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APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT


FOR
PROPOSED
TOWN RENEWAL MASTERPLAN
AT
DERRINTURN
Co. KILDARE

ON BEHALF OF
Kildare County Council

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DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Client	Kildare County Council
Project Title	Proposed Town Renewal Masterplan for Derrinturn, Co. Kildare
Document Title	Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Revision	Status	Author(s)	Reviewed	Approved	Issue Date
00	Draft for internal review	Sanni Hintikka <i>Ecologist</i>	Ben Lansbury <i>Principal Ecologist</i>	-	-
01	Draft for Client Review	Sanni Hintikka <i>Ecologist</i>	Ben Lansbury <i>Principal Ecologist</i>	Lizy Tinsley <i>Technical Director – Ecology</i>	09.12.2022
02	Final	Sanni Hintikka <i>Ecologist</i>	Ben Lansbury <i>Principal Ecologist</i>	Lizy Tinsley <i>Technical Director – Ecology</i>	09.12.2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Enviroguide Consulting was commissioned by Kildare County Council (KCC) to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report in respect of a Proposed Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP), hereafter referred to as 'Proposed Masterplan' or 'Site' (where referring to the area of the Proposed Masterplan), for Derrinturn, Co Kildare. This report contains information to enable the competent authority to undertake Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening in respect of the Proposed Masterplan.

1.2 Legislative Background

The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) seeks to conserve natural habitats and wild fauna and flora by the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) seeks to protect birds of special importance by the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). It is the responsibility of each Member State to designate SPAs and SACs, both of which will form part of the Natura 2000 Network, a network of protected sites throughout the European Community. These designated sites are referred to as 'Natura 2000 sites' or 'European sites'. SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II species (other than birds). SPAs are selected for the conservation of Annex I birds and other regularly occurring migratory birds and their habitats. The annexed habitats and species for which each site is selected correspond to the Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of the sites; from these the conservation objectives of the site are derived.

An AA is a required assessment to determine the likelihood of significant effects, based on best scientific knowledge, of any plans or projects on European sites. Screening for AA determines whether a plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European site, in view of its conservation objectives.

This AA Screening has been undertaken to determine the potential for significant effects on relevant European sites. The purpose of this assessment is to determine, the appropriateness, or otherwise, of the Proposed Masterplan in the context of the conservation objectives of such sites.

1.2.1 Legislative Context

The obligations in relation to AA have been implemented in Ireland under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ("the 2000 Act"), and in particular Section 177U and Section 177V thereof. The relevant provisions of Section 177U in relation to AA screening have been set out below:

"177U.— (1) A screening for appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

(2)...

(3)...

(4) The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed development, as the case may be, is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

(5) The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed development, as the case may be, is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.”

An Appropriate Assessment is required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive where a project or plan may give rise to significant effects upon a European site. Paragraph 3 states that:

“6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site, in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

1.2.2 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

This AA Screening Report (the 'Screening Report') has been prepared by Enviroguide Consulting. It considers whether the Proposed Masterplan is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites and whether a Stage 2 AA is required.

The AA process is a four-stage process (Figure 1). Each stage requires different considerations, assessments and tests to ultimately arrive at the relevant conclusion for each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

Overview of Screening and Appropriate Assessment

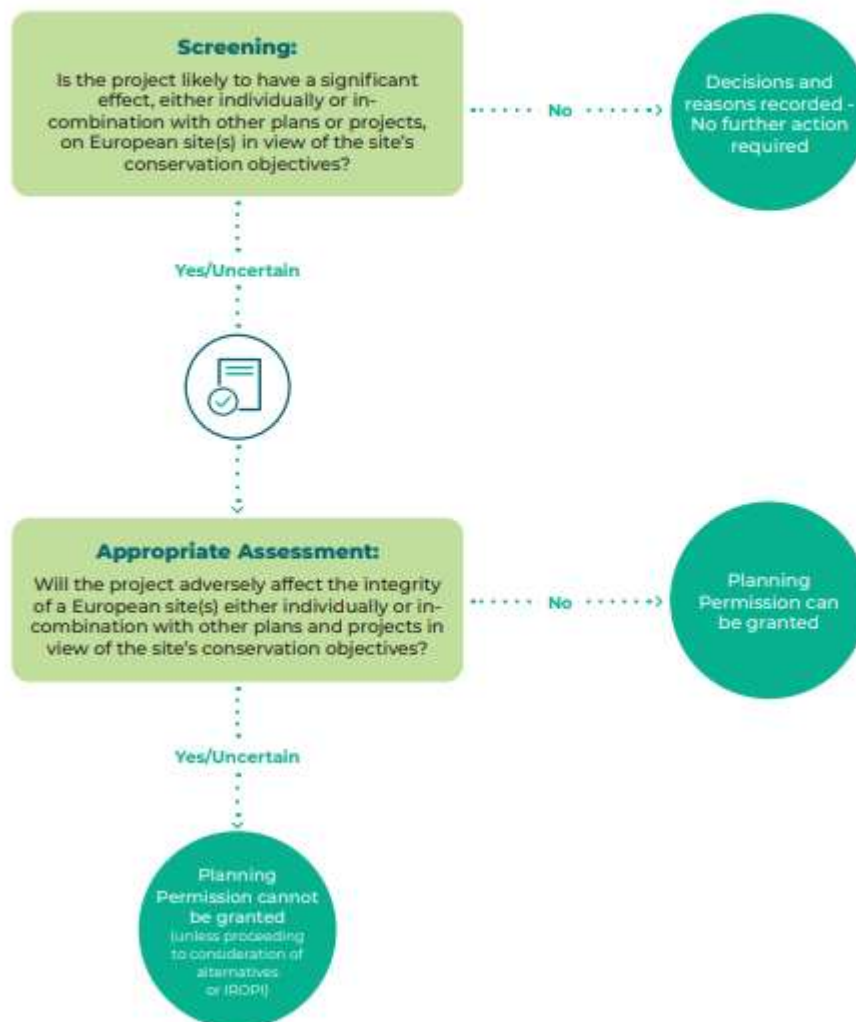


FIGURE 1. OVERVIEW OF SCREENING AND APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (OPR, 2021).

The four stages of an AA, can be summarised as follows:

- Stage 1: *Screening*. The first stage of the AA process is to determine the likelihood of significant effects of the proposal, this addresses:
 - whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the European site, or
 - whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European site in view of its conservation objectives.
- Stage 2: *Appropriate Assessment*. The second stage of the AA requires the competent authority to determine whether the project or plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site, having regard to the conservation objectives of the site and its ecological structure

and function. The developer must provide a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to the competent authority to inform the AA, which is a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive of the potential impacts of a proposed development, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites. It must include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any potential impacts for one or more than one European site in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites. The competent authority must consult with the public in relation to any plan or project that requires AA. If the competent authority determines that the plan or project would have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site, it can only grant consent after proceeding through stages 3 and 4.

- **Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions.** If the outcome of Stage 2 is negative i.e., adverse impacts to the sites cannot be scientifically ruled out, despite mitigation, the plan or project should proceed to Stage 3 or be abandoned. This stage examines alternative solutions to the proposal.
- **Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.** The final stage is the main derogation process examining whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) for allowing a plan or project to adversely affect a European site, where no less damaging solution exists.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Guidance

This Screening Report has been undertaken in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities.* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.* Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle* (European Commission, 2000);
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2019).
- *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2021); and
- *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, OPR Practice Note PN01, Office of the Planning Regulator March 2021.*

2.2 Screening Steps

This Screening Report has been undertaken in accordance with the European Communities Methodological Guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2002) and the European Commission Guidance 'Managing Natura 2000 sites' (EC, 2000). Screening for AA involves the following steps:

- Establish whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary for the management of a European site;
- Description of the plan or project and the description and characterisation of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the European site;
- Identification of European sites potentially affected;
- Identification and description of potential effects on the European site;
- Assessment of the likely significance of the effects identified on the European site; and
- Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects.

2.3 Desk Study

A desktop study was carried out to collate and review available information, datasets and documentation sources relevant for the completion of this Screening Report. The desktop study relied on the following sources:

- Information on the network of European sites, boundaries, qualifying interests and conservation objectives, obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) at www.npws.ie;
- Text summaries of the relevant European sites taken from the respective Standard Data Forms and site synopses available at www.npws.ie;
- Information on waterbodies, catchment areas and hydrological connections obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at www.gis.epa.ie;
- Information on bedrock, groundwater, aquifers and their statuses, obtained from Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) at www.gsi.ie;
- Satellite imagery and mapping obtained from various sources and dates including Google, Digital Globe, Bing and Ordnance Survey Ireland; and
- Information on the existence of permitted developments, or developments awaiting decision, in the vicinity of the Proposed Masterplan from KCC.

For a complete list of the specific documents consulted as part of this assessment, see *Section 5 References*.

2.4 Field Surveys

No field surveys were deemed necessary for the preparation of this Screening Report.

2.5 Identification of Relevant European Sites

In order to identify the European sites that potentially lie within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) of the Proposed Masterplan, a Source-Path-Receptor (S-P-R) method was adopted, as described in 'OPR Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management' (OPR, 2021), a practice note produced by the Office of the Planning Regulator, Dublin. This note was published to provide guidance on screening for AA during the planning process, and although it focuses on the approach a planning authority should take in screening for AA, the methodology is also readily applied in the preparation of Screening Reports such as this.

The methodology used to identify relevant European sites comprised the following:

- Identification of potential sources of effects based on the Proposed Masterplan description and details;
- Use of up-to-date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments – downloaded from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie) and the EPA website (www.epa.ie) to identify European sites which could potentially be affected by the Proposed Masterplan; and
- Identification of potential pathways between the Proposed Masterplan and any European sites within the ZOI of any of the identified sources of effects.
 - The catchment data were used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Masterplan and any European sites.
 - Groundwater and bedrock information used to establish or discount potential hydrogeological connectivity between the Proposed Masterplan and any European sites.
 - Air and land connectivity assessed based on Proposed Masterplan details and proximity to European sites.

There is absolutely no reliance placed in this Screening Report on mitigation measures intended to avoid/reduce harmful effects on the European sites.

2.6 Assessment of Significant Effects

The potential for significant effects that may arise from the Proposed Masterplan was considered through the use of key indicators, namely:

- Habitat loss or alteration
- Habitat/species fragmentation
- Disturbance and/or displacement of species
- Changes in population density
- Changes in water quality and resource

In addition, information pertaining to the conservation objectives of the European sites, the ecology of the designated habitats and species and known or perceived sensitivities of the habitats and species were considered.

3 STAGE 1 SCREENING

3.1 Management of European Sites

The Proposed Masterplan at Derrinturn is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European sites.

3.2 Derrinturn Town Renewal Masterplan

3.2.1 Derrinturn Town – Location & Description

Derrinturn is a small town, located in the north-west of the County along the Regional Road, R403 between Allenwood to the south east, Carbury to the north west and Edenderry (Co. Offaly) to the west. Derrinturn is located approximately 21km from Clane and 30km from Naas (Figure 2). Derrinturn is a local service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland.

The settlement developed mainly around the erection of the R.C. Chapel in 1807 and later the school in c.1815. Derrinturn is located within the Western Boglands Landscape Character Area, which is characterised by flat topography, smooth terrain and bogland vegetation. Surrounding agricultural lands are generally pastureland with a well-developed pattern of medium-sized and larger fields and an established hedgerow system. Today, Derrinturn town has a population of 1602 people (Census 2016).

The prime land use within the Derrinturn is residential, with some educational, retail, health, commercial and religious land uses, which represent the key destinations to and within the town (Figure 3). The regional road, R403 runs through Derrinturn and connects the town to Carbury, Johnstownbridge and the wider road network to the north and to the R414 to the south. In addition, within short drive from the town are the Ballindoolin House & Gardens, Carbury Castle and Motte, Carrickoris Castle and Grange Castle.

Derrinturn is served by Bus Éireann route 120, providing a service between Tullamore and Dublin. Derrinturn is also on the North Kildare Tourist Route.

Derrinturn has developed in a linear urban form along the R403 with facilities and services accessed directly off the regional road. This regional road experiences significant through traffic generating passing trade. The town centre has developed with no established building line and poor street frontage. The streetscape of the town should be improved and visually enhanced. No general public open space or park is provided in Derrinturn.

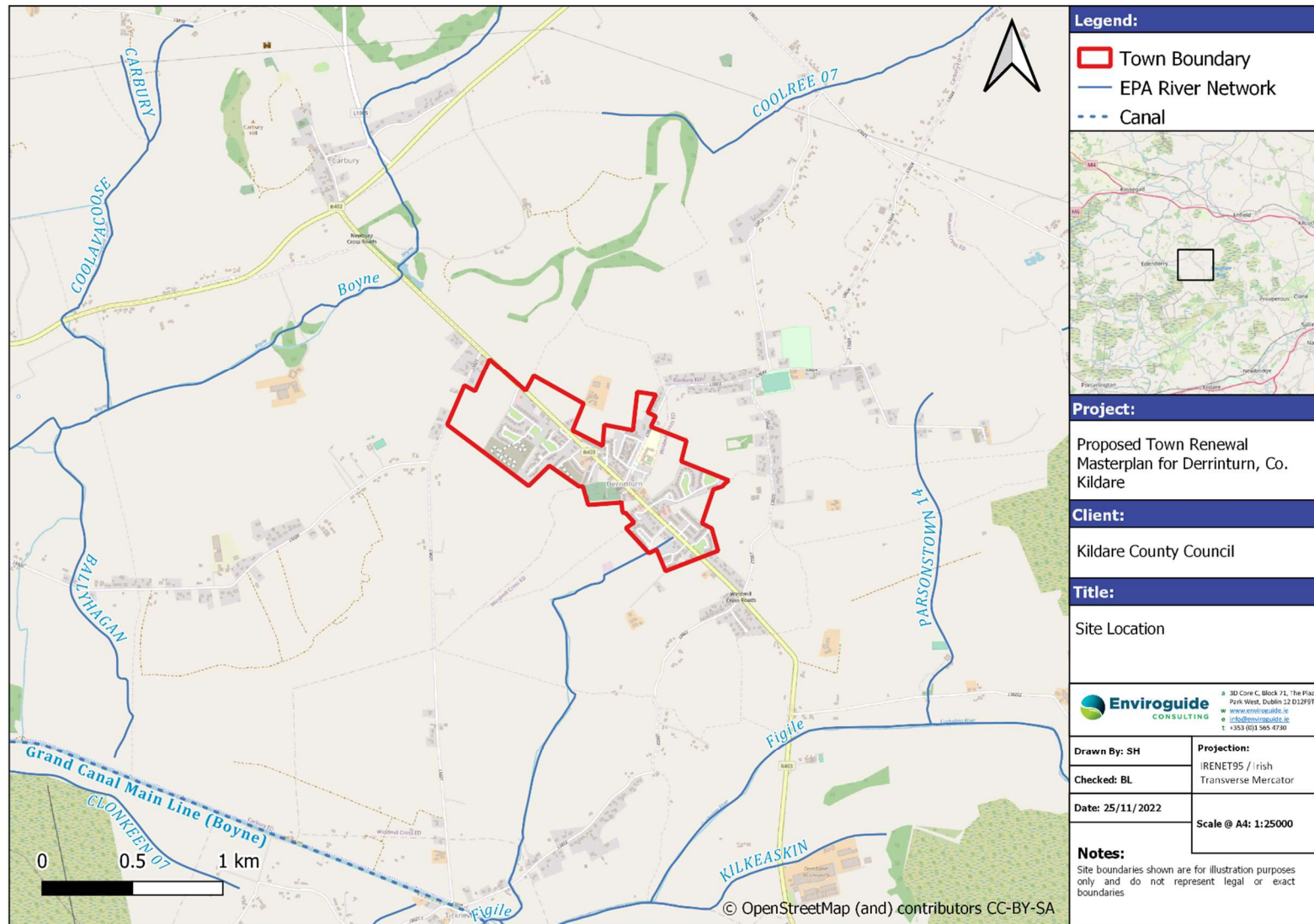


FIGURE 2. SITE LOCATION



FIGURE 3. DERRINTURN TOWN EXISTING LAYOUT (SOURCE: DERRINTURN TRMP (KCC 2022))

3.2.2 Derrinturn Town Renewal Masterplan – Main Objectives

Volume 2 of the Kildare County Development Plan (KCDP) 2023-2029 provides a planning framework for the development of small towns and villages. Section 2.3 describes Derrinturn's form, context and objectives for future development.

The central aim of the Proposed Masterplan is to support the renewal of Derrinturn in order to improve the living and working environment of its communities and increase its potential to support tourism and economic activity into the future. The overall intention is to:

- Increase the attractiveness of the town as a service centre for its rural hinterland, and as a result increase its sustainability as a place in which to live and work;
- Enhance the town environment and amenities in the interests of residents, businesses, and visitors; and
- Promote the town potential for tourism and as a centre for culture and local heritage, thus enhancing the sense of identity – physically and socially.

The Proposed Masterplan seeks to build on the very strong asset base of Derrinturn, to ensure it retains its strong identity, to contribute to its enhancement, and to create opportunities which are unique to Derrinturn for its citizens to identify with. As a town with growth potential, it needs to ensure that its current and future growth areas stitch into the town centre and its community base, and draw on its character and sense of place (Figure 4).

The objectives of the Renewal Plan are to:

1. Create the opportunities for enabling strategies that the local community, stakeholders, and KCC can support and sustain for the future development of the town.
2. Enhance the vitality and vibrancy of Derrinturn through ensuring future growth areas and underutilised/derelict sites are woven into the town and the urban structure is consolidated.
3. Create an enhanced environment for people living, working, and visiting the town through public realm interventions, encouraging and sustaining economic growth.
4. Re-balance the movement network ensuring accessibility for all, to further enhance the walking and cycling environment, prioritizing public over private transport, and creating safe connections and places for people.
5. Enhance landscape quality and positive 'sense of place' in the town which in turn will not only help combat the effects of climate change but also support higher property values and rental yields.
6. Create a Compact Low-Carbon Climate Resilient Town including strategic regeneration proposals incorporating best practice in low-carbon placemaking and design, the promotion of sustainable transport modes and the enhancement of biodiversity in the town through blue and green infrastructure developments.

The Proposed Masterplan identifies seven (7 no.) key priority projects for the regeneration of Derrinturn (Figure 5), these are:

1. **Public Realm Design Guidelines:** These guidelines would be prepared in an aim to create a unified and visually attractive environment. This effort will ultimately act as an investment catalyst, encouraging private property upgrades and new development.
2. **Local shops on Main Street:** A number of potential projects are identified, and key recommendations are made by the Proposed Masterplan to improve pedestrian safety

and facilities, parking, traffic flows, and bring about a 'sense of place' in the town centre.

3. **The Turn Inn:** The Proposed Masterplan makes recommendations for improving the public realm areas in front of the Turn Inn, including widening footpaths, optimising parking and improving the soft landscaping in the area.
4. **Pedestrian facilities and Traffic calming:** The Proposed Masterplan makes recommendations for reducing the town speed limit, tightening turning radiuses at junctions, and introducing raised platforms.
5. **St Conleth's National School:** The Proposed Masterplan makes recommendations to improve the pedestrian safety and sense of place around the school by pencil bollards, zonation, and improved parking options.
6. **Derrinturn Community Park and Play Areas:** The Proposed Masterplan makes a recommendation for a community park as a multiuse passive recreation, sports, activity and events hub on amenity zoned lands.
7. **Sli Na Slainte Improvement Works:** The Proposed Masterplan makes recommendations for the improvement of the Sli Na Slainte walking route for pedestrian safety and amenity.

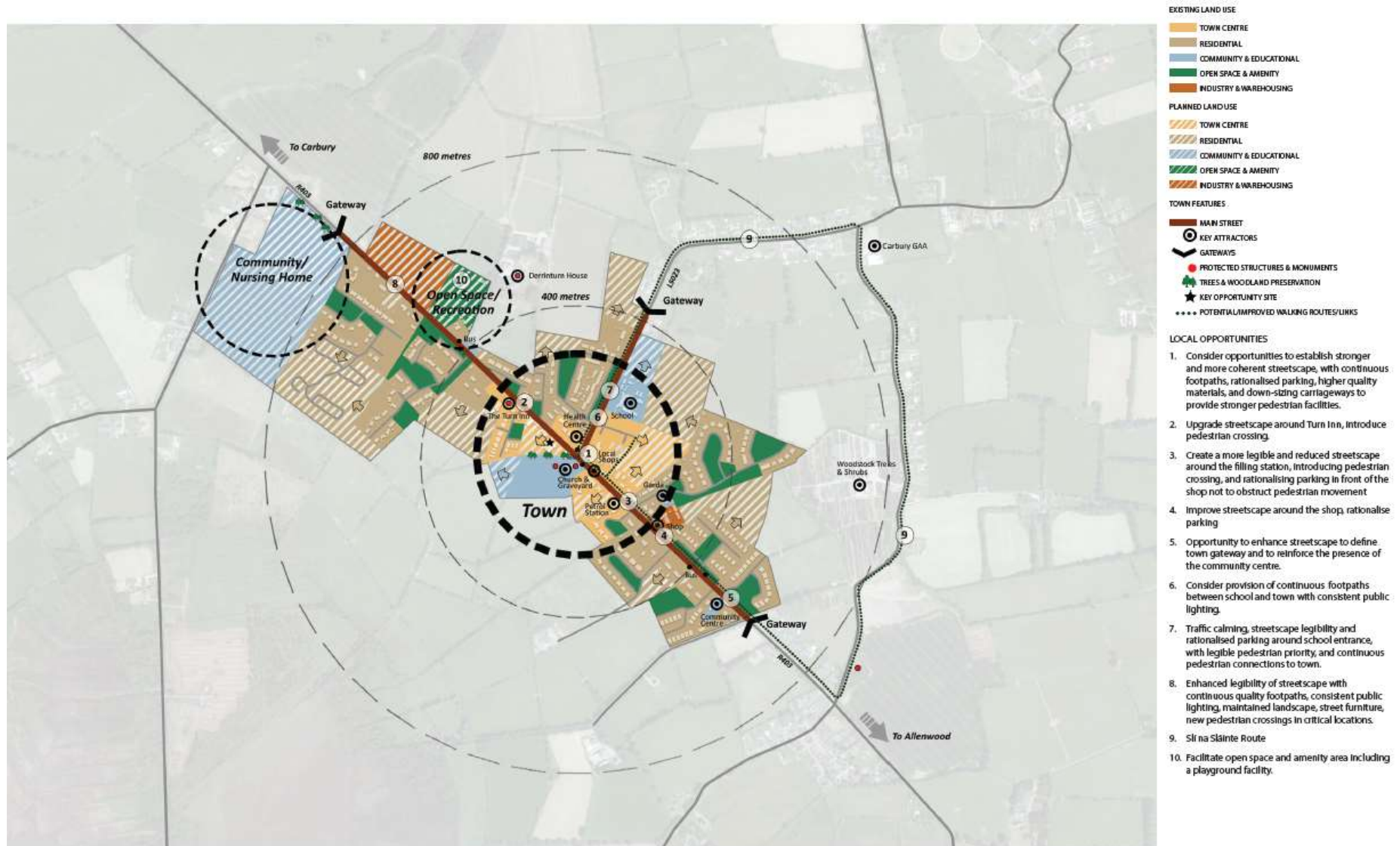
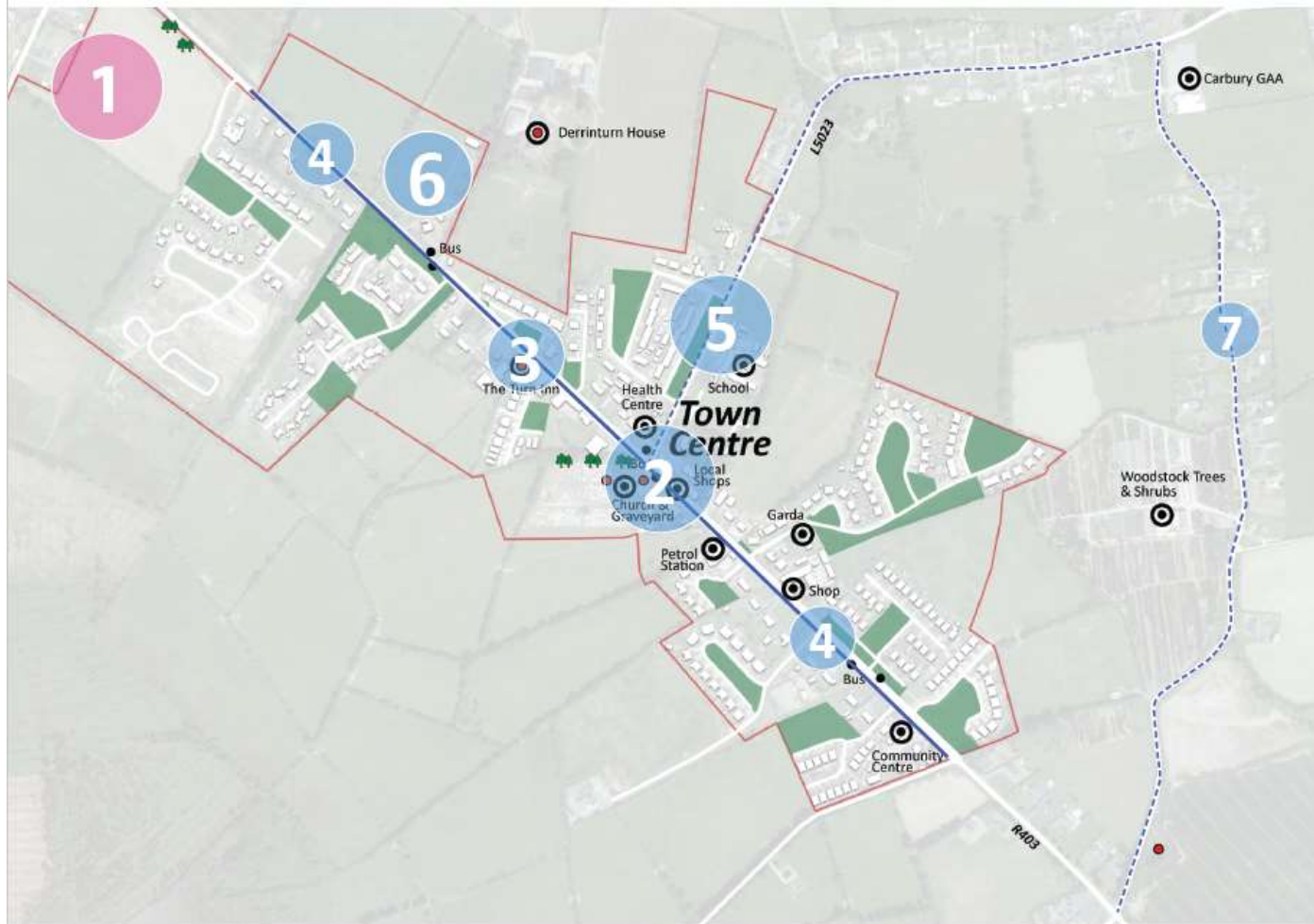


FIGURE 4. PROPOSED OPPORTUNITY AREAS (SOURCE: DERRINTURN TRMP (KCC, 2022))



KEY PROJECTS

1. Public Realm Design Guidelines
2. Local Shops on Main Street
3. The Turn Inn
4. Pedestrian facilities & traffic calming
5. St Conleth's National School Zone
6. Community Park
7. Sli Na Slainte



Local Shops



The Turn Inn



National School

FIGURE 5. PROPOSED KEY PRIORITY PROJECTS (SOURCE: DERRINTURN TRMP (KCC, 2022))

3.3 Existing Environment

3.3.1 Hydrology

The town has been mapped by the EPA (EPA, 2022b) to be within the Boyne and Barrow Water Framework Directive (WFD) Catchments (Catchment IDs: 07 and 14, respectively), the Boyne_SC_010 and Figile_SC_010 Sub-Catchments, (Sub-catchment IDs: 07_4 and 14_03, respectively) and the Boyne_010 and FIGILE_010 WFD River Sub Basins (European Codes: IE_EA_07B040200 and IE_SE_14F010061, respectively).

The Figile_010 is a tributary to the main Figile River and flows south from the southern end of Derrinturn town. It has an ecological status of *Poor* and is projected to be *At risk* of not achieving its WFD objectives (EPA, 2022). The next nearest watercourse to the town is a tributary of the Boyne, known as Boyne_010. This 2nd order stream crosses the R403 approx. 650m northwest of the town of Derrinturn. The Boyne_010 has been assigned a *Moderate* ecological status, and is projected to be *At risk* of not achieving its WFD objectives (EPA 2022).

No other notable watercourses are located in the vicinity of the Proposed Masterplan.

3.3.2 Geology and Hydrogeology

The Site is situated on the Trim (IE_EA_G_002) groundwater body. The WFD status of the Trim GWB is *Good* but is projected to be *At Risk* of not achieving its WFD objectives. The two bedrock aquifer types across the town are;

- '*Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones*'; and,
- '*Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive*'

The groundwater rock units underlying and following contours of the aquifer types are classified as *Dinantian Pure Unbedded Limestones* and *Dinantian Upper Impure Limestones*, respectively. The level of vulnerability to groundwater contamination from human activities is *High* across the town (GSI, 2022).

The town is underlain by two types of subsoils. *Made* ground covers the majority of the main street, surrounded by Carboniferous *Limestone till* (EPA, 2022).

3.4 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The following sections detail the results of the S-P-R method applied as outlined in section 2.5.

3.4.1 Potential Sources of Effects

The Proposed Masterplan will act as a non-statutory framework for the enhancement of the Derrinturn town, including recommendations for public realm design guidelines, road and traffic flow improvements, enhancing the feel of "welcome" at gateways to the town and addition of green spaces and footpaths. The Proposed Masterplan itself does not propose any direct works.

Therefore, potential sources of effects do not directly relate to development proposals but are identified to represent *potential development projects* undertaken as recommended by the Proposed Masterplan.

The following elements of the Proposed Masterplan were identified and assessed for their potential to cause likely significant effects on European sites:

- Uncontrolled releases of surface water containing silt/sediments and other pollutants into the Figile tributary during any road improvement projects.
- Uncontrolled releases of surface water containing pollutants into the ground water during road improvement projects.
- Accidental spread of invasive plants from greening projects.
- Increased traffic and associated pollution as a result of increased visitors by private car.

Although assessed here as part of the Proposed Masterplan, any future development projects undertaken with cognisance to the Proposed Masterplan are subject to the appropriate environmental assessments as per the policies set out in the KCDP 2017-2023.

3.4.2 Potential Pathways to European Sites

For the above listed potential sources of effects to have the potential to cause likely significant effects on any European site, a pathway between the source of potential effects (i.e., the Site of the Proposed Masterplan) and the receptor is required. The potential for pathways between European sites and the Proposed Masterplan Site was assessed on a case-by-case basis using the S-P-R framework as per the OPR Practice Note PN01 (OPR, 2021). Pathways considered included:

- a. Direct pathways e.g., proximity/location within a European site, water bodies, air (for both air emissions and noise impacts).
- b. Indirect pathways e.g., disruption to migratory paths, 'Sightlines' where noisy or intrusive activities may result in disturbance to shy species.

Potential impact pathways are discussed in the following sections in the context of the potential impact sources as identified in section 3.4.1.

3.4.2.1 Direct Pathways

Hydrological pathways

The Site is located adjacent to a tributary of the Figile River, which flows in a generally southerly direction. This river joins with a number of other tributaries along the Figile River, and ultimately joins the river Barrow at Monasterevin over 35 river km downstream, where it also connects to the River Barrow And River Nore SAC (002162). Considering the nature of the Proposed Masterplan and the distance between the Site and the downstream European site, this pathway is considered to be insignificant.

No other European sites are linked to the Site via hydrological means.

Hydrogeological pathways

During groundworks and other construction activities that may result from developments made under the Proposed Masterplan, the ground will be exposed and any potential accidental

discharges to ground could potentially migrate vertically downward to the underlying bedrock aquifer and laterally within the aquifer to downgradient receiving surface waterbodies, i.e., the Figile or the Boyne. However, considering the combined distance from the Site via groundwater and the riverine system any potential pollutants would have to travel prior to reaching the European sites downstream, it is considered the dilution and dispersion potential of the receiving ground and freshwater environments deems the hydrogeological pathway insignificant.

Air and land pathways

No air and land pathways from the Proposed Masterplan to any European sites were identified, as the distance between the Site and the nearest designated sites (The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC (000925), approx. 4.1 km southwest) is deemed sufficient to exclude any potential for impacts from increases in noise, lighting and/or dust or other airborne pollutants.

3.4.2.2 Indirect Pathways

No indirect pathways (e.g., disruptions to migratory paths) were identified.

3.4.3 Relevant European Sites

A European site will only be at risk from likely significant effects where a S-P-R link exists between the Proposed Masterplan Site and the European site. The preceding steps did not identify any S-P-R links of note, and therefore no further assessment is required. The European sites considered under the various potential pathways are listed in Table 1, and European sites within a 10 km radius of the Proposed Masterplan are shown in Figure 6 for information purposes.

TABLE 1. EUROPEAN SITES CONSIDERED WITH THE SOURCE-PATHWAY-RECEPTOR (S-P-R) METHOD TO ESTABLISH NOTABLE LINKS BETWEEN THE SOURCES OF AFFECTS ARISING FROM THE PROPOSED MASTERPLAN, AND ANY RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES. THOSE SITES WITH NOTABLE S-P-R LINKS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN (IF ANY).

European site	QIs / SCIs	Potential Pathways
River Barrow And River Nore SAC (002162)	Habitats 1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1170 Reefs 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation 4030 European dry heaths 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)*	Hydrological (insignificant) via the Figile River

	<p>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles 91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)*</p> <p>Species</p> <p>1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 1103 Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) 1990 Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) 1421 Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)</p>	
<p>The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC (000925)</p> <p>Linear Distance to Proposed Masterplan: approx. 4.1 km</p>	<p>Habitats</p> <p>6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)</p>	<p>Air and land (insignificant)</p>

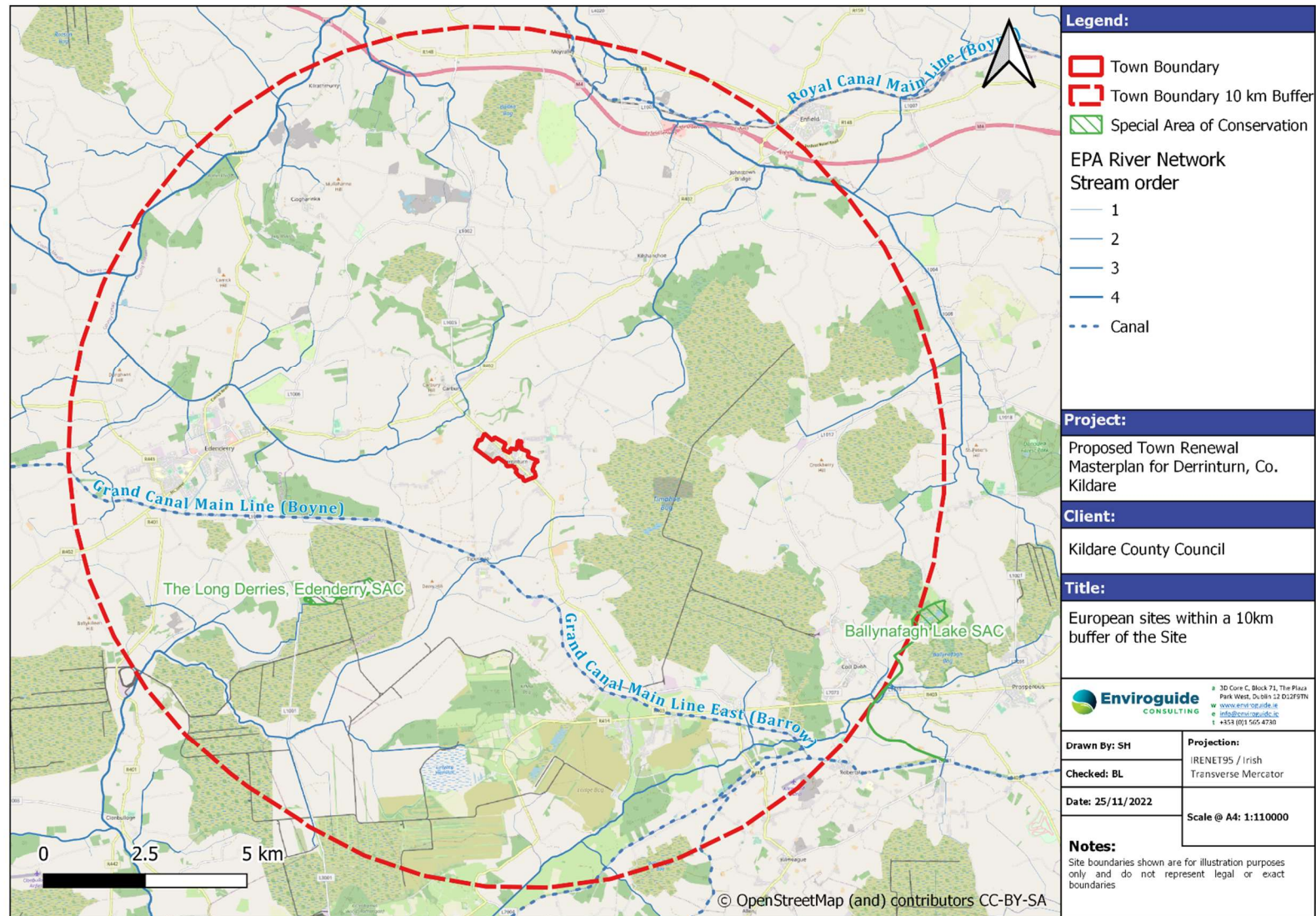


FIGURE 6. EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN A 10KM RADIUS OF THE PROPOSED MASTERPLAN.

3.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

As the preceding sections show, no S-P-R links of note were identified. As such there will be no risk of significant effects on any European sites or on their qualifying interests as a result of the Proposed Masterplan alone. Therefore, no further assessment is required.

3.5.1 Potential for In-combination Effects

Although the Proposed Masterplan is not considered to have the capacity to cause significant effects on any European sites alone, it is important to consider the potential for cumulative effects with other plans and/or projects. The following sections outline existing granted or pending planning permissions in the vicinity of the Proposed Masterplan and assess the potential for adverse in-combination effects on any European sites.

3.5.1.1 Existing Granted or Pending Planning Permissions

A search of planning applications located within the Proposed Masterplan area and within a 1 km radius of the Site was undertaken using online planning resources such as the National Planning Application Database (NPAD) (MyPlan.ie) and Kildare County Council's Planning Applications Map Viewer (<http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/planningenquiry>). Any planning applications listed as granted or decision pending from within the last five years were assessed for their potential to act in-combination with the Proposed Masterplan and cause likely significant effects on the relevant European sites. Long-term developments granted outside of this time period were also considered where applicable.

It is noted that there are a limited number of permitted developments within the Site of the Proposed Masterplan. Only one larger existing project within the Proposed Masterplan area was identified that has not yet completed construction and was sought an Extension of Duration under **Reg. Ref. 171296**:

"Extension of Duration of Planning File Ref. 06/253 & 11/1095 - 77 dwellings with 6 no. type A detached bungalows, 23 no. type B detached two-storey houses, 14 no. type C semi-detached two-storey houses, 26 no. type D semi-detached two-storey houses, 8 no. type E terraced two-storey houses in two blocks etc."

With due consideration of the distance to the nearest European sites, and the lack of a significant hydrological and hydrogeological pathways, it is considered that no potential exists for significant in-combination effects on any European sites.

3.5.1.2 Relevant Policies and Plans

The following policies and plans were reviewed and considered for possible in-combination effects with the Proposed Masterplan.

- Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2017-2023
- Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029

Both County Development Plans have directly addressed the protection of European sites through specific policies and objectives. Additionally, the Natura Impact Report for the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 concludes that *"the Plan itself, subject to it securing the mitigation detailed in this report, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site either alone or in*

combination with other plans or projects.” Therefore, **no in-combination effects are expected** with the relevant policies and plans.

4 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING CONCLUSION

The Proposed Town Renewal Masterplan for Derrinturn, Co. Kildare, has been assessed taking into account:

- The nature, size and location of the proposed works and possible impacts arising from the construction works.
- The qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the European sites.
- The potential for in-combination effects arising from other plans and projects.

In conclusion, upon the examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information and applying the precautionary principle, it is concluded by the authors of this report that, on the basis of objective information; the possibility **may be excluded** that the Proposed Masterplan will have a significant effect on any European sites.

As such, no further assessment is required. In carrying out this AA screening, mitigation measures have not been taken into account. Standard best practice construction measures which could have the effect of mitigating any effects on any European Sites have similarly not been taken into account.

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