

**ADDENDUM I**  
TO THE  
**AA NATURA IMPACT REPORT**  
FOR THE  
**DRAFT BLESSINGTON LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025**

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**SCREENING**  
FOR  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
FOR  
**PROPOSED MATERIAL AMENDMENTS**

**for: Wicklow County Council**



**by: CAAS Ltd.**



**MARCH 2025**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This report is Addendum I to the AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Blessington LAP 2025. It is a Screening for AA Report that has been prepared to assess whether or not Stage Two AA, including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report is required for the Proposed Material Amendments to the Blessington Draft Local Area Plan 2025 (hereafter referred to as the "Draft Plan"), in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive") and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

This report is part of the overall and ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan (an AA Natura Impact Report has already been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan). It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan.

The following documents have informed the preparation of this report and should be considered alongside it:

- Proposed Material Amendments to the Blessington Draft Local Area Plan 2025;
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Blessington Draft Local Area Plan 2025; and
- Blessington Draft Local Area Plan 2025.

An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption that will include the final AA determination expected to be made at adoption of the Plan.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites).

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

## 1.3 Approach

The Draft Plan was informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared to accompany it on public display. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allows the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of any designated European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>1</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited.

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<sup>1</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Submissions received resulted in amendments being proposed to the Draft Plan. These amendments are the subject of this Screening for AA report.

The Screening for AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature<sup>2</sup> was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.

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

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

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

**Stage One: Screening**

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

**Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

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

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

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

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

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

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor<sup>3</sup> model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether

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<sup>2</sup> Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.

<sup>3</sup> Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Plan and the Proposed Material Amendments.

The AA exercise has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021; and
- Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

This evaluation has been made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

## **Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan, to which the Material Amendments relate**

The Draft Blessington Local Area Plan 2025 has been prepared pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The purpose of the Plan is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the Blessington area. The Plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

The Draft Plan comprises a written statement and a series of maps that provide a graphic representation of the content of the written text. Where there is any discrepancy between the text and maps, the text shall take precedence.

The Draft Plan is accompanied by a number of appendices, including an AA Natura Impact Report. All of these documents have informed the crafting of the Plan.

The Draft Plan sets out an Overall Strategy as follows:

- The key parameters for the future physical development of Blessington are based around protection of the environment, sustainability, compact growth and developing the settlement in a manner that will generate the minimal number of private car journeys and maximise walking, cycling and use of public transport.
- Consolidate the existing built pattern in Blessington by maximising the development potential of large sites close to the core and any infill sites and backland sites along the main roads within the town core of Blessington;
- To provide a framework for the future development of Blessington town centre to facilitate the development of this core area as the centre/focus of the settlement. To enhance the public realm in this centre and enhance connections and linkages to the residential areas surrounding the centre, as well as providing connections between this area and important recreational assets such as the Poulaphouca Reservoir.
- To promote and encourage the appropriate regeneration of quarry lands with a mix of uses including residential and other such uses that provide local job opportunities, and uses that support the existing town centre;
- To facilitate the appropriate development of greenfield residential lands that are serviced and serviceable within the settlement, particularly to the west of the town on the grounds of the former Blessington Demesne, in a managed / phased manner so as to align with the housing / population growth targets set out in the County Development Plan and the delivery of commensurate community services;
- To provide for new employment opportunities on serviced / serviceable greenfield lands at appropriate locations that are connected to local residential areas with walking, cycling and public transport facilities. There are a number of sites that have the potential for employment growth, e.g. former quarry lands, lands in the vicinity of Blessington WWTP, and on infill sites within existing industrial estates;
- To provide for new community, educational and recreational opportunities on serviced/ serviceable greenfield lands at appropriate locations that are connected to local residential areas with walking, cycling and public transport facilities. There are a number of sites that have the potential for new schools, community infrastructure and recreation / sports facilities, primarily along a part-constructed link road to the west of the town centre, south from the GAA grounds and towards Naas Road.
- To ensure that the lands surrounding the European Site of the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA are protected from adverse impacts arising from new development and to carefully manage and control the extension of existing development in proximity to these areas. Generally, zoning for new development will only be provided for above the 194m contour adjoining the lakeshore.

The Overall Strategy is accompanied by other provisions including Objectives under the following headings:

- Town Centre Regeneration
- Housing/Residential Development
- Economic Development
- Tourism Development
- Community Development
- Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure
- Infrastructure
- Zoning

The Proposed Material Amendments are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Amendments document. The Amendments propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Plan.

## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant effects to European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “conservation objectives”, “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/ or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological/environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>4</sup> or species<sup>5</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. A review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Proposed Material Amendments will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European sites that occur within the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone of the Plan area are listed in Table 3.2 and mapped on Figure 3.1. European sites with shared groundwater bodies with the Draft Plan area are shown on Figure 3.2 while European sites with surface hydrological connectivity with the Draft Plan boundary beyond the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone are shown on Figure 3.3. Blessington town watercourses relative to European sites are shown on Figure 3.4.

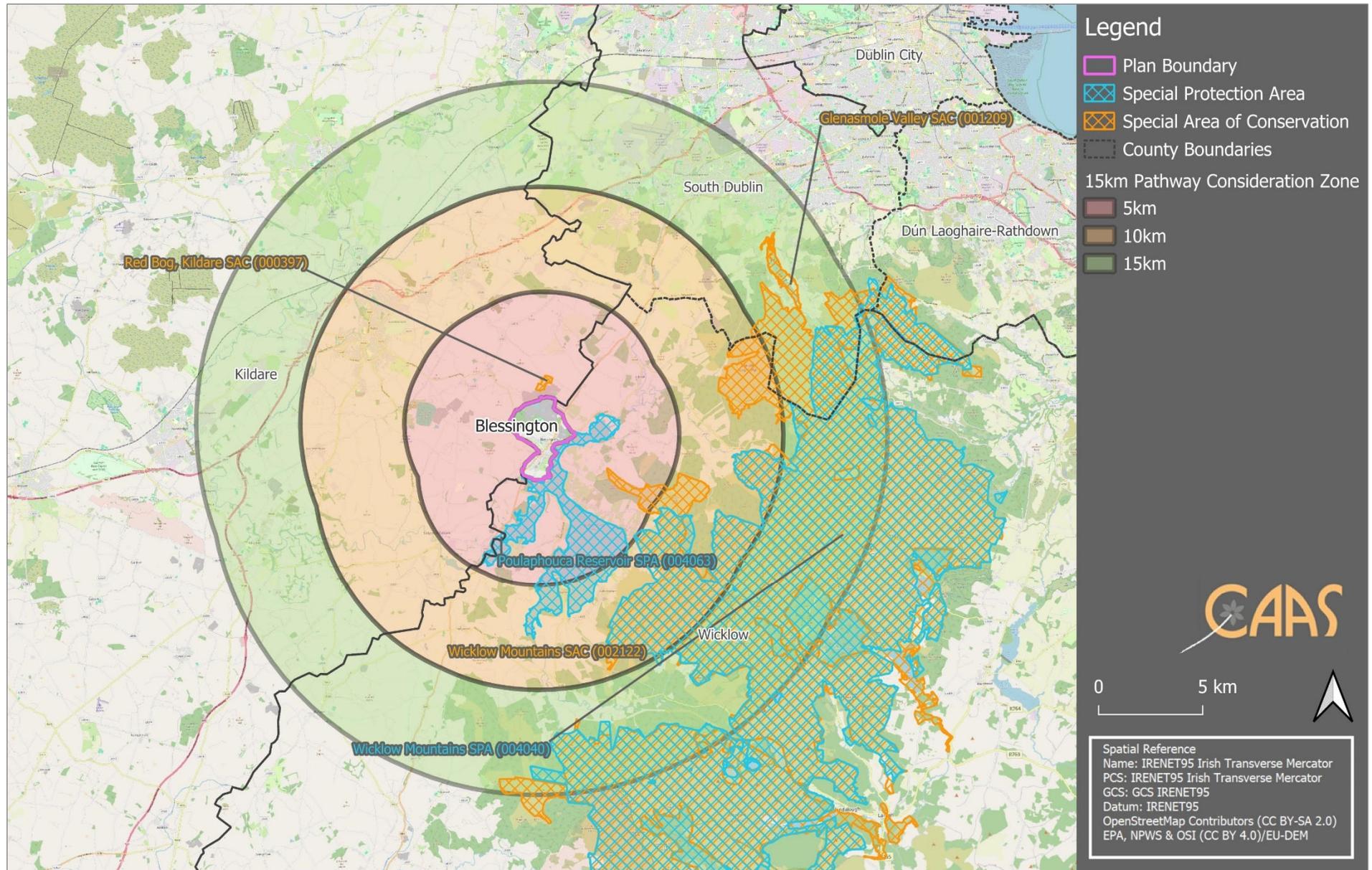
Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered by the AA screening assessment. Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following NPWS documents:

- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [IE0004063] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Red Bog, Kildare SAC [IE0000397] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for North-west Irish Sea SPA [IE0004236] Version 1.

<sup>4</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

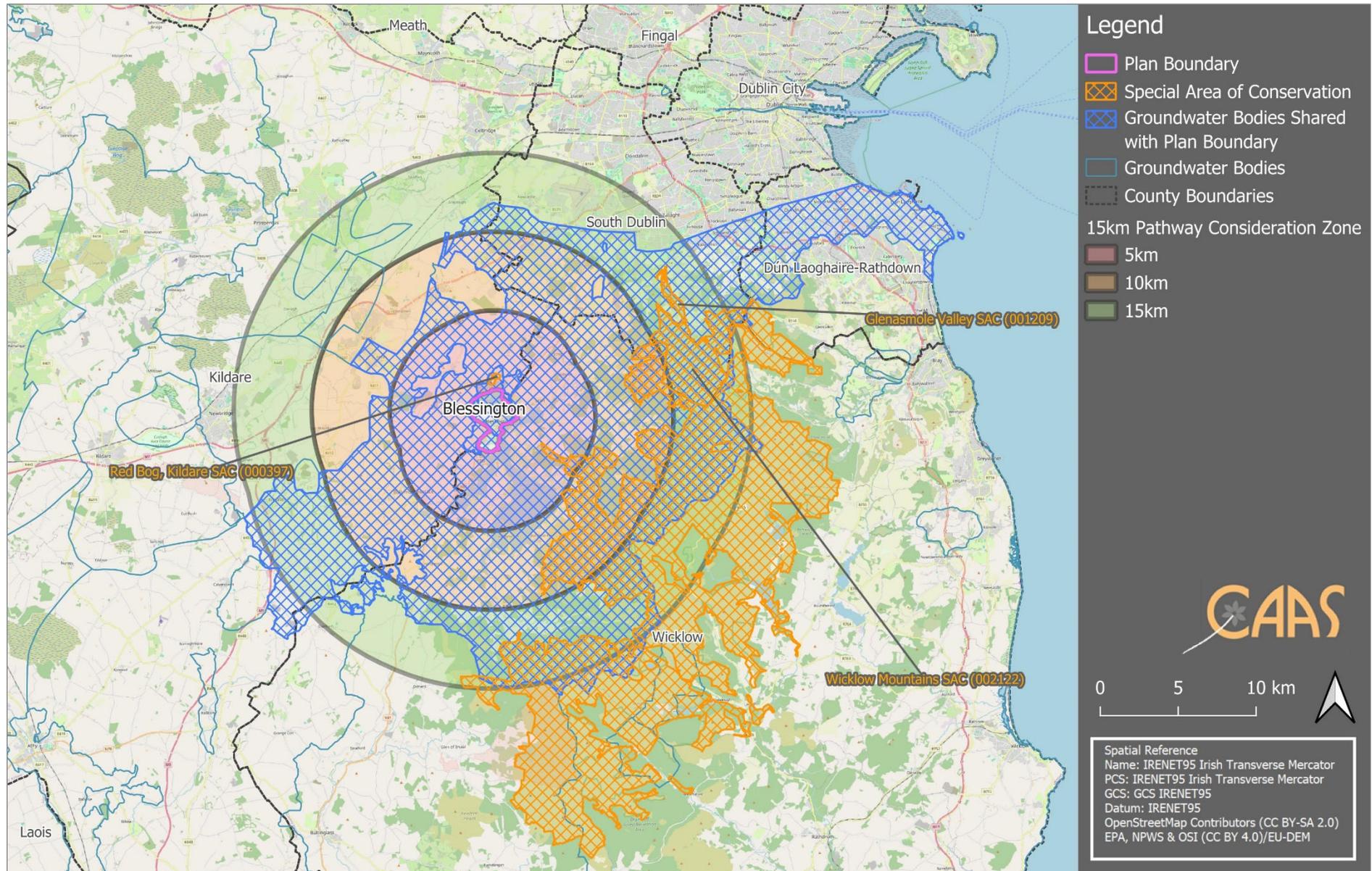
<sup>5</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

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



**Figure 3.1 European sites within a 15km radius of the Draft Plan boundary<sup>6</sup>**

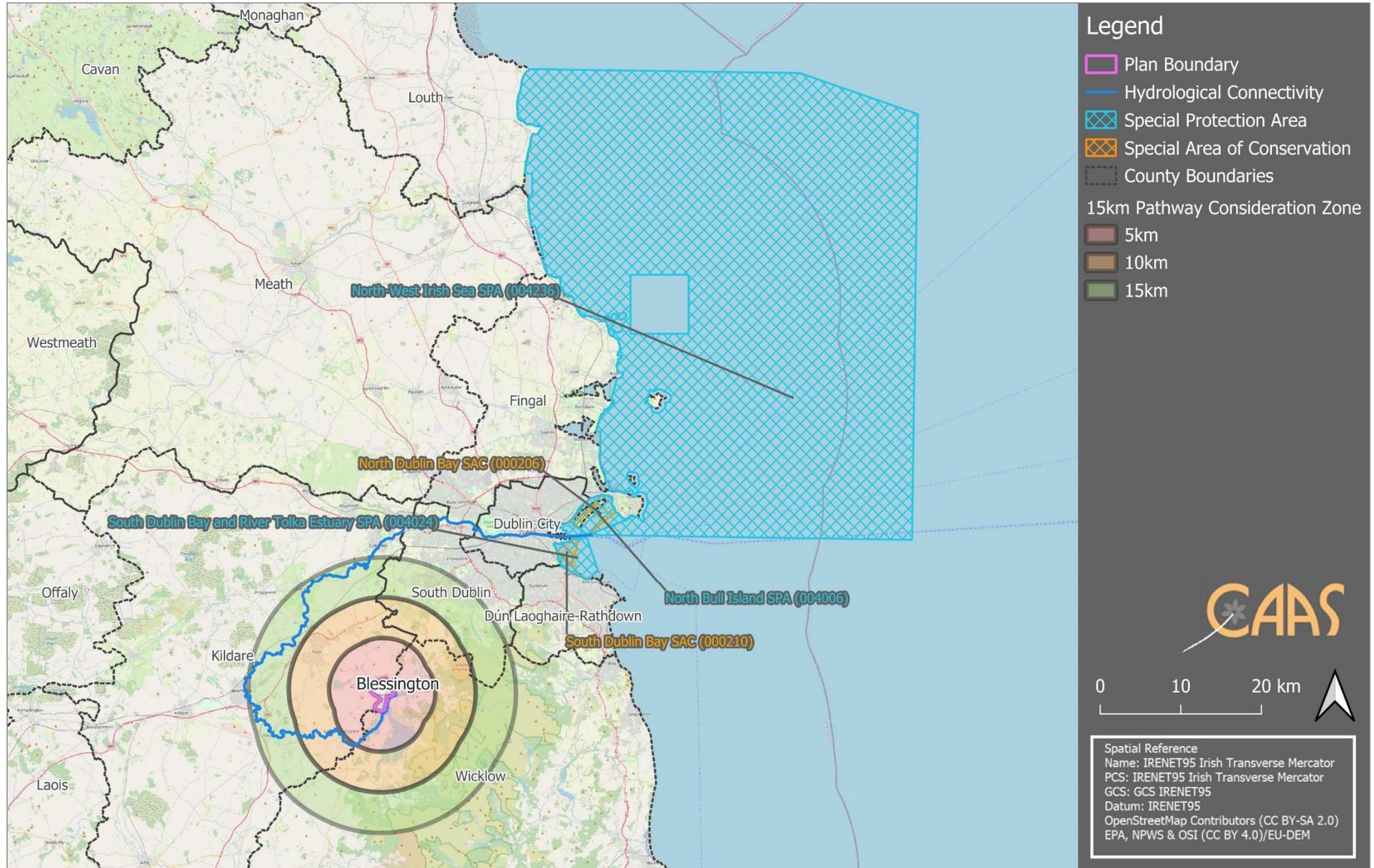
<sup>6</sup> Source: NPWS



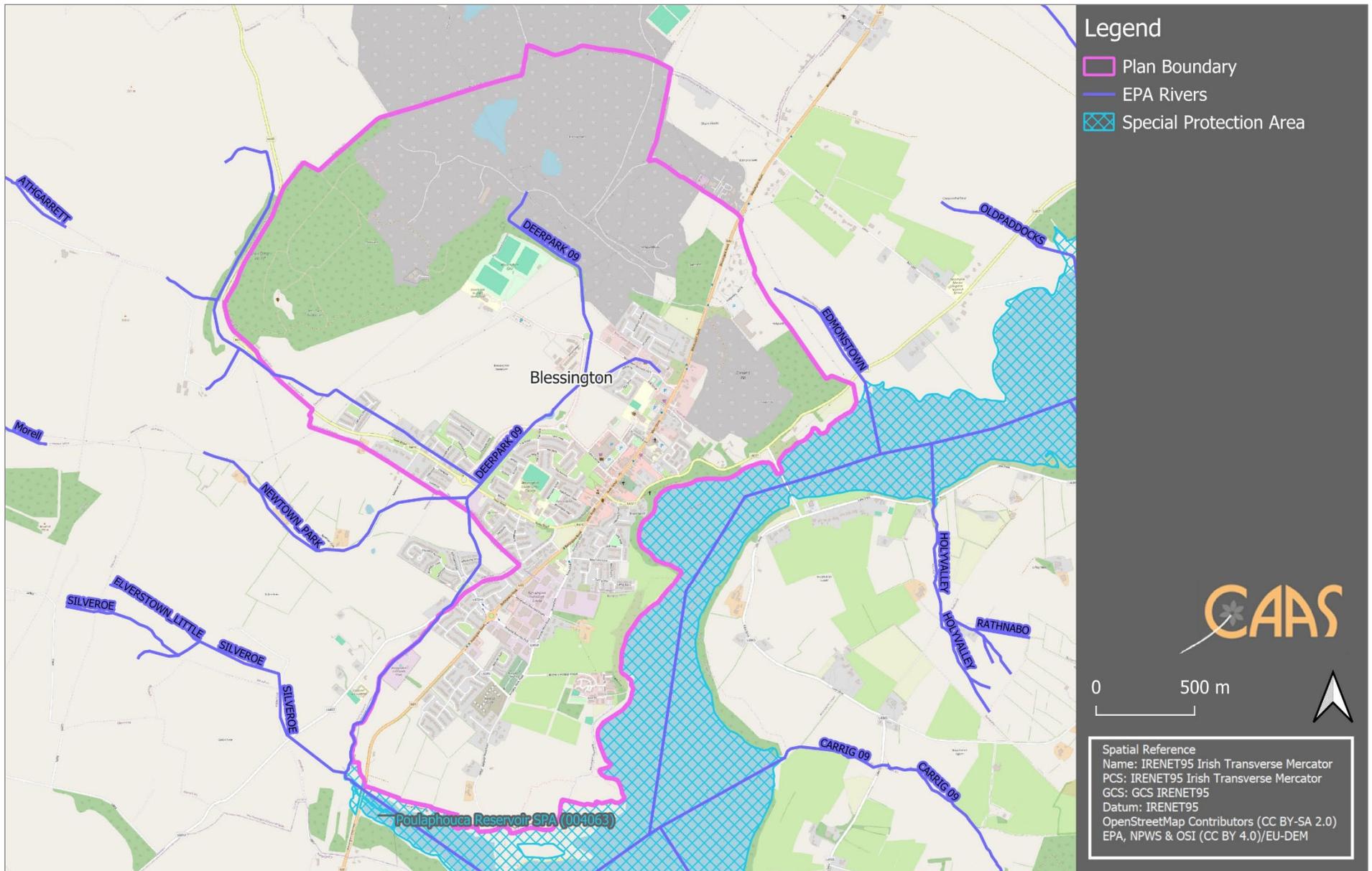
**Figure 3.2 European sites<sup>7</sup> with shared groundwater bodies<sup>8</sup> with the Draft Plan area**

<sup>7</sup> Special Areas of Conservation and/or Special Protection Areas with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

<sup>8</sup> Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>



**Figure 3.3 Surface hydrological connectivity with the Draft Plan boundary**



**Figure 3.4 Blessington town watercourses relative to European sites**

### 3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

The overarching objective of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of the area to which the Plan relates. Therefore, the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

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

The Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Blessington area. Draft Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of 3 (no.) European sites include:

- The Draft Plan's provisions, including those relating to town centre regeneration, housing, development, economic development, tourism development, community development, heritage, biodiversity and green infrastructure development and infrastructure development, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of any designated European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>9</sup>.

#### 3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 examine whether there is potential for significant effects on European Sites considering information provided above.

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<sup>9</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:  
a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

**Table 3.1 Screening of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary**

Ref	AA Screening Consideration
1	This amendment would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan and the existing Development Plan that contribute towards the protection of European sites, all potential risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b> Refer also to Appendix II.
2	The update to terminology/language/wording/mapping would not result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
3	This amendment relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
4	This amendment adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
5	This amendment provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
6	Removal of this provision/text would remove the potential for any environmental effects; however, removal of the provision/text would not be likely to result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>

Proposed Material Amendment No.	AA Screening Consideration Reference
1	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
2	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
3	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
4	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
5	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
6	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
7	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
8	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
9A	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
9B	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
10	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
11	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
12	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
13	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
14	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
15	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
16	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
17	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
18	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
19	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
20	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
21	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
22	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
23	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
24	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
25	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
26	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
27	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
28	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
29	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
30	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
31	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
32	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
33	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
34	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
35	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
36	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
37	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required

**Table 3.2 Screening of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>10</sup>	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Adjacent	Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]	<p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological changes and disturbance effects.</p> <p>This European site occurs adjacent to the Draft Plan boundary but there are no sources for effects via direct land use management activities to this SPA as none of the SPA occurs within the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>There however a direct hydrological pathway between the Draft Plan boundary and this SPA as the boundary is adjacent to the SPA (Figure 3.1), and there is hydrological connectivity with the wider Blessington town area via several small water courses which drain from the town and quarry into the Poulaphouca Reservoir (Figure 3.4). Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) feed on freshwater resources<sup>11</sup> and Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) feed on a variety of plants in a variety of habitats throughout the year<sup>12</sup>. These feeding resources are dependent on the water quality of this SPA. Considering the nature of the Draft Plan, there are sources for effect to the supporting habitats of this SPA due to the proximity of the SPA to the Draft Plan boundary and hydrological connectivity with the wider Blessington town area. There is also a source and pathway for disturbance effects to these species from development and tourism / leisure activities.</p> <p>There is likelihood of potential significant effect via the pathways and sources identified above arising from the Draft Plan that have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations do not present additional potential pathways or sources that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	0.28	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	<p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a groundwater sensitive habitat. This SAC shares a groundwater body with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC is in close proximity to the Draft Plan boundary at 0.28 km (Figure 3.2). Due to the substantial extractive industry within the Draft Plan boundary and the proximity of groundwater sensitive habitat, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater interactions. Considering the nature of the Draft Plan and in particular the extractive industries there in, risk to the groundwater sensitive designated habitats of this SAC cannot be completely ruled out.</p> <p>There is likelihood of potential significant effect via the pathways and sources identified above arising from the Draft Plan that have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations do not present additional potential pathways or sources that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	2.18	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia</i> )	<p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

<sup>10</sup> Term used to encompass both Qualifying Interests (habitats and species designated for SACs) and Special Conservation Interests (species designated for SPAs)

<sup>11</sup> Gyimesi, A., Boudewijn, T.J., Buijs, R.J., Shamoun-Baranes, J.Z., de Jong, J.W., Fijn, R.C., van Horssen, P.W. and Poot, M.J., 2016. Lesser black-backed gulls *Larus fuscus* thriving on a non-marine diet. *Bird study*, 63(2), pp.241-249.

<sup>12</sup> GESE, W.G., 1991. Food, feeding behaviour and nutritional ecology of wintering greylag geese *Anser anser*. *Ardea*, 79, pp.271-282.

Addendum I to the AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Blessington LAP 2025

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>10</sup>	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
			<i>uniflorae</i> ] [3110], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230]	<p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for groundwater sensitive habitats. This SPA shares a groundwater body with the Draft Plan area and the SPA occurs just over 2 km from the Draft Plan boundary (Figure 3.2). Due to the substantial extractive industry within the Draft Plan boundary and the proximity of groundwater sensitive habitats, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater interactions. Considering the nature of the Draft Plan and in particular the extractive industries there in, risk to the groundwater sensitive designated habitats of this SAC cannot be completely ruled out. There are also indirect sources for effect to this SAC from the Draft Plan regarding increases in human settlements, such as Blessington, surrounding the SAC, thereby increasing human populations and, as a result, a potential increase in visitors to the SAC.</p> <p>There is likelihood of potential significant effect via the pathways and sources identified above arising from the Draft Plan that have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations do not present additional potential pathways or sources that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>		
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	4.90	Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	<p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. The SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance effects and resource availability for the SCI species designated.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are also no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances. Regarding resource availability for the designated SCI species, there are an abundance of habitats with in the SPA and the wider landscape for these species in terms of hunting and roosting. Given the distance between the Draft Plan boundary and this SPA there are no sources for likely significant effect regarding resource availability either.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	11.97	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220]	<p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>There are no sources for direct land use management as this SAC is outside the Draft Plan boundary. There are also no sources for surface hydrological interactions due to the lack of connectivity. However, this SAC does share a groundwater body with the Draft Plan boundary (Figure 3.2), but occurs approximately 12 km from the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>13</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>14</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>15</sup>. Considering the nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and the significant dilution factor of approximately 12 km, there is no pathways with sources for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no sources of effect to this SAC via groundwater interaction, hydrological interactions or direct land use management to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

<sup>13</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>14</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>15</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>10</sup>	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	25.71	Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179]	<p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 25.71 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>Regarding ex-situ foraging, SCI species can commute up to 20 km for ex-situ foraging outside of typical foraging locations / designated SPA areas<sup>16</sup>. Given the distance of over 25 km between this SPA and this Draft Plan boundary and the availability of alternate resources, there are no sources for likely significant effect regarding ex-situ foraging habitat for the SCI species of this SPA. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects<sup>17,18</sup>. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year<sup>19,20</sup>. Given the distance between the Draft Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Draft Plan and the distance involved between the Draft Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources of effect for direct land use management or disturbance effects to the SPA.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	25.76	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	<p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions.</p> <p>There are no sources for direct land use management as this SAC is outside the Draft Plan boundary. This SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions and does have a direct surface hydrological connection with the Draft Plan boundary via the River Liffey (Figure 3.3). However, considering that nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and significant dilution factor of over 25 km, there are no sources for effect regarding hydrological interactions for this SAC.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
004006	North Bull Island SPA	29.90	Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis</i>	<p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 29.90 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>Regarding ex-situ foraging, SCI species can commute up to 20 km for ex-situ foraging outside of typical foraging locations / designated SPA areas<sup>21</sup>. Given the distance of approximately 30 km between this SPA and this Draft Plan boundary and the availability of alternate resources, there are no sources for likely significant effect regarding ex-situ foraging habitat for the SCI species of this SPA. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects<sup>22,23</sup>. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year<sup>24,25</sup>. Given the distance between the Draft Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

<sup>16</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. Nature Scot, Version 3.

<sup>17</sup> Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

<sup>18</sup> Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

<sup>19</sup> Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

<sup>20</sup> Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

<sup>21</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. Nature Scot, Version 3.

<sup>22</sup> Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

<sup>23</sup> Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

<sup>24</sup> Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

<sup>25</sup> Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>10</sup>	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
			<i>apricaria</i> ) [A140], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]	Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Draft Plan and the distance involved between the Draft Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources of effect for direct land use management or disturbance effects to the SPA.  Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.		
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	29.91	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Humid dune slacks [2190], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ) [1395]	This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions.  This SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions and there is a direct hydrological connection between the Draft Plan boundary and this SPA via the River Liffey. However, considering that nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and significant dilution factor of approximately 30 km, there are no sources for effect regarding hydrological interactions for this SAC.	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	30.58	Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204], Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Little Gull ( <i>Larus minutus</i> ) [A177], Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) [A013], Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Great Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> ) [A187], Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188], Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200]	The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Amendments relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. This site exists 30.58 km outside of the Draft Plan area.  Regarding ex-situ foraging, SCI species can commute up to 20 km for ex-situ foraging outside of typical foraging locations / designated SPA areas <sup>26</sup> . Given the distance of approximately 30 km between this SPA and this Draft Plan boundary and the availability of alternate resources, there are no sources for likely significant effect regarding ex-situ foraging habitat for the SCI species of this SPA. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects <sup>27,28</sup> . These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year <sup>29,30</sup> . Given the distance between the Draft Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.  This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions and there is a direct hydrological connection between the Draft Plan boundary and this SPA via the River Liffey. However, considering that nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and significant dilution factor of over 30 km, there are no sources for effect regarding hydrological interactions for this SPA.  Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Draft Plan and the distance involved between the Draft Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources of effect for direct land use management or disturbance effects to the SPA.  Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

<sup>26</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. Nature Scot, Version 3.

<sup>27</sup> Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

<sup>28</sup> Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

<sup>29</sup> Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

<sup>30</sup> Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

### **3.4 Other Plans and Programmes**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites. There are no provisions in the Proposed Material Amendments that introduce any potential sources for effects in addition to those already identified as being mitigated by the Stage 2 AA carried out for the Draft Plan. Therefore, there are no in combination effects identified.

## **Section 4 AA Screening Conclusion**

This Screening for AA Report demonstrates that the implementation of the Proposed Material Amendments will not result in any likely significant effect on any European site.

Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. No source for a likely significant effect to any European site would arise from the Proposed Material Amendments that have not already been considered by the existing AA process for the Draft Plan.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed through measures that have already been integrated into the Draft Plan and through existing, already in force, policies and objectives within the Wicklow County Development Plan (as varied) with which the Proposed Material Amendments and all lower tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA/Screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

It is concluded that the Proposed Material Amendments will not give rise to any likely significant effect on any European site, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes and projects.

This report is part of the overall and ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan (an AA Natura Impact Report has already been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan). It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan.

# Appendix I Background information on European sites Assessed

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

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Humid dune slacks [2190], Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ) [1395], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	H01.03, A04, H01.09, G01.02, F02.03, J01.01, G01.01, E03, F02.03.01, I01, E01, E02, G02.01, G05.05, K03.06	Other point source pollution to surface water, grazing, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing, burning down, nautical sports, discharges, bait digging or collection, invasive non-native species, urbanised areas, human habitation, industrial or commercial areas, golf course, intensive maintenance of public parks or cleaning of beaches, antagonism with domestic animals
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	F02.03.01, E03, G01.01.02, K02.02, D01.02, E01, J02.01.02, G01.02, M01, H03, K02, G01.01, E02, D01.01	Bait digging or collection, discharges, non-motorised nautical sports, accumulation of organic material, roads, motorways, urbanised areas, human habitation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, changes in abiotic conditions, marine water pollution, biocenotic evolution, succession, nautical sports, industrial or commercial areas, paths, tracks, cycling tracks
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	A04, E01.03, A08, F02.03, F03.01, C01.01	Grazing, dispersed habitation, fertilisation, leisure fishing, hunting, sand and gravel extraction
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220]	A03, A03.03, A04, D01, J02, B02.02, B01.01, B01.02, E01.02, F02.03, A04.02.01, A04.02.02, A04.02.03, A08, I01, D01.03, B02.01.02, H01.08, C01.03, H02.07, H01.05	Mowing or cutting of grassland, abandonment or lack of mowing, grazing, roads, paths and railroads, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, forestry clearance, forest planting on open ground (native trees), artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), discontinuous urbanisation, leisure fishing, non-intensive cattle grazing, non-intensive sheep grazing, non-intensive horse grazing, fertilisation, invasive non-native species, car parks and parking areas, forest replanting (non-native trees), diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, peat extraction, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	G01, A04, G01.04, G05.04, B06, G05.09, D01.01, G05.01, F04.02, F03.02.02, A05.02, E01, G05.07, K01.01, G01.03.02, E03.01, B02.05, G02.09, J01.01, C01.03, I01, L05, G04.01, G05.06, F03, K04.05, G01.02	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, grazing, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, vandalism, grazing in forests or woodland, fences, fencing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, trampling, overuse, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), taking from nest (e.g., falcons), stock feeding, urbanised areas, human habitation, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, erosion, off-road motorized driving, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), wildlife watching, burning down, peat extraction, invasive non-native species, collapse of terrain, landslide, military manoeuvres, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), damage by herbivores (including game species), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052]	F02.03.01, E01.01, E01.04, G02.01, E03, D01.02, E02, D01.05, G03, D03.02, G01.01, G01.02	Bait digging or collection, continuous urbanisation, other patterns of habitation, golf course, discharges, roads, motorways, industrial or commercial areas, bridge, viaduct, interpretative centres, shipping lanes, nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Grey	E03, F02.03, E02, J02.01.02, G01.01, E01, K02.03, G01.02, F02.03.01, D01.02	Discharges, leisure fishing, industrial or commercial areas, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, nautical sports, urbanised areas, human habitation, eutrophication (natural), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, bait digging or collection, roads, motorways

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]		
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	G03, A04, G01.02, C01.03, B, D01.01	Interpretative centres, grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, peat extraction, sylviculture, forestry, paths, tracks, cycling tracks
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]	G01.01, B01, D01.05, F02.03, F03.01	Nautical sports, forest planting on open ground, bridge, viaduct, leisure fishing, hunting
004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Little Gull ( <i>Larus minutus</i> ) [A177], Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) [A013], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Great Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> ) [A187], Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200], Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	N/A	N/A

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

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution)	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1210]	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Most of the pressures on drift lines are associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, F01, F06, F07, F08	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures)	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1355]	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1395]	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	None identified.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[2110]	Embryonic shifting dunes ( <i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i> )	The majority of pressures on this habitat are associated with recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, L01, L02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2120]	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> )	Most of the pressures on marram dunes are caused by the interference on sediment dynamics due to recreation and coastal defences.	E01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, I02, L01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports,	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
				tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization)	
[2130]	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ( <i>grey dunes</i> )	Pressures on fixed dunes are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.	A02, A09, A10, F07, F08, I02, L02	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2190]	Humid dune slacks ( <i>Humid dune slacks</i> )	Pressures on the habitat come from a number of sources. Including agricultural fertilisers, sports and leisure activities (e.g. walking, off-road driving and golf courses) and drainage. Succession to scrub is also a problem, particularly where it is linked to desiccation of the slack.	A19, A31, F07, I02, L02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
[3110]	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )	This habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, and from drainage and other damage to peatland. Damage to peatland can result in hydrological changes in lakes, increased organic matter, water colour and turbidity, changes in sediment characteristics, acidification and enrichment.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water	Surface dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3160]	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	The pressures on this habitat are associated with pollution from agricultural and forestry activities and also from drainage.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, D08	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, energy production and transmission activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
[4010]	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Overgrazing, burning, wind farm development and erosion are the main pressures associated with this habitat, along with nitrogen deposition from agricultural activities that generate air pollution.	A09, A11, A27, B01, D01, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[4030]	European dry heaths	A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures.	A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[6130]	Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa ( <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> )	Pressures on this habitat are associated with abiotic natural processes (leaching of metals) and succession, as well as impacts from recreational activities (walking/hiking).	F07, L01, L02	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6210]	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on	The significant pressures related to this habitat are mainly associated with agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich	A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites)	communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in succession to scrub.		livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species	vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6230]	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	The main pressures on this habitat are due to bracken encroachment and succession.	I04, L02	Problematic native species, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6410]	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> )	The main pressures on the habitat are associated with agricultural intensification (e.g. land drainage, fertiliser application), under-grazing and forestry.	A02, A06, A10, A14, A31, B01	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, livestock farming (without grazing), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7130]	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7140]	Transition mires and quaking bogs	The main pressures facing transition mires in Ireland are afforestation, water pollution, drainage and hydrological changes with grazing/agricultural management also being a pressure.	A06, A09, B01, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7220]	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )	Pressures related to this habitat are associated with drainage, pollution to ground and surface waters, recreational activities, infrastructure, overgrazing and abandonment of grassland management.	A06, A10, E01, F07, H08, J01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[8110]	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> )	The main pressures on siliceous scree come from overgrazing, under-grazing and succession.	A09, A10, L02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8210]	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	The majority of pressures related to this habitat are associated with overgrazing and the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	A09, A27, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8220]	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Pressure on this habitat is associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	I02	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	The significant pressure facing this habitat are associated with invasive non-native species such as <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) and beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and overgrazing by deer.	A09, B09, I02, I04, M07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

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List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A001	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	I02, F07, C05, G06, L06, N03, A11, B01, I05, N05, G01, D01	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), sports, tourism and leisure activities, peat extraction, freshwater fish and shellfish harvesting (recreational), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests, change of habitat location, size, and / or quality due to climate change, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A003	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	G01, D01	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A009	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	I02, N06, N07, F22, F23, G12, D01, G01	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A013	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	A09, F22, F23, G12, I02, N07, G01, N06	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	G12, D01, F07, G10, J02, N06, N07, N01	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, illegal shooting/killing, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change
A018	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	F22, F23, G12, D01, F07, I02, J02, N06, N07	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A043	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	F07, G07, A02, D06, F08	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), transmission of electricity and communications (cables), modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures)
A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	F07, D06, F01, F08, G01	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A048	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	F07, G19, N01, D01, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A052	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	G07, F07, D01, F28	Hunting, sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A054	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	F07, G07, N01, D01, F28	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A056	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	I02, I05, F07, G07, N01, D01, F28	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests, sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A065	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	L06, A06, I02, I04, A26, F07, G12, G01, D01, E02	Interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, sports, tourism and leisure activities, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations
A098	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	B03, B09, A01, C05, D01	Replanting with or introducing non-native or non-typical species (including new species and gmos), clear-cutting, removal of all trees, conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A103	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Xxp, H08	No pressures, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above
A130	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	F07, G01, G19, D01, F08	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions

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Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
				for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures)
A137	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	F07, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A140	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	B01, I04, I02, A02, A11, A09, D01, H04, A31, G07, N01, F07, F28	Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), burning for agriculture, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, vandalism or arson, drainage for use as agricultural land, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A141	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	F07, G01, G19, D01, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A143	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	F07, G01, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A144	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	F07, G01, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	G01, G19, D01, F08, N04, F07	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities
A156	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	F07, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	F07, G19, G01, F08, D01, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A160	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A08, B01, I04, I02, A31, A02, C05, D01, A06, A11, F07, G01, G19, F08	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), burning for agriculture, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures)
A162	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	A08, A09, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01, A06, A31, F07, F08, N04	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A169	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	F07, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A177	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	D01	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A179	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	F22, F23, I02, I04, D01, M08	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, flooding (natural processes)
A182	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	A09, I02, I04, D01	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure

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Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A183	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	F22, F23, D01, I02	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)
A184	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i>	F22, F23, D01, I02	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)
A187	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	F22, F23, G12, D01, G01, I02	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)
A188	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	F22, F23, G12, D01, G01, L06, N06, N07	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A192	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	G12, N07, I02, I04, L06, M08, N06, D01, F07, G01	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	A09, G12, I02, I04, J02, L06, M08, D01, F07, G01, N06, N07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A194	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	A09, G12, I02, I04, L06, M08, N06, N07, D01, F07, G01	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A195	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	A09, G12, I02, I04, D01, N06, N07, F07, L06, N04	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A199	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	F22, F23, G12, D01, J02, N06, N07	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A200	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	F22, F23, G01, G12, J02, N06, N07, D01, F07	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities
A204	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	F22, F23, G12, I02, D01, F07, N07, G01, N06	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change

## **Appendix II Mitigation Measures from the existing Draft Plan and existing Development Plan**

This appendix outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan and associated existing Wicklow County Development Plan (as varied) in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as already identified by the Stage 2 AA for the Draft Plan.

**Measures that will protect European sites and their sustaining resources integrated into the Plan<sup>31</sup>**

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
<p>Alignment with County Development Plan</p>	<p>Part A.1 Introduction</p> <p>“In particular, development standards, retail strategies, housing strategies etc that are included in the County Development Plan shall not be repeated, and shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Local Area Plan. Any specific policies / objectives or development standards required for this area will be stated as precisely that, and in all cases will be consistent with the County Development Plan. Thus development standards will therefore be the same across the entire County, and any differences for specific settlements would be clear and transparent, to both those adopting the plans, and the general public alike.”</p> <p><b>Part A2.7 Built Heritage &amp; Natural Environment - Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>To protect natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, in accordance with the objectives set out in the County Development Plan</p> <p><b>Part B. 6 Heritage, Biodiversity &amp; Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The purpose of this chapter is to set out the specific objectives with regard to the heritage of the settlement and should be read in conjunction with the County Development Plan - the heritage strategies, objectives, schedules and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan will apply directly in the settlement.</p> <p>In particular, the County Development Plan addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Archaeology &amp; National Monuments</li> <li>- Architectural heritage, including the Record of Protected Structures, vernacular structures, and Architectural Conservation Areas</li> <li>- Historical &amp; Cultural Heritage</li> <li>- Protected habitats</li> <li>- Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows</li> <li>- Water systems &amp; wetlands</li> <li>- Soils &amp; Geology</li> <li>- Landscape, including Views &amp; Prospects</li> <li>- Green Infrastructure</li> <li>- Recreational Use of Natural Resources</li> <li>- Public Rights of Way</li> </ul> <p><b>Part B.7 Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The infrastructure strategies, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan will apply directly in the plan area. In particular, the County Development Plan addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable Transportation</li> <li>- Water Supply &amp; Demand;</li> <li>- Wastewater Infrastructure;</li> <li>- Storm and Surface Water Infrastructure</li> <li>- Flood Risk Management</li> <li>- Waste and Environmental Emissions</li> <li>- Energy and Information Infrastructure</li> </ul> <p><b>BLESS15</b> To facilitate and encourage the exploration and exploitation of aggregates and minerals, in a manner which is consistent with the principle of sustainability, the protection of residential, environmental and tourism amenities within the plan area and the objectives relating to the Extractive Industry in Chapter 9 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.</p>

<sup>31</sup> These measures may be amended on foot of Proposed Material Amendments and/or further modifications, in advance of Plan adoption

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>There is a vast array of County Development Plan provisions that would have the potential to contribute towards the mitigation of effects on European sites. These are reproduced as follow:</p> <p>SCO6 Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity - Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>County Policy Objective (CPO) 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Forestry Strategic Objective To promote state and private afforestation, to a scale and in a manner which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.43 To facilitate afforestation in appropriate locations, in accordance with the 'Wicklow Indicative Forestry Strategy' (Wicklow County Council, 2002), and in co-operation with forestry operators and the Forest Service. The Wicklow Indicative Forestry Strategy was produced by the Council in 2002, in consultation with the Forest Service. The Strategy is intended to be a tool of assistance to planners in dealing with proposals for forestry applications. The Strategy includes a list of areas that are preferred for afforestation and a list of areas where afforestation would be inappropriate by virtue of landscape, soil type, settlement or environmental grounds. The Strategy also includes a series of objectives which are intended to guide planning decisions. The Council will have particular regard to developments that are located in the areas included in 'Table 3: Areas Sensitive to Afforestation', and as per the Strategy, should be consulted on all forestry grant applications in these areas.</p> <p>CPO 9.44 To promote afforestation in co-operation with relevant agencies, including the Forest Service (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) and forestry operators and to ensure that afforestation is undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principle of 'sustainable forest management'. The Council will only permit development that complies with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the development is compatible with the protection of the environment, and does not cause pollution or degradation of wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance;</li> <li>• the development does not have a negative visual impact on the scenic quality of the countryside, and is of an appropriate nature and scale to the surrounding area;</li> <li>• the development is not detrimental to archaeological or other historic/heritage features; and</li> <li>• the Council will permit forestry development where it is considered that the roads infrastructure (in terms of design, width, surfacing etc.), which is to serve the development, can accommodate the proposed development. No development will be permitted that will result in damage to roads infrastructure or undue nuisance to other road users. The Council may apply a special financial levy to certain developments for works that are required to be undertaken to the road network.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 9.45 To promote the use of forests for appropriate recreation purposes and to facilitate the development of appropriate recreation facilities at suitable locations. The recreational use of forests will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the recreational use is compatible with the other forest objectives, functions and values of the forest, such as timber production, sensitive habitats and important archaeology. Developments will only be permitted that are acceptable in terms of other planning considerations, including the provision of acceptable infrastructure such as roads, car parking, water and sewerage infrastructure.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p>CPO11.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the</p>

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes;</li> <li>• Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 11.29 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>CPO 12.7 To facilitate the development of services and utilities for electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles types, including the roll-out of additional electric charging points in collaboration with relevant agencies at appropriate locations.</p> <p>CPO 12.9 To seek to ensure all new or upgraded transport infrastructure is climate resilient.</p> <p>CPO 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 13.1 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (see Map 17.06 Groundwater Vulnerability).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public</p>

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arklow - Blessington – Aughrim - Tinahely - Avoca</li> <li>- Laragh – Glendalough</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>• the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);</li> <li>• the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>• in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where:</p> <p>Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area; It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p> <p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses of a significant conveyance capacity or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p>

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development &amp; Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p>CPO 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non renewable resource.</p> <p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.4 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) , the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019)</li> <li>• National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015.</li> <li>• National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010);</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same),</li> <li>• Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;</li> <li>• Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan .</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.9 The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.</p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p>

Addendum I to the AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Blessington LAP 2025

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
CPO 17.14	Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.
CPO 17.15	To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.
CPO 17.16	Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.
CPO 17.17	Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.
CPO 17.18	To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem amenity or the environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.
CPO 17.19	To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high amenity value generally and in particular where it appears that they are in danger of being felled and in response to requests from local communities.
CPO 17.20	Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.
CPO 17.21	To strongly discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling if such is essential to enable development to proceed.
CPO 17.22	To require and ensure the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.
CPO 17.23	To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).
CPO 17.24	To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
CPO 17.25	Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.
CPO 17.26	Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.
CPO 17.33	To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.
CPO 17.34	Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. Project proposals for developments on peatlands shall ensure no adverse impacts arise in relation to: Peatland stability; Carbon emissions balance; and Hydrology and ecology.
CPO 17.35	All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan ) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment
CPO 17.36	Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.
CPO 17.37	To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts
CPO 17.38	To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 19.13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>32</sup>.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>
<p>Natural Heritage and Biodiversity</p>	<p><b>Part A2.7 Built Heritage &amp; Natural Environment - Heritage Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To protect natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, in accordance with the objectives set out in the County Development Plan;</li> <li>- To enhance the quality of the natural and built environment, to enhance the unique character of the town and environs as a place to live, visit and work;</li> <li>- To promote greater appreciation of, and access to, local heritage assets;</li> <li>- To ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity and in particular, to safeguard the integrity of European Sites, watercourses and rivers in the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Part B. 6 Heritage, Biodiversity &amp; Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The purpose of this chapter is to set out the specific objectives with regard to the heritage of the settlement and should be read in conjunction with the County Development Plan - the heritage strategies, objectives, schedules and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan will apply directly in the settlement.</p> <p>In particular, the County Development Plan addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Archaeology &amp; National Monuments</li> <li>- Architectural heritage, including the Record of Protected Structures, vernacular structures, and Architectural Conservation Areas</li> <li>- Historical &amp; Cultural Heritage</li> <li>- Protected habitats</li> <li>- Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows</li> <li>- Water systems &amp; wetlands</li> <li>- Soils &amp; Geology</li> <li>- Landscape, including Views &amp; Prospects</li> <li>- Green Infrastructure</li> <li>- Recreational Use of Natural Resources</li> <li>- Public Rights of Way</li> </ul>

<sup>32</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p><b>BLESS34</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to their special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan. In particular, the heritage assets of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and Glen Ding Forest shall be rigorously protected.</p> <p><b>BLESS39</b> To require development proposals to have regard to existing green infrastructure assets (as identified within this local area plan or otherwise), including trees and hedgerows, that may exist within a subject site, and to consider how the biodiversity value and ecological connectivity of such assets may be maintained. Where existing GI assets or green corridors within a site have been identified on Map No. 3 'Key Green Infrastructure' or the accompanying Blessington Green Infrastructure Audit, proposals should include measures to preserve and, where necessary, improve ecological connectivity and biodiversity value across said assets/corridors.</p> <p><b>BLESS40</b> To facilitate the development of new green corridors within the plan area where opportunities may be identified, and barriers in ecological connectivity rectified, via the development management process. In particular, the following additional green corridors will be facilitated: - The creation of green corridors through Quarry Lands, and where relevant SLO3, to link the Deerpark watercourse and Glen Ding Forest with the plan boundary in the direction of the Red Bog SAC. - The creation of green corridors linking the Deerpark Watercourse to Local Biodiversity Areas and existing wooded areas on the eastern boundary of SLO3 (refer to SLO3 below). - The creation of a green corridor through the grounds of St. Mary's Senior National School to improve the connectivity between existing green corridors along Oak Drive/Blessington Business Park and Blessington Main Street. This link may in turn improve ecological connectivity to the lakeshore via boundary hedging on the grounds of the Church of Our Lady and the 'Priest's Walk' through the Rectory residential development.</p> <p><b>European Sites Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development.</li> <li>- Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>33</sup>.</li> <li>- Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</li> <li>- In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of European Sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP and LAP as it sees fit.</li> </ul>
<p>Peatlands, wetlands and surface water courses</p>	<p><b>Part A2.7 Built Heritage &amp; Natural Environment - Heritage Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To protect natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, in accordance with the objectives set out in the County Development Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Part B.6 HERITAGE, BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, Water Systems</b></p> <p>In line with the County Development Plan, riparian zones of generally 25m on either side will be maintained free from appropriate development, and such lands will be zoned with an appropriate open space zoning where the land is largely undeveloped.</p> <p><b>BLESS41</b> To enforce a general presumption against the culverting of watercourses within the plan area, except where absolutely necessary. Where development is proposed within sites that contain culverted watercourses, proposals should be included to restore or 'daylight' said watercourses with an appropriate riparian zoned in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan. 59 Similarly, where development includes significant works to existing roads with culverted crossings of watercourses, proposals should be included, where practical, to improve the ecological connectivity of these crossings, e.g. the replacement of culverts with clear span bridges, box culverts with wildlife ledges, etc.</p> <p><b>BLESS42</b> Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.</p>

<sup>33</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
<p>Water services, groundwater, water quality and SuDS<sup>34</sup></p>	<p><b>Part A2.8 Service Infrastructure - Service Infrastructure Objective</b></p> <p>Facilitate and promote the delivery of reliable and effective water, drainage, energy, waste management and communications infrastructure to service the existing and future development needs of the settlement. In particular: - to support and facilitate the improvement and increased resilience of the water distribution, supply and storage systems; - to support and facilitate any necessary upgrades to the wastewater collection and pumping systems (where required); - ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks. Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system.</p> <p><b>Part A3.2 Physical Context - Services &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Consultation with Uisce Éireann has indicated that there is water supply capacity available over the plan period, based on the Wicklow County Development Plan population targets. In terms of waste water, Uisce Éireann have recently completed an upgrade to Blessington Waste Water Treatment Plant to c. 9,000 population equivalent, which would serve the level of growth envisioned by the Wicklow County Development Plan Core Strategy over the plan period.</p> <p><b>BLESS42</b> Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p><b>Water Supply &amp; Demand, Storm and Surface Water Infrastructure and Wastewater Infrastructure</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
<p>Tourism</p>	<p><b>Part A2.7 Built Heritage &amp; Natural Environment - Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>- To protect natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, in accordance with the objectives set out in the County Development Plan</p> <p><b>BLESS23</b> To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of the lakeshore of the Poulaphouca Reservoir for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.</p> <p><b>BLESS34</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to their special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan. In particular, the heritage assets of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and Glen Ding Forest shall be rigorously protected.</p> <p><b>BLESS38</b> To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links: - Poulaphouca Reservoir (Blessington Greenway/proposed Blessington eGreenway) - Glen Ding Forest - Wooded areas at Doran's Pit - Blessington Demesne (Town Park) The enhancement of existing, and development of new, recreational facilities along the lakeshore area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs/facilities, will be considered subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p>
<p>Green / Blue Infrastructure</p>	<p><b>Part A2.7 Built Heritage &amp; Natural Environment - Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>- To protect natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, in accordance with the objectives set out in the County Development Plan</p> <p><b>BLESS34</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to their special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan. In particular, the heritage assets of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and Glen Ding Forest shall be rigorously protected.</p> <p><b>BLESS39</b> To require development proposals to have regard to existing green infrastructure assets (as identified within this local area plan or otherwise), including trees and hedgerows, that may exist within a subject site, and to consider how the biodiversity value and ecological connectivity of such assets may be maintained. Where existing GI assets or green corridors within a site have been identified on Map No. 3 'Key Green Infrastructure' or the accompanying Blessington Green Infrastructure Audit, proposals should include measures to preserve and, where necessary, improve ecological connectivity and biodiversity value across said assets/corridors.</p>

<sup>34</sup> Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
<p>Built environment</p>	<p><b>Part A3.2 Physical Context - Natural Environment</b></p> <p>In general, the largest quantum of intensive development will be directed away from areas in proximity to Poulaphouca Reservoir, towards the west of the settlement, although a limited level of development may be possible to the south east of the settlement with mitigating objectives and appropriate buffer zones.</p> <p><b>Approach to zoning</b></p> <p>The approach to land use zoning contained within the Draft Plan contributes towards the protection of European sites. Development objectives / zoning for lands designated as European sites is not provided for by the Draft Plan, thereby avoiding direct 'land-take' within European sites. Furthermore, land directly adjacent to European sites is zoned so as to form a buffer zone. In a number of locations, there are lands adjoining European Sites, which while not being included in the legally designated site, are linked to the site in terms of similar or supporting habitats, water flows or other characteristics which render them important to protect from inappropriate development which may have a direct or indirect effect on the designated site itself. The approach to zoning is explained as follows in the Draft Plan:</p> <p><b>Land use zoning - European Sites</b></p> <p>The approach to zoning lands adjoining European Sites has been as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No lands within the actual European Site have been zoned.</li> <li>2. Where there is existing developed areas, the lands have been zoned for their existing use, which will essentially allow for the continuation of the existing use and its enhancement. In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and the Planning &amp; Development Act, any proposed development with potential to impact upon the integrity of a European Site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment;</li> <li>3. Where there is existing undeveloped lands, the lands have only be zoned for new development where it can be justified that such zoning and development arising therefrom is essential for the town to achieve its development vision and strategic objectives. In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and the Planning &amp; Development Act, any proposed development with potential to impact upon the integrity of a European Site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment;</li> <li>4. Where there is existing undeveloped lands, and the development of these lands is not essential for the achievement of the development vision and strategic objectives for the town, the land will be zoned 'OS2' – natural areas. The only developments that will be considered in such areas are those which contribute to the objective of the natural areas zone (detailed in this plan) and that can be shown to not diminish the role and function of such areas, will not result in adverse impacts on the integrity of any EU protected site and will not diminish the biodiversity value of the lands or the ability of plants and animals to thrive and move through the area.</li> </ol> <p><b>Land use zoning – Specific Local Objective 1 – Lands at Naas Road</b></p> <p>Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The restoration of the culverted watercourses within the SLO to open watercourses with associated riparian zones corresponding to lands zoned OS2 'Natural Areas'. This must not increase flood risk in adjacent areas, e.g. Glen Ding estate.</li> <li>- The development of appropriate buffer zones/mitigating measures which shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value.</li> </ul> <p>The delivery of the road objective linking the Naas Road to the Blessington GAA grounds, as located within SLO1. The design of this road objective should aim to minimise the loss of trees and existing hedgerows. The road objective may only cross watercourses in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022- 2028.</p> <p><b>Land use zoning – Specific Local Objective 2 – Blessington Demesne (West)</b></p> <p>Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development of appropriate buffer zones/mitigating measures which shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value including area identified as LBAs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Land use zoning – Specific Local Objective 3 – Quarry Employment Lands</b></p> <p>Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development of appropriate buffer zones/mitigating measures which shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value including Local Biodiversity Areas. A management plan for the phased regeneration of plantation woodland into native woodland within the SLO shall be included as part of any planning application</li> </ul>

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p><b>Land use zoning - Specific Local Objective 4 – Doran’s Pit</b></p> <p>Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development of appropriate buffer zones/mitigating measures which shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value, including Local Biodiversity Areas</li> <li>- A management plan for the phased regeneration of plantation woodland into native woodland in this area shall be included as part of any planning application.</li> </ul> <p><b>Land use zoning - Specific Local Objective 5 – Burgage More (North)</b></p> <p>Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following: The development of appropriate buffer zones/mitigating measures which shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value. In particular, lands zoned for tourism purposes should be developed for low density and 'low impact' uses without a substantial number of structures, e.g. campsites, aires parks, etc, with the following mitigation measures at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limitation on the size of development versus retained green space, with no more of 50% of the zone occupied at full use.</li> <li>- Ancillary buildings and service structures for the tourism uses shall re-use or be clustered around the existing farmhouse and outbuildings on lands zoned T 'Tourism' and RE 'Existing Residential'.</li> <li>- Minimal landscaping of undeveloped areas within the development, other than low impact access paths to site facilities.</li> <li>- Connectivity must be fully retained (corridors through any physical barriers)</li> <li>- Lighting must be bat friendly as per Dark Sky guidelines</li> <li>- Mature trees retained; compensatory tree planting programme for ash trees lost due to die-back</li> <li>- Biodiversity plan developed (for example, ponds, pollinator friendly planting)</li> </ul> <p><b>Land use zoning - Specific Local Objective 6 – Burgage More (Central)</b></p> <p>Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following: Lands to the east of north-south hedgerow / tree line:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) All mature trees and hedgerows on the lands shall be maintained other than strictly required to facilitate appropriate development and detailed compensatory landscaping and tree planting to account for any loss due to the development and natural die back</li> <li>b) No uses will be considered that require floodlighting; street lighting and residential lighting must be bat friendly as per Dark Sky guidelines</li> <li>c) Any development shall be designed following detailed ecological evaluation to ensure no adverse impacts, either directly or indirect, on biodiversity, protected species, European Sites or ecological corridors</li> </ol> <p><b>Land use zoning - Specific Local Objective 7 – Burgage More (South)</b></p> <p>Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development within this SLO shall maintain the hedgerows and rural character of Burgage More lane to the west and provide an appropriate buffer to this lane for such purposes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Land use zoning - Specific Local Objective 8 – Blessington Demesne (East)</b></p> <p>Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following: The development of the town park should have regard to and integrate demesne features and other heritage elements associated with the former Blessington Demesne, and should include appropriate buffer zones/mitigating measures in relation to habitats of biodiversity value (including areas identified as Local Biodiversity Areas).</p>
Flood Risk Management	<p><b>Part A2.8 Service Infrastructure - Service Infrastructure Objective</b></p> <p>To ensure that only appropriate land uses are provided on lands identified as being at risk of flooding.</p> <p><b>BLESS51</b> Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area at risk of flooding shall comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow the 'sequential approach' as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines;</li> <li>- An appropriately detailed flood risk / drainage impact assessment will be required with all planning applications, to ensure that the development itself is not at risk of flooding and the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment (both up and down stream of the application site), taking into account all sources of flooding;</li> <li>- Restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to that which are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines unless the 'plan making justification test' has been applied and passed;</li> <li>- Where a site has been subject to and satisfied the 'Plan Making Justification Test' development will only be permitted where a proposal complies with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines.</li> </ul>

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>- Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and the SFRA.</p> <p>Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Invasive species	<p><b>Part A2.7 Built Heritage &amp; Natural Environment - Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>- To protect natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, in accordance with the objectives set out in the County Development Plan<sup>35</sup></p>
Agriculture	<p><b>Land use zoning AG: Agriculture</b></p> <p>To provide for the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and essential rural development. Subject to the protection and enhancement of natural biodiversity, the rural landscape, and built and cultural heritage, to facilitate the further development and improvement of agriculture, forestry and essential rural development including rural-related enterprise and amenity / utility related infrastructure, in accordance with the County Development Plan policies and objectives relating to rural areas.</p> <p><b>Part A2.7 Built Heritage &amp; Natural Environment - Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>- To protect natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, in accordance with the objectives set out in the County Development Plan<sup>36</sup>.</p>
Forestry	<p><b>Land use zoning AG: Agriculture</b></p> <p>To provide for the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and essential rural development. Subject to the protection and enhancement of natural biodiversity, the rural landscape, and built and cultural heritage, to facilitate the further development and improvement of agriculture, forestry and essential rural development including rural-related enterprise and amenity / utility related infrastructure, in accordance with the County Development Plan policies and objectives relating to rural areas<sup>37</sup>.</p>

<sup>35</sup> County Development Plan CPO 17.17 "Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary."

<sup>36</sup> County Development Plan:

Strategic Objective: To encourage the continued operation of farming and its associated uses where it already exists, and to facilitate the diversification of the agricultural economy through the support of appropriate alternative farm enterprise sources.

CPO 9.37 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.

CPO 9.40 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.

<sup>37</sup> County Development Plan:

Forestry Strategic Objective To promote state and private afforestation, 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.

CPO 9.43 To facilitate afforestation in appropriate locations, in accordance with the 'Wicklow Indicative Forestry Strategy' (Wicklow County Council, 2002), and in co-operation with forestry operators and the Forest Service. The Wicklow Indicative Forestry Strategy was produced by the Council in 2002, in consultation with the Forest Service. The Strategy is intended to be a tool of assistance to planners in dealing with proposals for forestry applications. The Strategy includes a list of areas that are preferred for afforestation and a list of areas where afforestation would be inappropriate by virtue of landscape, soil type, settlement or environmental grounds. The Strategy also includes a series of objectives which are intended to guide planning decisions. The Council will have particular regard to developments that are located in the areas included in

'Table 3: Areas Sensitive to Afforestation', and as per the Strategy, should be consulted on all forestry grant applications in these areas.

CPO 9.44 To promote afforestation in co-operation with relevant agencies, including the Forest Service (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) and forestry operators and to ensure that afforestation is undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principle of 'sustainable forest management'. The Council will only permit development that complies with the following:

- the development is compatible with the protection of the environment, and does not cause pollution or degradation of wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance;
- the development does not have a negative visual impact on the scenic quality of the countryside, and is of an appropriate nature and scale to the surrounding area;
- the development is not detrimental to archaeological or other historic/heritage features; and
- the Council will permit forestry development where it is considered that the roads infrastructure (in terms of design, width, surfacing etc.), which is to serve the development, can accommodate the proposed development. No development will be permitted that will result in damage to roads infrastructure or undue nuisance to other road users. The Council may apply a special financial levy to certain developments for works that are required to be undertaken to the road network.

CPO 9.45 To promote the use of forests for appropriate recreation purposes and to facilitate the development of appropriate recreation facilities at suitable locations. The recreational use of forests will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the recreational use is compatible with the other forest objectives, functions and values of the forest, such as timber production, sensitive habitats and important archaeology. Developments will only be permitted that are acceptable in terms of other planning considerations, including the provision of acceptable infrastructure such as roads, car parking, water and sewerage infrastructure.

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
Light pollution	<p><b>Land use zoning - Specific Local Objective 5 – Burgage More (North)</b> Lighting must be bat friendly as per Dark Sky guidelines</p> <p><b>Land use zoning - Specific Local Objective 6 – Burgage More (Central)</b> (b) No uses will be considered that require floodlighting / street-lighting and residential lighting must be bat friendly as per Dark Sky guidelines</p> <p><b>Land use zoning - Specific Local Objective 7 – Burgage More (South)</b> Lighting must be bat friendly as per Dark Sky guidelines</p>
Air and Noise Pollution	<p><b>Part B.8 ZONING</b></p> <p>Whilst the land-use zoning will give an indication of the acceptability or otherwise of particular uses in particular areas, proposed development will also be assessed in terms of compatibility with the development control guidelines and standards outlined in the Wicklow County Development Plan and this plan. Factors such as density, height, massing, traffic generation, public health regulations, design criteria, visual amenity, availability of services and potential nuisance by way of noise, odour and air pollution are also of importance in establishing whether or not a development proposal conforms to the proper planning and sustainable development of an area.</p>
Extractive Industry	<p><b>BLESS15</b> To facilitate and encourage the exploration and exploitation of aggregates and minerals, in a manner which is consistent with the principle of sustainability, the protection of residential, environmental and tourism amenities within the plan area and the objectives relating to the Extractive Industry in Chapter 9 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.</p> <p><b>Alignment with the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 regarding extractive industry and European sites:</b></p> <p>Several policies of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, to which this LAP is subject, ensure the protection of ecologically sensitive sites alongside the development of the extractive industry, such as:</p> <p><b>Strategic Objective</b> To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow’s natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area</p> <p><b>CPO 9.52</b> To facilitate and encourage the exploration and exploitation of minerals in the County in a manner, which is consistent with the principle of sustainability and protection of residential, environmental and tourism amenities.</p> <p><b>CPO 9.54</b> To support and facilitate the development of related and spin-off industries of the extractive industry such as craft and monumental stone industries and the development of the mining and industrial tourism heritage. Consideration will be given to the development of such related industries within or in association with existing operations of worked out mines or quarries, at locations such as the disused granite quarries at Ballyknockan, where this does not conflict with other objectives and objectives of the plan.</p> <p><b>CPO 9.55</b> To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (2004, DoEHLG);</li> <li>- ‘Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)’, EPA 2006;</li> <li>- ‘Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation’ 2009;</li> <li>- ‘Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry’, 2008; and,</li> <li>- ‘Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry’, NPWS 2009.</li> </ul>
Climate and Renewable Energy	<p><b>Part A2.8 Service Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Facilitate and promote the delivery of reliable and effective water, drainage, energy, waste management and communications infrastructure to service the existing and future development needs of the settlement. In particular: .... to promote energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy projects.</p> <p><b>Energy and Information Infrastructure</b></p> <p>See “Alignment with County Development Plan” component above</p>

Component	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
Waste Management	<p><b>BLESS52</b> To support the continued upgrade of Blessington Waste Water Treatment Plant and/or additional Waste Water Treatment Plants serving the plan area, subject to the full environmental protection of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and associated watercourses.</p> <p><b>Waste and Environmental Emissions</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>



# Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council

## **Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for: Proposed Material Amendments to the Blessington Draft Local Area Plan 2025**

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination is being made by Wicklow County Council regarding the Proposed Material Amendments to the Blessington Draft Local Area Plan 2025.

Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Plan warrant the undertaking of AA.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have likely significant effects on 3 (no.) European sites. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- The Draft Plan's provisions, including those relating to town centre regeneration, housing, development, economic development, tourism development, community development, heritage, biodiversity and green infrastructure development and infrastructure development, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan to demonstrate that, upon the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures, the Draft Plan will not result in any adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European site<sup>1</sup>.

Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process for the Proposed Material Amendments has demonstrated that the implementation of Proposed Material Amendments will not result in any likely significant effect on any European site.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that Stage 2 AA is not required for any the Proposed Material Amendments.

This Screening for AA determination and the associated Screening for AA Report will accompany the Proposed Material Amendments on display. The documents are part of the ongoing and overall AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption.

**Signatory:**

**Leonora Earls**

**Director of Services, Planning, Economic & Rural Development  
Wicklow County Council**

**Date: 14/03/2025**

<sup>1</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.