




**Enviroguide**  
CONSULTING


# Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

FOR  
PROPOSED  
TOWN RENEWAL MASTERPLAN  
AT  
Derrinturn  
Co. Kildare

ON BEHALF OF  
Kildare County Council

Prepared by  
Enviroguide Consulting

 *Dublin*  
3D Core C, Block 71, The Plaza,  
Park West, Dublin 12

 *Kerry*  
19 Henry Street  
Kenmare, Co. Kerry

 *Wexford*  
M10 Wexford Enterprise  
Centre, Strandfield Business  
Park, Rosslare Road, Wexford

 [www.enviroguide.ie](http://www.enviroguide.ie)  
 [info@enviroguide.ie](mailto:info@enviroguide.ie)  
 +353 1 565 4730



**Enviroguide**  
CONSULTING

## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

<b>Client</b>	Kildare County Council
<b>Project Title</b>	Proposed Town Renewal Masterplan at Derrinturn, Co. Kildare
<b>Document Title</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

Revision	Status	Author(s)	Reviewed	Approved	Issue Date
<b>0.0</b>	Draft for internal review	Sanni Hintikka <i>Ecologist</i>		-	-
<b>1.0</b>	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
<b>2.0</b>	Consultation 1 (Environmental Authorities)	Sanni Hintikka <i>Ecologist</i>	Ben Lansbury <i>Principal Ecologist</i>	Lizy Tinsley <i>Technical Director - Ecology</i>	09.12.2022
<b>3.0</b>	Final SEA Screening Determination	Sanni Hintikka <i>Ecologist</i>	Ben Lansbury <i>Principal Ecologist</i>	Ben Lansbury <i>Principal Ecologist</i>	10.02.2023

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	ii
LIST OF TABLES .....	ii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	ii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT FOR SEA .....	4
1.2 REQUIREMENT TO CARRY OUT SEA – PRE-SCREENING CHECKLIST.....	4
<b>2 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 NATIONAL CONTEXT .....	6
2.1.1 <i>Project Ireland 2040</i> .....	6
2.1.2 <i>National Planning Framework</i> .....	6
2.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT .....	6
2.2.1 <i>Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy</i> .....	6
2.2.2 <i>Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023</i> .....	7
2.2.3 <i>Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029</i> .....	7
<b>3 PROPOSED MASTERPLAN DESCRIPTION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1.1 <i>Derrinturn Town – Location &amp; Description</i> .....	7
3.1.2 <i>Derrinturn Town Renewal Masterplan – Main Objectives</i> .....	11
<b>4 SEA SCREENING .....</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 SCREENING CRITERIA .....	15
4.2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT AND RELATIONSHIP TO SCREENING FOR SEA .....	20
4.2.1 <i>Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion</i> .....	20
<b>5 CONSULTATION .....</b>	<b>21</b>
5.1 STATUTORY CONSULTATION .....	21
5.1.1 <i>Environmental Authorities</i> .....	21
5.1.2 <i>Consultation Responses</i> .....	21
<b>6 SCREENING DETERMINATION .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>7 REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>25</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Screening determination for determining the likely significance of effects as per Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435/2004. ....	15
---	----

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Decision-tree setting out requirements for SEA under S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended (Source: DHLGH, 2022). ....	5
---	---

Figure 2. Site Location ..... 9  
Figure 3. Derrinturn Town existing layout (source: Derrinturn TRMP (KCC 2022)) ..... 10  
Figure 4. Proposed opportunity areas (source: Derrinturn TRMP (KCC, 2022))..... 13  
Figure 5. Proposed Key Priority Projects (Source: Derrinturn TRMP (KCC, 2022))..... 14

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by Enviroguide Consulting (on behalf of Kildare County Council) for the Proposed Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) at Derrinturn, Co. Kildare, hereafter referred to as 'Proposed Masterplan' in this document. This report considers whether the Proposed Masterplan is likely to cause significant effects on the environment, and whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.

### 1.1 Legislative context for SEA

An SEA is a process for the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme. SEA aims to provide a high level of protection to the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations during the preparation and adoption of plans with a view of promoting sustainable development.

The SEA evaluation process of plans and programmes is required by European Directive 2001/42/EC ('the SEA Directive'). For a specific range of land-use plans, this Directive is transposed into Irish law by Statutory Instrument (S.I.) No. 436 of 2004 (the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

For all other relevant plans and programmes in Ireland (including other types of plans in the land-use planning sector), the SEA Directive is transposed into Irish law by S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). The Proposed Masterplan presented in this report falls under S.I. 435/2004.

### 1.2 Requirement to carry out SEA – Pre-Screening Checklist

In order to determine if the Proposed Masterplan is considered a plan/programme under Article 3 of the SEA Directive, a pre-screening check is necessary. Figure 1 shows a decision-tree which reflects the SEA Directive and how it may be concluded (using the steps set down in S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended): a) if a plan is exempt from the Directive's requirements; b) if SEA is mandatory or c) if screening for SEA is required.

Following finalisation and publication, the Proposed Masterplan will be adopted by Kildare County Council and will act as a non-statutory guiding document for future urban development in the town of Derrinturn. Therefore, the Proposed Masterplan "*sets a framework for future development consent of projects (EIA and non-EIA projects)*", and thus Screening for SEA is required.

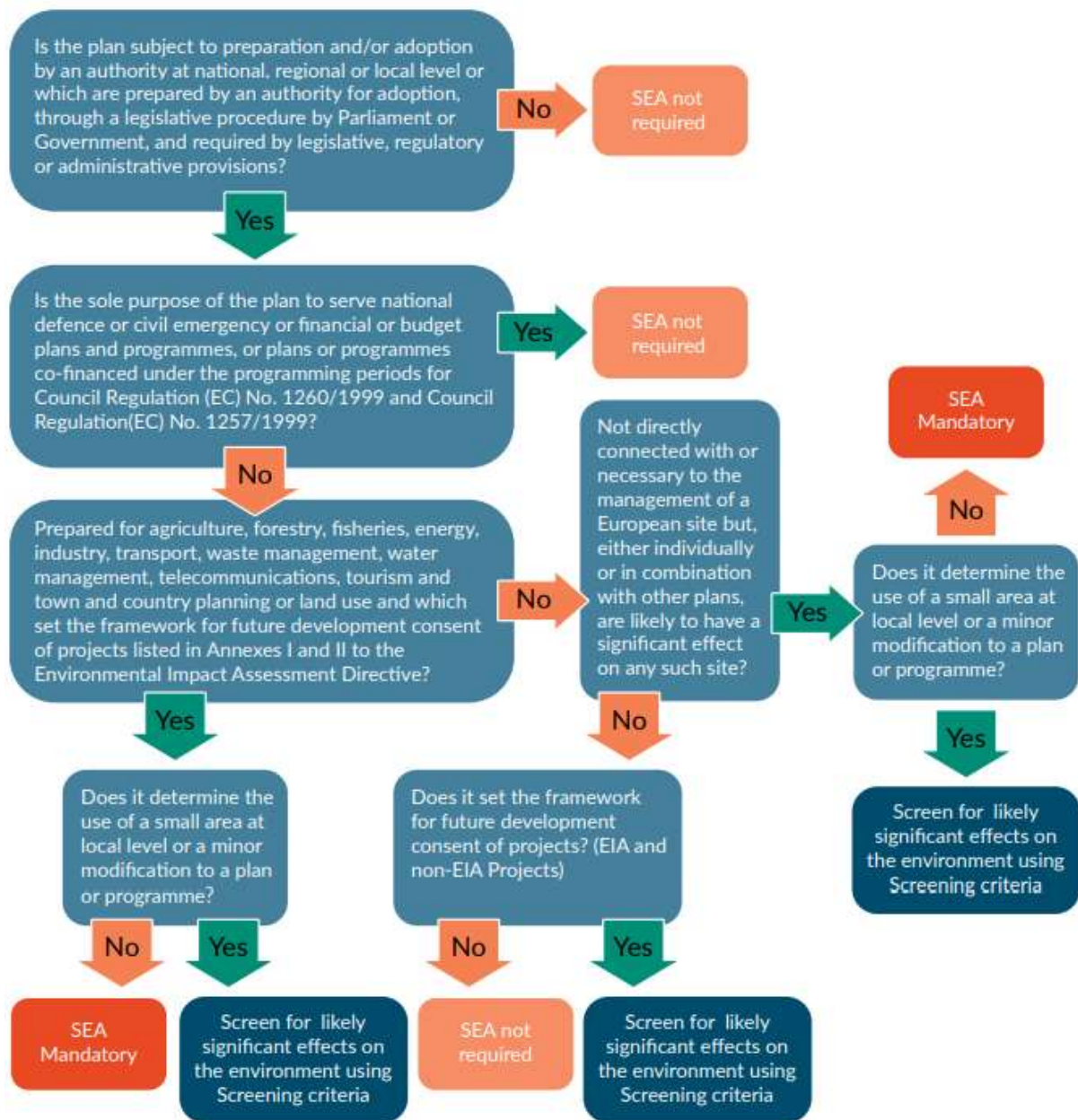


FIGURE 1. DECISION-TREE SETTING OUT REQUIREMENTS FOR SEA UNDER S.I. 435 OF 2004, AS AMENDED (SOURCE: DHLGH, 2022).

## **2 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICY**

### **2.1 National Context**

#### **2.1.1 Project Ireland 2040**

Project Ireland 2040 is the government's long-term overarching strategy to make Ireland a better country for all and to build a more resilient and sustainable future. The strategy ensures the alignment of investment plans with the stated National Strategic Objectives for 2040 in a considered, cohesive and defined manner. This represents a shift from the approach of the past, which saw funding spread thinly across sectors and public investment decisions. Alongside the development of physical infrastructure, Project Ireland 2040 supports business and communities across all of Ireland in realising their potential.

#### **2.1.2 National Planning Framework**

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the country to the year 2040. The NPF sets out ten National and Strategic Outcomes and 75 National Policy Objectives. The purpose of the NPF is to enable all parts of Ireland, whether rural or urban, to successfully accommodate growth and change, by facilitating a shift towards Ireland's regions and cities other than Dublin, while also recognising Dublin's ongoing key role.

Both the SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes were undertaken during the preparation of the NPF. The SEA and AA processes have ensured that potential environmental impacts (both positive and negative) associated with the NPF have been given due consideration in the finalisation of the NPF.

The NPF was supported by the publication of the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework ('Roadmap') which was published on the 3rd of July 2018. This document confirmed that the NPF was adopted as a strategy to replace the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) (2002-2020) and advised that the NPF is of direct relevance to the preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) and County Development Plans.

### **2.2 Regional Context**

#### **2.2.1 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy**

The RSES 2019-2031, prepared by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, seeks to determine at a regional scale how best to achieve the shared goals set out in the National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs) of the NPF. To this end, the Strategy sets out 16 Regional Strategic Outcomes (RSOs), which are aligned with international, EU and national policy and which in turn set the framework for city and county development plans. Thus, the RSES can assist local authorities in aligning with EU priorities to leverage funding and partnership opportunities.

The RSES outlines a set of Regional Policy Objectives for rural areas that shall be implemented by the local authorities when preparing and applying their own local Development Plans.

## **2.2.2 Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023**

The settlement strategy in Volume 1, Chapter 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (KCDP 2017-2023) allocates 0.6% of the overall population growth for the county to Derrinturn.

Section 1.4 of Volume 2 of the 2017-2023 Development Plan sets out a Small Town Plan for Derrinturn, contains background information and specific objectives for the future development of the town and includes relevant maps. The Small Town Plan details specific Development Objectives for Derrinturn, covering the following topics:

- Housing;
- Economic Development;
- Town Centre;
- Movement and Transport;
- Water, Drainage and Environmental Services;
- Energy and Communications;
- Retail and Commercial Development;
- Architectural and Archaeological Heritage;
- Recreation, Amenity and Open Space; and
- Community, Educational, Childcare and Cultural Facilities.

Furthermore, the SEA process for KCDP 2017-2023 identified specific aims, policies and objectives within the plan to mitigate any potentially negative effects on the environment.

## **2.2.3 Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029**

The new KCDP 2023-2029 takes effect from the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. As such, although the Proposed Masterplan was originally prepared with cognisance to the old KCDP, it is also aligned with the new plan and the policies detailed for small towns of which Derrinturn is one.

The settlement strategy in Volume 1, Chapter 2 of the new plan allocates 0.5% of the overall population growth for the county from 2023-2029 to Derrinturn. Like the KCDP 2017-2023, the new plan sets out the objectives for the town under topics of Town Centre, Public Realm, Social and Community Infrastructure, Natural Heritage, New Residential, Movement and Transport, Physical Infrastructure, and Surface Water.

The KCDP 2023-2029 underwent the statutory SEA process for county development planning and identified specific aims, policies, and objectives within the plan to mitigate any potentially negative effects on the environment.

# **3 PROPOSED MASTERPLAN DESCRIPTION**

## **3.1.1 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.

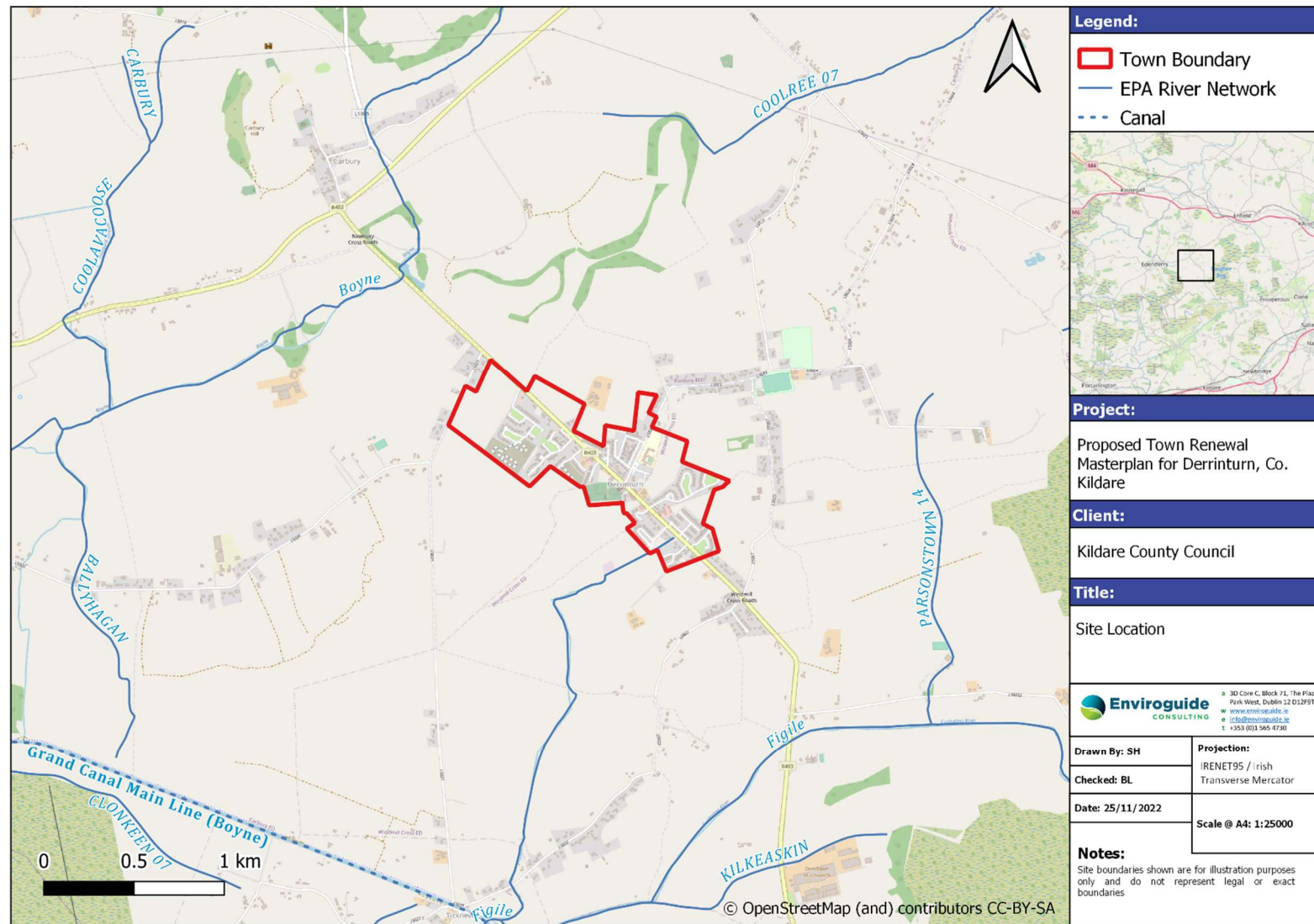


FIGURE 2. SITE LOCATION



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

### 3.1.2 Derrinturn Town Renewal Masterplan – Main Objectives

Volume 2 of the Kildare County Development Plan (KCDP) 2017-2023 provides a planning framework for the development of small towns and villages. Section 1.4 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 village 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 village 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 village.
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 village 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.

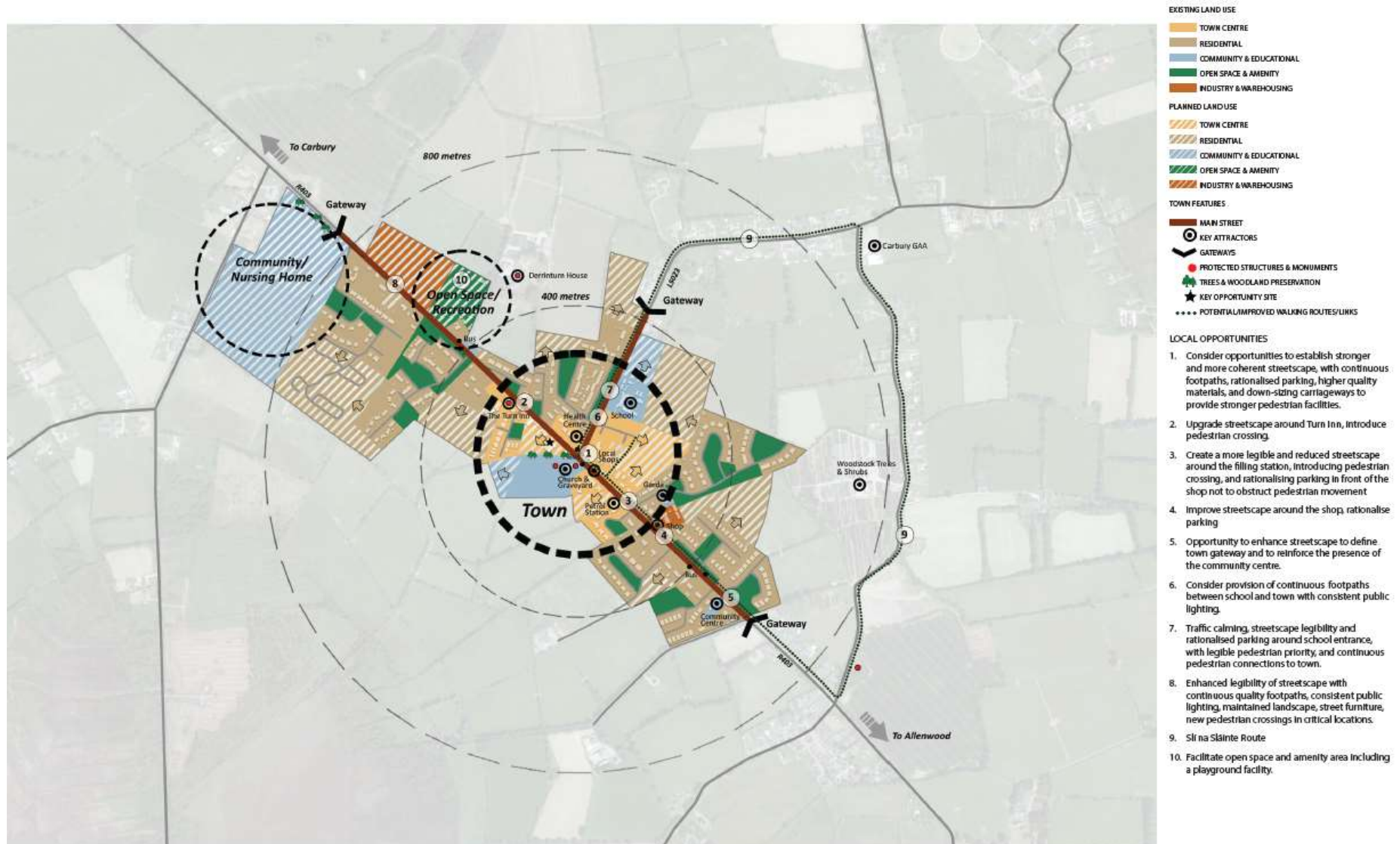
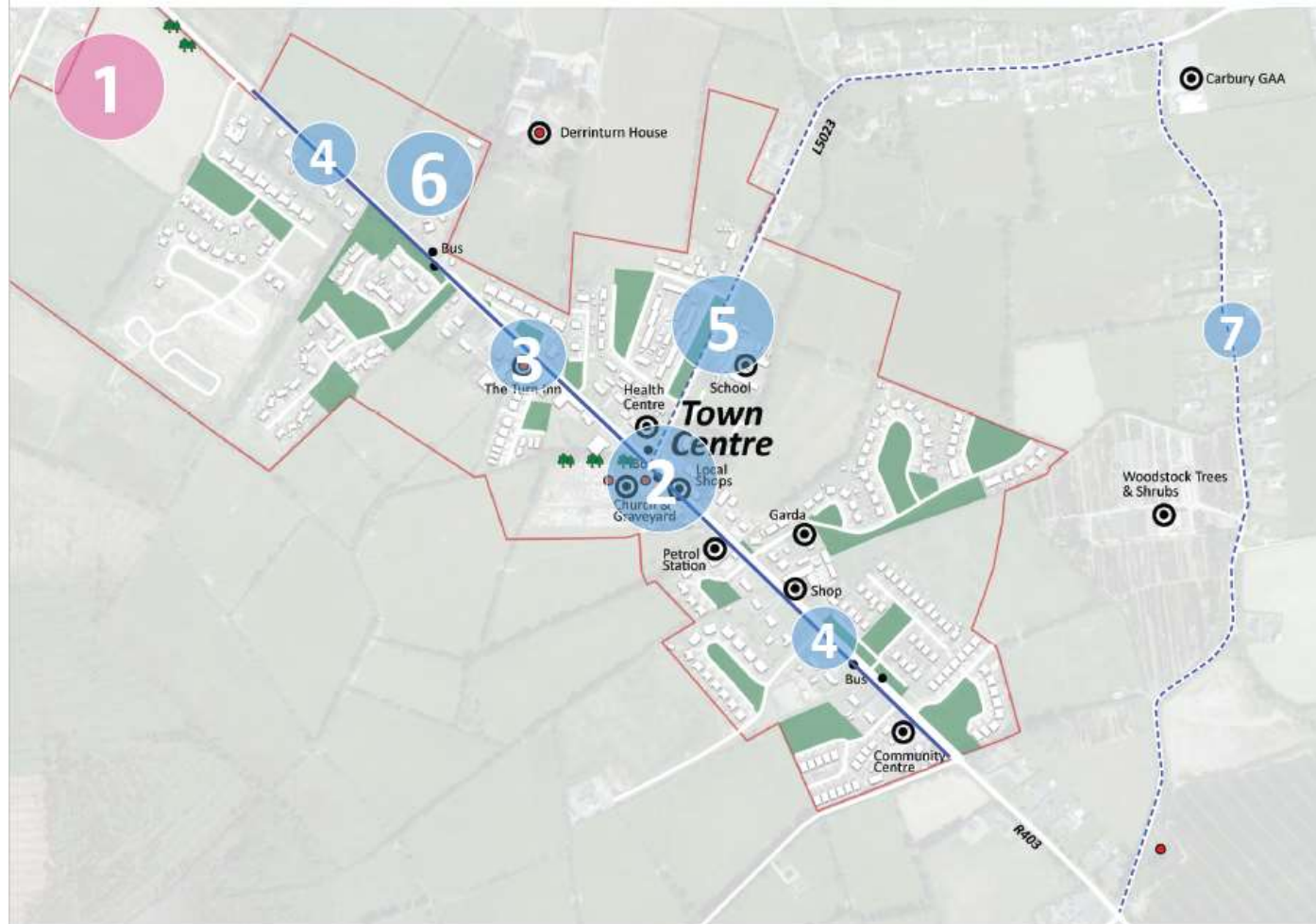


FIGURE 4. PROPOSED OPPORTUNITY AREAS (SOURCE: DERRINTURN TRMP (KCC, 2022))



**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))**

## 4 SEA SCREENING

### 4.1 Screening Criteria

The Proposed Masterplan is a non-statutory land use plan and is being screened for the requirement for SEA in accordance with the requirements of:

- Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) and particularly Articles 3(3), 3(4) & 3(5) relate to 'Screening' for the requirement for SEA.
- S.I. No. 435 of 2004 European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

The Proposed Masterplan for Derrinturn is therefore screened using the criteria contained in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004. Table 1 details the screening assessment using the *criteria for determining the likely significance of effects* as set out in Schedule 1.

**TABLE 1 SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS AS PER SCHEDULE 1 OF S.I. NO. 435/2004.**

#### 1. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to *(the following criteria)*:

*The degree to which the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.*

The Proposed Masterplan document will act as a guidance document for projects and other activities for the Derrinturn town. It sets a non-statutory framework for projects that focus on delivering the policy objectives for the town of Derrinturn, as detailed in the both the old and new county development plans. The Proposed Masterplan has a strong focus on improving the feel of the town to make it into a more welcoming and safer place for both residents and visitors alike.

Majority of the identified future projects and recommendations relate to place-making for people, re-vitalising underutilised / derelict sites within the town, slowing down vehicular traffic and adding landscaping and green spaces within the town. However, the Proposed Masterplan does not provide detailed designs or specific projects for planning at this stage. The Proposed Masterplan proposes that a set of Public Realm Design Guidelines be prepared for the town to ensure future development within the town is unified. The Design Guidelines, once prepared, will likely have an impact on the design of future development projects in the village, as the planning authority is likely to place some consideration on how development applications have incorporated/addressed the guidelines in their designs to ensure unity in the sustainable development of the town.

It is important to note that any future individual development within the Site of the Proposed Masterplan will be considered under the SEA, EIA and/or AA processes as appropriate.



*The degree to which the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, influences other plans including those in a hierarchy.*

The Proposed Masterplan will be a non-statutory plan that provides detail and clarity with regard to the existing land use objectives for the town. The principles at the core of the Proposed Masterplan are informed by the existing policy and key objectives in the current KCDP 2023-2029, as well as the strong idea of building a distinct identity for Derrinturn. Therefore, future development will continue to accord with the objectives and policies, including the environmental requirements of the KCDP 2023-2029.

The Proposed Masterplan will not have significant influence on other plans in the hierarchy, instead it will be led by those higher up in the process. As a Masterplan, it is compatible and complementary with the vision and objectives of the KCDP 2023-2029 and will be led by the higher-level plans such as the RSES and the NPF.

Additionally, future individual development projects within the town and Proposed Masterplan area must be considered under the SEA, EIA and/or AA processes as appropriate.

*The relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.*

The Proposed Masterplan is envisioned to improve on the quality of life of those living in Derrinturn and the experience of those who visit the village. This is proposed via identifying key projects that aim to improve the public realm, traffic flows, enhance green spaces and promote sustainable and unified development within the town.

These recommendations are consistent with the objectives for Derrinturn as detailed in the KCDP 2023-2029 (Volume 2, section 2.3), which set out principles that ensure the town is developed in a coherent and sustainable manner. Increasing the attractiveness of the town via the preparation of Public Realm Design Guidelines will be achieved in tandem with protecting and enhancing the ecological and recreational potential of the village, as well as with a view to promote local economy.

The KCDP 2023-2029, which underwent full SEA and AA, integrated the findings of these processes into the Plan, contributing towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

*Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme,*

The Proposed Masterplan is not prepared in response to a particular environmental problem, nor are any major environmental problems known from the Site of the plan.

The SEA process for the KCDP 2017-2023 identified the majority of the county as *low environmental sensitivity*, with the level of environmental sensitivity increasing towards the centre of the county, concentrated between the areas of Kildare Town, Kilcullen and Newbridge. This is due to a variety of overlapping and related factors including soil type (peat), groundwater status (bad), landscape value (exceptional), ecological designation (Natural Heritage Area (NHA) or proposed Natural Heritage Area(pNHA)) and geological designation (County Geological Heritage Area). Elevated

levels of sensitivity are also found in the foothills to the west of the Kildare / Wicklow County boundary. The Derrinturn town does not have any perceived high environmental sensitivities. The new KCDP 2023-2029 also underwent the full statutory SEA process, with the sensitivity mapping showing the same results.

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

The EU has a wide range of environmental legislation, dealing with such issues as tackling climate change, sustainable development, waste management, air pollution, water protection, nature and biodiversity, soil protection and noise pollution:

- EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),
- EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC),
- EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2006/60/EC),
- EU Groundwater Directive 92006/118/EC),
- European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2014 S.I. 350 of 2014
- Wildlife Act 1976, as amended, and
- Flora Protection Order 1999
- EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)

The Proposed Masterplan will be a non-statutory framework document which outlines potential development arrangements for Derrinturn in a manner which is entirely consistent with the specific policies and objectives for the town as established in the KCDP 2023-2029. By its nature as a guiding document, it is not directly linked to the implementation of any of the aforementioned legislation, however, all recommendations made within the Proposed Masterplan will have cognisance of the international legislation related to the protection of the environment.

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

*The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects*

The probability that the Proposed Masterplan will result in significant, long-term environmental impacts is moderate. It is expected that the effects will be largely positive, since additional pedestrian routes and greenspaces, as well as promoting sustainable energy sources and modes of travel, will likely enhance and improve various environmental aspects of the village. These positive impacts are reversible to an extent, for instance via the degeneration of the new recommended greenspaces, however, are envisioned to provide lasting, positive impacts on the village.

There is also a low probability of negative effects associated with the construction of any future developments under this Proposed Masterplan, however, due to the scale of the Proposed Masterplan, these are not considered to be of significant magnitude. It is also likely that any negative impacts (e.g., from construction activity) are of a temporary nature.

Final decisions relating to architectural detail and public realm and other issues will be determined through the development management process, and any individual future developments under this Proposed Masterplan will be subject to the appropriate environmental assessments.

*The cumulative nature of the effects*

No cumulative effects are identified for the Proposed Masterplan. There are no specific development proposals arising from the Proposed Masterplan and no changes to the Core Strategy which could potentially lead to cumulative effects with the KCDP 2023-2029. The preparation of the Proposed Masterplan has been undertaken with consideration to the overall balanced development strategy of Kildare County Council, and the specific objectives set for Derrinturn, as set out in the KCDP 2023-2029.

The Proposed Masterplan is entirely within Kildare County Council's administrative area and is not expected to have any effects (negative or positive) on areas outside of the county boundaries.

No risks to human health or to the environment due to accidents or other considerations due to the preparation of the Proposed Masterplan have been identified.

The area of the Proposed Masterplan encompasses the Derrinturn town and the residential areas within approx. 1km of the town centre. Any potential environmental effects are expected to be largely confined to the area within and in the immediate vicinity of the Site of the Proposed Masterplan. The current population within the Site of the Proposed Masterplan is estimated to be approx. 1600.

A tributary to the main Figile River flows south from the southern end of Derrinturn town. This river has been assigned a poor ecological status and is not known to support any significant fisheries near the town.

The Derrinturn Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is currently operating at capacity (1600 PE) (Irish Water 2021). The discharge from the WWTP does not have an observable negative impact on the WFD status as the status of the Figile River is poor both upstream and downstream of the primary discharge point (EPA 2023).

There are three protected structures within the Proposed Masterplan Site area; the Turn Inn (RPS number: B08-22; NIAH ref: 11900804), the Derrinturn House (RPS number: B08-19; NIAH ref:

11900805) and the Trinity Catholic Church (RPS number: B08-24; NIAH ref: 11900803). The Proposed Masterplan includes recommendations for the public realm areas outside the Turn Inn, but no works for the building. Any such works that arise on the recommendation of the Proposed Masterplan are subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, including consideration for impacts on cultural heritage. KCDP 2023-2029 contains the following policies and objectives that will govern any detailed development proposals that may have an impact on the aforementioned items:

- **Objective GO 17:** *“Preserve and protect the structures and items listed in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) identified in the County Development Plan and as may be amended during the lifetime of the Plan; and ensure an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment Report prepared by an accredited conservation architect or equivalent accompany planning applications for works to protected structures.”*
- **Objective GO 18:** *“Require archaeological impact assessment, prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist for any development within or in close proximity to Zones of Archaeological Potential.”*
- **Policy AH P2:** *“Protect and enhance archaeological sites, monuments and where appropriate and following detailed assessment, their setting, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or newly discovered archaeological sites and/or subsurface and underwater archaeological remains.”*
- **Objective AH O3:** *“In co-operation with the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage require archaeological impact assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring and/or underwater archaeological impact assessments for planning applications in areas of archaeological importance and where a development proposal is likely to impact upon in-situ archaeological monuments, their setting and archaeological deposits, based on recommendations of a suitably qualified archaeologist and the Council will seek and have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.”*
- **Objective AH O23:** *“Require an Architectural Heritage Assessment Report, as described in Appendix B of the Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011), to accompany all applications with potential for visual or physical impacts on a Protected Structure, its curtilage, demesne and setting. This report should be prepared by a person with conservation expertise that is appropriate to the significance of the historic building or site and the complexity of the proposed works.”*

No recommendations have been made in relation to the other two protected structures, and as the Proposed Masterplan does not propose direct works or development, no impacts on these structures are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Masterplan.

As the Proposed Masterplan and any works arising from it must be consistent and compliant with the KCDP 2023-2029 including specific provisions regarding environmental quality standards such as those contained in the WFD and other environmental standards it is not anticipated that any environmental quality standards will be exceeded.

The Proposed Masterplan does not represent a change in land use or potentially permitted activities or any intensification of land use within the Derrinturn town.

*The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status*

The Site of the Proposed Masterplan does not contain any land associated with European sites, i.e., Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for habitats and species, Ramsar wetland sites or European marine sites.

Additionally, no protected sites are located adjacent or in close proximity (<1km) to the Site. The Figile tributary at the south of the town is within the overall Barrow catchment, which also contains the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162) over 35 river km downstream of Derrinturn. The Proposed Masterplan does not propose any projects or works that could impact on the tributary or the downstream SAC. The Carbury Bog NHA is located approx. 1.6 km north of the Proposed Masterplan, however there are no impact pathways between the Site and the NHA.

The projects and key recommendations made within the Proposed Masterplan are not anticipated to have the capacity to cause significant impacts (negative or positive) on these protected sites due to the relatively large volume of freshwater habitat in between the Site and the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, the distance between the Site and the Carbury Bog NHA, and the nature of the Proposed Masterplan. Additionally, any individual development arising as a result of the Proposed Masterplan is subject to the appropriate environmental assessments in accordance with the KCDP 2023-2029.

## 4.2 Appropriate Assessment and relationship to Screening for SEA

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an AA to be carried out where a plan or project is *likely to have a significant impact* on a European site. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The first step in the process is to establish whether AA is required for the particular plan or project. This first step is referred to as Screening for the requirement for AA and the purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

As set out in Department Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/084 (15th February 2008), Screening for AA is of relevance to screening for SEA in that “**where following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation status of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting the precautionary approach:**

- an AA of the Proposed Masterplan must be carried out, and
- in any case where a SEA would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out.”

Hence, where the Proposed Masterplan *requires AA* it shall *also require a SEA*.

### 4.2.1 Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion

The Proposed Masterplan was screened for the requirement of AA to determine the potential for significant effects on relevant European sites. The conclusion from the AA Screening Report accompanying this SEA Screening Report under separate cover is reproduced below:

“*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.”*

Thus, it is determined that Stage 2 AA is not required for the Proposed Masterplan.

## 5 CONSULTATION

### 5.1 Statutory Consultation

#### 5.1.1 Environmental Authorities

Unless it has been determined that SEA is mandatory for the Proposed Masterplan concerned, a formal ‘screening notice’ must be issued to the relevant environmental authorities (including the adjacent planning authorities), consulting them on whether they consider significant effects on the environment are likely to arise.

Under S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended, SEA may be required for all sectoral plans, including land-use plans (except for those specific land use plans covered by SI 436 of 2004, as amended).

The following environmental authorities have been notified of this SEA Screening for comments on the Proposed Masterplan:

- Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) – *Required for all cases.*
- Development Applications Unit (“DAU”), Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage – *Required where there might be significant effects on architectural or archaeological heritage or nature conservation.*

#### 5.1.2 Consultation Responses

The EPA responded to the Screening Notice on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. The EPA noted the Proposed Determination of the Proposed Masterplan and provided a number of guiding comments, focusing their efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. Their comments are summarised as follows:

- Incorporate the relevant recommendations from ‘[SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources](#)’ (EPA 2022) as relevant and appropriate to the TRMP.



- Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Proposed Masterplan.
- The Proposed Masterplan should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans
- The Masterplan should align with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.
- In finalising the Masterplan, the relevant recommendations, key issues and challenges described in our State of the Environment *Report 'Ireland's Environment – An Assessment 2020'* (EPA 2020) should be taken into account.
- Where changes to the Masterplan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Masterplan are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).

No changes to the Proposed Masterplan in response to the EPA's submission are anticipated that would require a renewed SEA Screening.

The DAU responded on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 noting particularly the Archaeological and Architectural Heritage within the village of Derrinturn. The submission has been summarised below:

- To revise the report to include an assessment of the architectural heritage that is subject to statutory protection.
- Give due cognisance to the following:
  - The definition of a Protected Structure as per the Planning and Development Act which includes, (i) the interior of the structure, (ii) the land lying within the curtilage of the structure, (iii) any other structure lying within the curtilage and their interiors, and (iv) all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).
  - The presence of historical, urban and planned landscapes, which may form part of a protected structure and/or may contribute to the landscape characterisation of an area which may be of importance to an area/region.
  - The Heritage Council in conjunction with numerous partners has developed a trans-disciplinary Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme. The Health Check will establish an innovative baseline which can be employed to monitor and plan for the future of Irish Towns.
  - Seek the inputs of a suitably qualified person in respect of matters relating to the architectural heritage.

As such, section 4.1 – Screening Criteria was updated as follows:

- Existing RPS and RMP records for the village of Derrinturn were included in Table 1 and their potential links to any of the identified key projects were noted.
- It was further clarified that the Proposed Masterplan is a conceptual plan providing a vision for the future development of Derrinturn and does not put forward detailed development proposals or applications.
- Inclusion of details of policies and objectives in the KCDP 2023-2029 that ensure all development proposals, including those arising as a response to the Proposed Masterplan are subject to the appropriate environmental assessments. These include where necessary an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) in line with the KCDP 2023-2029.

Thus, due to the high-level vision that the Proposed Masterplan provides for Derrinturn, the lack of detailed development proposals within the Proposed Masterplan, and the existing policies in the new KCDP 2023-2029 to protect cultural and built heritage, it is deemed that the concerns expressed by the DAU are covered higher in the planning hierarchy and will therefore be addressed appropriately at detailed design stages for any key projects identified within the Proposed Masterplan.



## 6 SCREENING DETERMINATION

The Proposed Masterplan for Derrinturn Town Renewal Masterplan, Co. Kildare, is a non-statutory development framework which translates and implements the statutory policies and objectives of the relevant national and regional development plans and frameworks.

Considering the objectives, scale and nature of the Proposed Masterplan, and with due regard to the screening criteria as set out in Schedule 1, it is at this stage determined that the Proposed Masterplan does not require an SEA.

The principal reasons the Proposed Masterplan does not require an SEA are as follows:

- The Proposed Masterplan does not provide a framework for plans/projects listed on Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive<sup>1</sup>.
- All individual planning applications made with consideration of the Proposed Masterplan framework are subject to the appropriate environmental assessments (i.e., AA, SEA, EIA) where required under the KCDP 2023-2029.
- The Proposed Masterplan does not require Stage 2 AA (see AA Screening Report accompanying this report under separate cover).

---

<sup>1</sup> Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU

## 7 REFERENCES

Irish Water (2021). Annual Environmental Report 2021: Derrinturn D0244-01, available at: <https://www.water.ie/help/wastewater/compliance/annual-environmental-repo/>

DHLGH (2022). Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities. Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, March 2022.

East and Midlands Regional Assembly, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031  
EMRA RSES 2019-2031: SEA Statement

EPA (2021). 'Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening', prepared by RPS Consultants, with input from A&L Goodbody, on behalf of the EPA. Published December 2021

EPA (2023). Environmental Protection Agency Online Mapping [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.epa.ie/> [Accessed January 2023].

Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023: Volume 1

Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023: Volume 2

Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023: Strategic Environmental Assessment

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029: Volume 1

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029: Volume 2

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029: Strategic Environmental Assessment

Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework

Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework: SEA Statement