space required within housing areas. No more than 50% of the total lands identified in the objective boundary shall be developed prior to the provision of these open spaces.
Shillelagh	Specific Development Objectives: New Development Objective	To safeguard the integrity of the Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, including the use of adequate buffer zones between the river and proposed developments.

Section 5 Conclusion

Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 appropriate assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016 - 2022 have been carried out. Implementation of the Plan has the potential to result in impacts to the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, if unmitigated.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of impacts in the first place and mitigate impacts where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is considered that the Plan will not have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network⁶.

An AA determination accompanies this report.

⁶ Except as provided for in Section 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/programme/project to proceed; and
(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

NATURA IMPACT REPORT - APPENDIX I

SUMMARY DETAILS OF ALL EUROPEAN SITES CONSIDERED DURING THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

OF THE

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016-2022

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

for: Wicklow County Council

County Hall
Station Road
Wicklow Town
County Wicklow



by: CAAS Ltd.

2nd Floor, The Courtyard
25 Great Strand Street
Dublin 1



NOVEMBER 2016

Introduction

This appendix presents background summary data relating to each European site (cSACs and SPAs) that was considered during the Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022. Data presented has been collated from various sources made available by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Sites are presented in two separate lists, firstly SACs and secondly SPAs. All sites within each list are sorted according to NPWS Site Code.

The principal sources of information include the following:

- *Site Synopses*
- *NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms*
- *Conservation Objective (Generic Versions)*
- *Detailed Site Specific Conservation Objectives and supporting documents (where available)*

Data presented on each site includes:

- *Site Name*
- *Site Code*
- *County*
- *SSCO Published or not*
- *SSCO Version reference used during AA*
- *Location relevant to the Strategy area*
- *Previously reported threats*
- *Qualifying Interests (QIs) in the case of SACs:*
 - *Listed Annex I habitats for which site is selected - abbreviated version as used by NPWS (2013)¹*
 - *Listed Annex II species for which site is selected - common English name*
- *Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) in the case of SPAs:*
 - *Listed Annex I birds for which site is selected (Annex I SCIs) - common English name*
 - *Non – annex birds for which site is selected (Non Annex I SCIs) - common English name*

¹ NPWS (2013). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Overview Volume I. Unpublished Report, National Parks and Wildlife Services.

Summary data relating to all relevant cSACs sorted according to site name

Site Name: Ballyman Glen SAC **Site Code:** 000713
County (s): Dublin, Wicklow **SSCOs Published:** No **Location:** Within study area
SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [000713]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

Ballyman Glen is surrounded by intensively managed agricultural grassland and is vulnerable to nutrient run-off from this source. The petrifying springs could be threatened by over-extraction of water locally.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Alkaline fens
Petrifying springs*

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Site Name: Blackstairs Mountains SAC **Site Code:** 000770
County (s): Carlow, Wexford **SSCOs Published:** No **Location:** Within 15km of study area
SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Blackstairs Mountains SAC [000770]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

The site is particularly vulnerable to afforestation with coniferous species - much of the land surrounding the site has been planted. The site is also vulnerable to overgrazing and to uncontrolled burning.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Dry heaths
Wet heath

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Site Name: Bray Head SAC **Site Code:** 000714
County (s): Wicklow **SSCOs Published:** No **Location:** Within study area
SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Bray Head SAC [000714]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

The main threats to this site are reclamation of heath and grassland habitats, burning and recreational pressures. Reclamation for agriculture has occurred in the past and continues to be a threat. Burning of heath is a regular event and may be occurring too frequently. The site is a popular area for recreational activities, especially walking. Recreational pressures are likely to increase in the future owing to a growing population in surrounding areas.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Dry heaths
Sea cliffs

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Site Name: Buckrone-y-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC

Site Code: 000729

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Buckrone-y-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC [000729]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

Brittas Bay dunes are subject to intensive agricultural and recreational pressures. Stocking at high densities threatens the older dunes and dune heath. The recent development of a golf course on part of Buckrone-y dunes may threaten the hydrology of the overall system. Buckrone-y fen is threatened by a general lowering of the water table through drainage and water abstraction. Further reclamation of marginal areas of the fen would be detrimental.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Alkaline fens

Decalcified dune heath*

Drift lines

Dune slack

Dunes with creeping willow

Embryonic shifting dunes

Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*

Marram dunes (white dunes)

Mediterranean salt meadows

Perennial vegetation of stony banks

Site Name: Carriggower Bog SAC

Site Code: 000716

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [000716]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

A main threat to this site is lowering of the water table due to drainage attempts. A drainage channel has already been dug at the eastern end of site though its impact on the bog is not known. Part of the site is semi-improved grassland and any intensification of grazing could be damaging. Forestry is widespread in the area and is a general threat.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Transition mires

Site Name: Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC

Site Code: 000717

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC [000717]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

G02.06 - Attraction Park - Low Rank (L) - Inside site (i)

K05 - Genetic Depression - Low Rank (L) - Inside site (i)

A04 - Grazing - Medium Rank (M) - Outside site (o)

A04 - Grazing - Low Rank (L) - Inside site (i)

B - Forestry - Medium Rank (M) - Outside (o)

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Old oak woodlands

Site Name: Glen of the Downs SAC

Site Code: 000719

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Glen of the Downs SAC [000719]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

Further road widening is planned which will reduce and modify the habitats on the valley floor.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Old oak woodlands

Site Name: Glenasmole Valley SAC

Site Code: 001209

County (s): Dublin

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within 15km of study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [001209]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Threats

Much of the dry calcareous grassland has been improved to some extent in recent decades by fertilisation and reseeded, and remains vulnerable to further improvement for agriculture. The Molinia meadows are also vulnerable to agricultural intensification, including drainage. There are no apparent threats to the petrifying springs.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Molinia meadows

Orchid-rich calcareous grassland*

Petrifying springs*

Site Name: Holdenstown Bog SAC

Site Code: 001757

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Holdenstown Bog SAC [001757]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

The main potential threats to this site are drainage and infilling. A small amount of infilling has already occurred along the public road which skirts the northern boundary of site. A similar area of bog a little to the north has been drained and converted to grassland since the 1970s. Agricultural run-off is likely to be entering the site from surrounding areas though the effects of this are unknown.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Transition mires

Site Name: Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC

Site Code: 001742

County (s): Wexford

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Downstream of study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC [001742]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

The main landuses which presently occur on this site are grazing by cattle and recreational activities. Grazing has not caused significant damage to date but any increases in stocking rates could threaten the stability of the dunes. There is some erosion of the dunes in the southern part of the site due to tracks leading to the beach. An increase in the numbers of visitors to the area would probably be detrimental to the site unless carefully managed.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Decalcified dune heath*

Drift lines

Embryonic shifting dunes

Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*

Marram dunes (white dunes)

Site Name: Knocksink Wood SAC

Site Code: 000725

County (s): Dublin, Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [000725]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Threats

As a popular amenity area the site is vulnerable to disturbance and littering.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Petrifying springs*

Residual alluvial forests*

Site Name: Magherabeg Dunes SAC

Site Code: 001766

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Magherabeg Dunes SAC [001766]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

At present, this site does not appear to be vulnerable to any particular pressures. There is no public access to the area and therefore recreational pressures are low. Natural erosion is evident in the southern part of site. The dry grassland at Ardmore Point is grazed by cattle but the dunes have not been grazed in recent years.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Decalcified dune heath*

Drift lines

Embryonic shifting dunes

Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*

Marram dunes (white dunes)

Petrifying springs*

Site Name: North Dublin Bay SAC

Site Code: 000206

County (s): Dublin

SSCOs Published: Yes

Location: Within 15km of study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. □

Threats

Dunes are subject to high recreational pressures and moderate levels of grazing by rabbits which cause some localised damage. Damaged areas, however, are monitored by Dublin Corporation and appropriate management implemented. Abstraction of water by the golf clubs could result in a lowering of the water table which could affect the humid dune slacks. Any extensions to the two golf courses would be deleterious. The intertidal areas receive polluted water though there are no apparent significant impacts on the associated flora and fauna. Owing to its location in Dublin Bay, pollution such as oil spillages from Dublin Port and shipping is a threat. Commercial bait digging is a problem and causes disturbance to wintering birds.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Atlantic salt meadows

Petalwort

Drift lines

Dune slack

Embryonic shifting dunes

Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*

Marram dunes (white dunes)

Mediterranean salt meadows

Salicornia mud

Tidal mudflats

Site Name: Pollardstown Fen SAC

Site Code: 000396

County (s): Kildare

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within 15km of study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Pollardstown Fen SAC [000396]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

Largely protected as a nature reserve, the site is nonetheless vulnerable to interference with the Curragh aquifer.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Alkaline fens

Desmoulin's whorl snail

Cladium fen*

Petrifying springs*

Site Name: Red Bog, Kildare SAC

Site Code: 000397

County (s): Kildare

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Red Bog, Kildare SAC [000397]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

A main threat to this site is lowering of water table due to nearby quarrying operations. It is not known if this has already happened. The hydrology of the site could also be affected by direct drainage attempts. Agricultural run-off is likely to be entering the site from surrounding areas though the effects of this are unknown.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Transition mires

Site Name: River Barrow and River Nore SAC

Site Code: 002162

County (s): Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois,

SSCOs Published: Yes

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

30% of the site consists of water: 10% freshwater and 20% of estuarine and tidal stretches. The Annex II species listed in Section 4.2 are dependent on the quality of these waters. Much of the site along the water courses is under threat from pollution caused by increased fertiliser application, sewage and industrial waste. There is also loss of saltmeadow habitat with two legally protected species and a rare sedge, as a result of infilling and agricultural intensification. *Alosa fallax* may be vulnerable to angling pressure. Aquaculture occurs in Waterford Harbour and may be causing some disturbance to the intertidal sediments and wintering birds - intensification of aquaculture is a threat.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Atlantic salt meadows

Atlantic Salmon

Dry heaths

Brook Lamprev

Estuaries

Desmoulin's whorl snail

Floating river vegetation

Freshwater Pearl Mussel

Hydrophilous tall herb

Irish Freshwater Pearl Mussel

Mediterranean salt meadows

Killarney Fern

Old oak woodlands

Otter

Petrifying springs*

River Lamprev

Residual alluvial forests*

Sea Lamprev

Salicornia mud

Twaite Shad

Tidal mudflats

White-Clawed Crayfish

Site Name: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC

Site Code: 001398

County (s): Kildare, Meath

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Threats

The woodland section of the site is vulnerable to woodland clearance - resulting in habitat loss for some of the rare flowering plants present. The Rye Water is vulnerable to pollution - much of the surrounding land is agricultural. The petrifying spring and Vertigo species are particularly vulnerable to urban development and to dumping.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Petrifying springs*

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Desmoulin's whorl snail

Narrow-mouthed whorl snail

Site Name: Slaney River Valley SAC

Site Code: 000781

County (s): Carlow, Wicklow, Wexford

SSCOs Published: Yes

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

Most of the habitats and species of ecological importance within this site are dependant on good water quality. While generally good, the system receives nutrient run-off from agricultural activities and also inputs of pollution from point sources associated with domestic and industrial activities. Any increases in the present levels of pollution could be harmful to water quality. Localised reclamation has occurred along the banks of the river and in the marginal areas of the estuary and any further reclamation is undesirable.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Estuaries

Floating river vegetation

Old oak woodlands

Residual alluvial forests*

Tidal mudflats

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Atlantic Salmon

Brook Lamprey

Common Seal

Freshwater Pearl Mussel

Otter

River Lamprey

Sea Lamprey

Twaite Shad

Site Name: South Dublin Bay SAC

Site Code: 000210

County (s): Dublin

SSCOs Published: Yes

Location: Within 5km of study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

The main threat to this site is further reclamation for industrial and/or infrastructural purposes. The intertidal areas receive water that is somewhat polluted though there are no apparent impacts on the associated flora and fauna. Owing to its location in Dublin Bay, pollution such as oil spillages from Dublin Port and shipping is a threat. Commercial bait digging may be a problem and causes disturbance to wintering birds. Disturbance to birds is also caused by walkers and dogs.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Tidal mudflats

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Site Name: The Murrough Wetlands SAC

Site Code: 002249

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for The Murrough Wetlands SAC [002249]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

Drainage, building of an embankment, reclamation, levelling of sandhills and afforestation have already affected the habitats. Further works pose a threat to these. The water quality of inflowing streams may be reduced as a result of agricultural intensification outside of the site. Housing development is becoming a feature at the edge of the site. Access and recreational pressure is affecting the vegetation of the shingle shore, this will also cause disturbance to birds.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Alkaline fens

Atlantic salt meadows

Cladium fen*

Drift lines

Mediterranean salt meadows

Perennial vegetation of stony banks

Site Name: Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC

Site Code: 000733

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC [000733]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

The main threat to this site is the regeneration of exotic conifers.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Old oak woodlands

Site Name: Wicklow Mountains SAC

Site Code: 002122

County (s): Dublin, Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [002122]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

The main threat to the quality of habitats on the site is overgrazing by sheep, affecting the bog, heath and rocky habitats and both deer and sheep affecting the woodlands. Localised peat extraction and heavy burning is a threat to the blanket bog. The spread of non-native species is a threat to the quality of the woodlands. Many recreational activities occur within the site and some, such as hill walking and climbing, have potential for disturbance to habitats and species. Peat erosion is frequent on the peaks - this may be a natural process but is likely to be accelerated by activities such as grazing.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Alpine and subalpine heath

Otter

Blanket bog (active)*

Calcareous rocky slopes

Dry heaths

Dystrophic lakes

Old oak woodlands

Siliceous rocky slopes

Siliceous scree

Soft water lakes with base rich influences

Species-rich nardus upland grassland*

Wet heath

Site Name: Wicklow Reef SAC

Site Code: 002274

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: Yes

Location: Within 5km of study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Reef SAC 002274. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

This reef is vulnerable to any mechanical disturbance by pots and in particular fishing gear being dragged across the surface of the reef. If only a small part of the reef is disturbed, and this disturbance is not repeated with any frequency, the reef should be able to repair itself.

Habitat QIs (Annex I Habitats):

Species QIs (Annex II Species):

Reefs

Summary data relating to all relevant SPAs sorted according to site name

Site Name: North Bull Island SPA

Site Code: 004006

County (s): Dublin

SSCOs Published: Yes

Location: Within 5km of study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2010) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

Owing to the various conservation designations, there are no serious imminent threats to the wintering birds. However, due to its location in Dublin Bay, pollution such as oil spillages from Dublin Port and shipping is a general threat. Also, the intertidal areas receive polluted water though there are no apparent significant impacts on the associated flora and fauna. Commercial bait digging is a localised activity and causes disturbance to wintering birds. There is also some disturbance from walkers, free-running dogs, and sailing activities. There is high disturbance from amenity activities which is probably responsible for the abandonment of the site by *Sterna albifrons*.

SCIs (Annex I):

Bar-tailed Godwit

Golden Plover

Non-annex SCIs:

Black-headed Gull

Black-tailed Godwit

Curlew

Dunlin

Grey Plover

Knot

Light-bellied Brent Goose

Oystercatcher

Pintail

Redshank

Sanderling

Shelduck

Shoveler

Teal

Turnstone

Wetlands & Waterbirds

Site Name: Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA

Site Code: 004063

County (s): Kildare, Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

Generally, there are no significant threats to the wintering bird populations. Recreational use of the reservoir for boating activities causes some disturbance to the birds and any increase in such activities could be of concern.

SCIs (Annex I):

Non-annex SCIs:

Greylag Goose

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Site Name: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA

Site Code: 004024

County (s): Dublin

SSCOs Published: Yes

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2010) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and

Threats

The main threat to this site is further reclamation for industrial and/or infrastructural purposes. The intertidal areas receive water that is somewhat polluted though there are no apparent impacts on the associated flora and fauna. Owing to its location in Dublin Bay, pollution such as oil spillages from Dublin Port and shipping is a threat. Commercial bait digging may be a problem and can cause disturbance to wintering birds. Disturbance to birds is also caused by walkers and dogs.

SCIs (Annex I):

- Arctic Tern
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Common Tern
- Roseate Tern

Non-annex SCIs:

- Black-headed Gull
- Dunlin
- Grey Plover
- Knot
- Light-bellied Brent Goose
- Oystercatcher
- Redshank
- Ringed Plover
- Sanderling
- Wetlands & Waterbirds

Site Name: The Murrough SPA

Site Code: 004186

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for The Murrough SPA [004186]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

The proximity of the site to Wicklow town and Kilcoole village is a threat in that there is pressure on the area for housing and increased disturbance. From that flows the risk of water pollution. It is suspected that the system is receiving high nutrient loading from the surrounding farmland. Access and recreational pressure is affecting the vegetation of the shingle shore which, in turn, causes disturbance to birds. The inclusion of the BirdWatch reserve and the state-owned foreshore in the site gives additional protection.

SCIs (Annex I):

- Little Tern
- Red-throated diver

Non-annex SCIs:

- Black-headed Gull
- Grevlax Goose
- Herring Gull
- Light-bellied Brent Goose
- Teal
- Wetlands & Waterbirds
- Wigeon

Site Name: Wicklow Head SPA

Site Code: 004127

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Head SPA [004127]. Generic Version 4.0. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Threats

There are no known significant threats to the seabird colony at present. Casual visitors to the site could cause disturbance though most of the seabirds are on an inaccessible cliff face. Over-fishing in local waters could put pressure on food supplies for the birds. Interference is caused to the nesting peregrines in some years.

SCIs (Annex I):

Non-annex SCIs:

- Kittiwake

Site Name: Wicklow Mountains SPA

Site Code: 004040

County (s): Wicklow

SSCOs Published: No

Location: Within study area

SSCO Version: NPWS (2015) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. Generic Version 4.0.

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Threats

As the site is largely State-owned and within a National Park, there are no significant threats to the bird populations. Some of the peatland habitats are affected by overgrazing by sheep, whilst both deer and sheep reduce regeneration within the woodlands. Localised peat extraction and burning is a threat to the blanket bog and heath habitats. Many recreational activities occur within the site and some, such as hill walking and climbing, could have potential for disturbance to habitats and species if not properly controlled.

SCIs (Annex I):

Merlin

Peregrine

Non-annex SCIs:



Appropriate Assessment Determination

under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the
Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022

November 2016

An Appropriate Assessment determination [pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)] is being made by Wicklow County Council.

In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment, the Council is taking into account the relevant matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including:

- Written submissions made on the Draft Plan and associated documents while they were placed on public display; and
- The Natura Impact Report (which considers other plans and projects and has taken into account changes arising from submissions and observations received during public display).

It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the European Sites, which form part of the Natura 2000 network, have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures. These measures will prioritise the avoidance of impacts in the first place and will reliably mitigate these impacts where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to relevant stages of Appropriate Assessment when further details of design and location are known.

Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is considered that the Plan will not have significant effects to any European Sites which form part of the Natura 2000 network¹.

¹ Except as provided for in Section 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.