

APPENDIX I
TO THE
NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT
IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
OF THE
ATHY TOWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2012 - 2018

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

for: Athy Town Council

Rathstewart
Athy
County Kildare



by: CAAS Ltd.

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Introduction

Appendix I of the NIS examines the individual policies and objectives contained within the Draft Athy Town Plan 2012 – 2018. It examines the potential impacts that may occur in relation to the qualifying features of the River Barrow/ River Nore SAC. Where it was identified that there is a risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the River Barrow/River Nore SAC from an individual policy, an appropriate mitigation measure or change to the policy was suggested.

Chapter 2: Core Strategy

Proposed Objectives and Policies	Potential Impacts	Mitigation Measure
<p>Core Strategy Aim To respond in a coherent sustainable spatial manner to the development of Athy providing a more focused approach to planning for future development. The core strategy seeks to promote a more consolidated and compact urban form; to create and promote new employment opportunities; to create sustainable and integrated communities while balancing the protection of the natural and built heritage with sustainable and appropriate development</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GDSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) <p>Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to</p>
<p>Core Strategy Aims and Objectives The aims and objectives of the core strategy are to:</p> <p>(i) Recognise and promote the role of Athy as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town having an interacting and supporting role servicing the rural hinterland area of south Kildare.</p> <p>(ii) Facilitate future population growth of Athy in line with the RPGs and the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017, through the consolidation of the town centre and adjoining residential areas.</p> <p>(iii) Support the development of Athy as a secondary economic growth centre providing an important role in developing economic growth and sectoral interests.</p> <p>(iv) Encourage and support the delivery of key infrastructural projects to ensure that future development needs are met in a sustainable and coordinated manner.</p> <p>(v) Promote and encourage major enhancement and expansion of the retail offer and town centre retail functions of Athy in line with its designation as a Sub County Town Centre in south Kildare.</p> <p>(vi) Develop a compact urban form with particular emphasis on the orderly redevelopment and regeneration of key areas within the town centre.</p> <p>(vii) Protect local assets by preserving the quality of the landscape, open space, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage and</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GDSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.

Proposed Objectives and Policies	Potential Impacts	Mitigation Measure
<p>material assets of the county.</p> <p>Policies</p> <p>CS 1: To facilitate sustainable levels of housing growth at appropriate locations within the town in tandem with the delivery of physical, social / community infrastructure and local services adequate to meet the needs of the population of the town and surrounding rural area.</p> <p>CS 2: To facilitate greater co-ordination of residential and employment provision with the delivery of public infrastructure, amenities, community facilities, schools, public transport etc.</p> <p>CS 3: To encourage and facilitate new employment opportunities within the town and to seek to attract higher order knowledge based enterprise and economic development.</p> <p>CS 4: To focus sectoral opportunities on the development of high value added manufacturing, SMEs, agri-business, agriculture and tourism.</p> <p>CS 5: To address commuting patterns by building up the local economy to a more sustainable level.</p> <p>CS 6: To support, protect and reinforce the role of the town centre as the central retailing and service area of Athy through the intensification, consolidation and appropriate redevelopment of the town centre.</p> <p>CS 7: To facilitate the provision of high level and broad ranging uses, and to enhance and develop the urban fabric of the town centre.</p> <p>CS 8: To promote the appropriate use and re-use of town centre backland and under-utilised sites to promote the regeneration of areas in need of renewal.</p> <p>CS 9: To promote and facilitate the development sustainable communities through land use planning, by providing for appropriate land uses capable of accommodating employment, community, leisure, recreational and cultural facilities, accessible to and meeting the needs of all individuals and local community groups, in tandem with the delivery of residential and physical infrastructure to create quality environments in which to live.</p> <p>CS 10: To ensure that developments are appropriate and accessible to meet the needs of all individuals and local community groups.</p> <p>CS 11: To seek the delivery of adequate and appropriate physical and community infrastructure in conjunction with high quality residential development to create quality living environments.</p> <p>CS 12: To protect and conserve buildings, areas, structures, sites and features of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and to protect features of natural heritage, including the Canal, watercourses and habitats.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDSD (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to

Proposed Objectives and Policies	Potential Impacts	Mitigation Measure
<p>CS 13: To protect and conserve the natural environment. CS 14: To protect and conserve nationally important and EU designated sites. CS 15: To promote and enhance biodiversity. CS 16: To monitor carefully the scale, rate and location of newly permitted development and apply appropriate development management measures to ensure compliance with the core strategy including population target for the town; and to achieve the delivery of strategic plan led and co-ordinate balanced development throughout the planning area.</p> <p>CS 17: To prepare a report as part of the Mid Term Review of this Plan (to be carried out in accordance with Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This report shall include detailed consideration of compliance with the Core Strategy and if necessary indicate measures to be taken (e.g. Variation of the Athy Development Plan 2012-2018) to affect the aims of Section 2.5.1 and to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy, the CDP and the RPGs.</p>		

Chapter 3: Economic

Proposed Objectives and Policies	Potential Impacts	Specific Action Required: Avoidance, Policy Deletion or Amendment
<p>Aim</p> <p>To provide for the future well being of the residents of Athy by facilitating and promoting economic development and the growth of employment opportunities in all sectors in accordance with the principles of sustainable development; to achieve a reduction in the levels of commuting from the town by ensuring that lands are appropriately zoned and a framework is in place to attract greater employment opportunities and manufacturing industries by fostering competitiveness and innovation within a high quality physical environment; to provide a greater focus on community building and the quality of life of the residents of Athy.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8)

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		Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
Policies-General Economic Development		
ED1: To facilitate and support the growth of Athy as an attractive location for employment development.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ED2: To promote employment in Athy in order to reduce the need to travel and the dependence on private transport.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ED3: To promote economic development on appropriately zoned land throughout the town, especially at or in close proximity to transport nodes.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined above will apply
ED4: To support the development of a high quality built environment to attract and sustain enterprise and employment.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ED5: To promote innovative economic sectors and encourage business clusters that exploit links with one another and with third level education facilities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ED6: To actively encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield sites and re-use of disused buildings for enterprise and employment creation, when such development is in compliance with the policies and objectives of this Plan.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
ED7: To promote the establishment of entrepreneurial start up business and small scale employment generating activities and to apply a flexible approach to zoning where it can be demonstrated that the proposed use would have minimal impact on adjoining uses, particularly residential.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ED8: To encourage and facilitate at appropriate locations, small indigenous industries in recognition of their increasing importance in providing local employment and helping to stimulate economic activity.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
ED9: To encourage and facilitate the development of 'green' industries, including those relating to renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply

Proposed Objectives and Policies	Potential Impacts	Specific Action Required: Avoidance, Policy Deletion or Amendment
<p>Large Scale Enterprise Development Policy</p> <p>ED 10: To encourage the development of existing manufacturing industries in the town while establishing and expanding new categories of business in Athy and support their development in a phased and sustainable manner.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply</p>
<p>Small – Medium Enterprise (SME) Policy</p> <p>ED11: To facilitate the sustainable development of knowledge-intensive and technology based companies in Athy and to encourage the provision of Research and Development/ Innovation facilities and SMEs to support enterprise and employment.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply</p>
<p>Retail and Office Development Policy</p> <p>RO1: To implement the retail strategy and support the creation of high quality living and shopping environments which will add to the attraction of Athy for employers as a town in which to locate.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>RO2: To facilitate and encourage office based industry primarily in enterprise and employment zones and to encourage smaller scale office development in the town centre.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply</p>
<p>RO3: To locate commercial developments providing goods / services to significant numbers of visiting members of the public, within or in close proximity to the existing town centre.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply</p>
<p>Education and Health Policy</p> <p>EH 1: To promote initiatives with relevant agencies to expand training and education that meets the wide range of business skills located in the town.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>EH 2: To support and co-operate with promoters or operators of public and private health care facilities by facilitating and encouraging the provision of improved health care facilities in appropriate locations in the town.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply</p>

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Incubation Units / Workshops / Business Starter Units Policy		
EEO1: To promote the provision of workspace units suitable for small businesses and start up companies, in general, and with particular emphasis on their provision within large schemes.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Research and Development Policy		
EEO2: To promote the growth of Research and Development in Athy by facilitating the conditions conducive to such development including a high quality built and natural environment, public transport infrastructure and community and cultural infrastructure.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
EE 03: To support the development of economic opportunities which support the third level education base of CIT and NUI Maynooth, particularly in the areas of R&D, agri-engineering and alternative energies. The Council will co-operate with Carlow IT and NUI Maynooth to promote and encourage R&D in Athy to attract industry.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Home Based Economic Activity Policy		
HW1: To facilitate home-working and innovative forms of working which reduce the need to travel but are subordinate to the main residential use of the dwelling and do not result in a dis-amenity in an area.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HW2: To encourage the provision of live-work units as part of mixed-use developments in appropriate locations (particularly at ground floor level).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Design, Location and Availability of Employment lands in Athy Policies		
UD1: To ensure that new employment areas are attractive areas and are of a high standard of urban design.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UD2: To ensure the provision of adequate screening of employment developments in the form of planting, landscaping and mounding as appropriate, especially where new industrial/employment developments adjoin residential areas.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UD3: To ensure that the layout of new employment developments will have regard to alternative sustainable modes of transport. Site layout should emphasise the necessary connections to the wider local and strategic public transport, walking and cycling networks.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Prevention of Major Accidents Policy		
MA1: To have regard to the following in assessing applications for new developments (including extensions): a) Major Accidents Directive (Seveso II – 96/082/EEC) b) The potential effects on public health and safety. c) The need to ensure adequate distances between such developments and residential areas, areas of public use and any areas of sensitivity. d) The advice of the HSA.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Rural Development and Agricultural Development Policy		
AG1: To promote an environmentally sustainable agricultural/horticultural sector and a vibrant bloodstock industry, which	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Proposed Objectives and Policies	Potential Impacts	Specific Action Required: Avoidance, Policy Deletion or Amendment
contributes to a dynamic and successful rural economy.		
AG2 : To support and protect the development of agriculture within the agricultural zone in Athy; to develop a sustainable agricultural sector that is compatible with the sustainable development of the town and maintains the viability of farming..	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AG3: To ensure that agricultural activities do not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside/ agricultural zone and to ensure that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AG4: To protect agricultural and equine uses, from encroachment by urban development uses beyond that needed to cater for the orderly expansion of the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AG5: To protect and ensure the continuing viability of agriculture and horticulture within rural areas and to sustain the rural character of the countryside as a valuable resource.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AG6: To promote the diversification of the rural economy and the development of rural indigenous industry while safeguarding the environment and role of the rural area as a strategic asset.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AG7: To encourage agri-businesses appropriate to the area which are directly related to the local horticultural or agricultural sectors in areas zoned for agricultural purposes.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AG8: To require the submission of a comprehensive traffic impact study for any proposed agri-business within the rural area.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Equine Industry Policy		
EQ1: To encourage the development of equine related enterprises on agricultural zoned lands within the town boundary.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
General Economic Development and Employment Objectives		
EDO 1: To encourage economic development and employment development in the Moderate Sustainable Growth Town of Athy in accordance with national and regional policies and objectives and in accordance with the overall development strategy of this Plan.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
EDO 2: To ensure that sufficient and suitable land is zoned for employment generating uses in Athy. Such land will, normally, be protected from inappropriate development that would prejudice its long term development for these uses.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
EDO 3: To ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate water, wastewater treatment and waste management facilities to accommodate future economic growth of the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
EDO 4: To co-operate with and seek to facilitate local community based development groups in developing employment clusters including incubator/start up units as appropriate.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply

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	of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	
EDO 5: To continue to forge strong partnerships and work in conjunction with national, regional and local development agencies, including Forfás, Industrial Development Agency, Kildare County Development Board, Kildare County Council, County Enterprise Board, Enterprise Ireland, Athy Industrial Forum, FAS and also the educational sector including CIT and the VEC in attracting new commercial enterprises and employment opportunities in Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
EDO 6: To acquire suitable land, subject to the availability of funding, to stimulate and support creative and innovative entrepreneurial initiatives.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
EDO 7: To support IDA Ireland in the attraction of high value added manufacturing sectors and internationally traded sectors of Athy.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
Tourism Policy		
TS 1: To recognise the employment and revenue potential of tourism in the local economy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TS 2: To recognise and improve the existing tourism potential of Athy such as the Grand Canal and River Barrow waterside amenity activities such as walking, fishing boating and to facilitate further enhancement through specific objectives of this Plan.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
TS 3: To implement the recommendations of the River Barrow Valley Study currently being carried out by Waterways Ireland in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and other local authorities.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
TS4: To identify opportunities to improve the tourist product in Athy and to co-operate with the appropriate statutory agencies, the private	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply

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tourism sector and community groups.	through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	
TS 5: To encourage tourism related uses along the Grand Canal and River Barrow including the future development of a marina within the town boundary (in accordance with Policy R 9)) and associated boating uses and activities in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies, voluntary bodies and private property owners to develop the infrastructure and amenity of both water bodies.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	The original wording of this policy was changed to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. The original wording was as follows: TS 5: To encourage tourism related uses along the Grand Canal and River Barrow including the future development of a marina within the town boundary and associated boating uses and activities in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies, voluntary bodies and private property owners to develop the infrastructure and amenity of both water bodies
TS 6: To continue to work closely with key stakeholders in the tourism industry including Kildare Fáilte, Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland in conjunction with local clubs and stakeholders, in order to further develop the overall tourist and economic potential in and around the town with particular emphasis on water based and waterside activities such as angling, boating, walking, canoeing etc	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TS 7: To work with the relevant agencies and bodies in the development and improvement of tourism related infrastructure and facilities activities in Athy.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
TS 8: To ensure that the development of new tourist facilities are designed to the highest standard with particular emphasis given to quality materials and accessibility.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TS 9: To support the sustainable development of appropriate new tourist facilities or upgrading / extension of existing tourist facilities, including hotels, guesthouses and B&B's, in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
TS 10: To promote the establishment of tourist destinations in Athy subject to them being of an appropriate scale, located in sustainable locations, adequately served by public transport and would not adversely impact upon a Natura 2000 site.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TS11: To promote festivals and sporting events to increase the tourism, cultural and lifestyle profile of the town including the use of	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

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appropriate green areas throughout the town..		
TS12: To facilitate the appropriate use and development of White Castle as a tourist attraction, in order to ensure its conservation and protection	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TS 13: To recognise the importance of the malting industry to the economy of Athy and to support and encourage the development of the town's association with the malting industry as a tourist attraction.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Tourism Objectives		
TSO1: To support the provision and development of walking and cycling trails which give access to river and canal banks and towpaths, subject to Appropriate Assessment where appropriate and in conjunction with Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the DAHG.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TSO 2: To promote the National Trails Network, Sli na Sláinte and other defined walking trails and cycle routes.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TSO3: To support the protection of recreational areas such as the People's Park and encourage the further development of amenity areas such as the area surrounding Woodstock Castle, Lords Island and the adjoining gardens of White Castle.	Lord's Island is located within the River Barrow/River Nore SAC. Development of the island as a wildlife amenity has the potential to cause negative impacts through habitat loss as well as increased recreational disturbance on others in particular. In addition, construction of any facilities on the island may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	This proposal shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive(ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9)
TSO4: To support the development of the tourism industry by the upgrading of existing amenities in co-operation with the appropriate statutory agencies, private tourism sector and community groups.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
TSO5: To facilitate the erection of standardised signage for tourism facilities and tourist attractions throughout the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TSO6: To protect the environmental amenities of Athy from insensitive or inappropriate development, particularly any development that threatens the tourism resources of the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TSO7: To recognise the importance of the local golf clubs and other sports clubs and sporting events to tourism in the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TSO8: To promote Athys literary, social, historical, genealogical, archaeological, architectural and natural heritage as tourism	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

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generating opportunities.		
TS09: To harness the economic benefits of the tourism industry through sustainable means, including the conservation and protection of the built and natural heritage.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TS010: To encourage the sustainable development of tourism activities such as waterways activities, agri-tourism, green/eco-tourism, niche retailing, food markets, local and other craft type activities so as to diversify the tourism product in Athy.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
TS011: To support sustainable tourism initiatives which develop the tourist potential of the rural area around the town while recognising and enhancing the quality and values of the rural area.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TS012: To protect the economic and social benefits of licensed local farmers/ country markets and support their role as visitor attractions.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 4: Housing

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
Aim		

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
<p>To ensure that there is adequate land in appropriately zoned locations for residential development; to protect and improve residential amenity in existing residential areas; to encourage a quality standard of residential development and public spaces; to provide an appropriate mix of house sizes, types and tenures in order to meet different household needs and to promote balanced and integrated communities.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) <p>Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.</p>
<p>Development Capacity Policies</p>		
<p>HP1: To ensure that sufficient and suitably located land is zoned to satisfy housing development needs within the period of the Plan and in accordance with population targets for Athy.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply</p>
<p>HP 2: Where a residential development larger than 5 units is proposed, a detailed phasing programme shall be lodged and agreed with the Planning Authority detailing the construction, phasing and completion of each phase and timeframe of the project.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>HP3: To implement the Kildare Local Authorities Housing Strategy 2011-2017 prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2011</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>HP4: To have regard to the provisions of the Guidelines on "Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas" and the accompanying 'Urban Design Manual' in assessing applications for housing development.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>Policies - Density, Design and Layout</p>		
<p>HP5: To encourage appropriate densities of new housing development in accordance with Government advice set out in the 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas'.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
HP6: To encourage higher residential densities in the town centre, on 'brownfield' and infill sites close to existing/potential connections to public transport.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP7: To ensure that all new urban development especially in and around the town centre is of a high design and supports the achievement of successful urban spaces and sustainable communities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP8: To require diversity in the density of development and in the form, size and type of dwelling within residential areas.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP9: To secure the development of a mix of house types and sizes throughout the town as a whole to meet the needs of the existing and projected likely future population. A statement of mix may be required for multi unit schemes to demonstrate that the needs of the area are provided for within the scheme.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP10: To require the submission of design statements for residential development in excess of 50 housing units to facilitate the proper evaluation of the proposal relative to key objectives of the Development Plan with regard to the creation of sustainable residential communities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP11: To refuse permission for residential development on zoned open green spaces, or on lands which are designated as public open space as part of a permitted development.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP12: To ensure developments are carried out generally in accordance with the 'Recommendations for Site Development Works for Housing Areas'. (DoEHLG 1998) or as updated or amended.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP13: To ensure that all open spaces, entrances, pathways and parking areas in new residential developments are designed with reference to "Buildings for Everyone – Inclusion, Access and Use (National Disability Authority, 2002) and any subsequent update.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP 14: To require planning applications for new housing to demonstrate good pedestrian and cycle links between residential developments and key destinations within Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policies - Existing Residential		
HP15: To encourage infill housing developments on appropriate sites.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
HP16: To facilitate the extension of existing dwelling houses in principle subject to standards outlined in Chapter 15 Development Management Standards.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
HP17: To facilitate the development of corner sites or wide side garden locations for infill housing subject to standards outlined in Chapter 15 Development Management Standards.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP18: To facilitate the provision of a family flat in circumstances where the Planning Authority is satisfied that there is a valid case and where the proposal has regard to the standards in Chapter 15 Development Management Standards.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP19: To permit backland development generally only where development is carried out in a comprehensive redevelopment of the backland to secure a co-ordinated scheme. Each application will be considered on its merits.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP20: To facilitate sub-division of dwellings for exceptionally large houses on relatively extensive sites subject to adherence to all relevant Development Management standards set out in Chapter 15.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policies – Apartment Development		
HP21: To restrict apartment developments generally to town centre locations or suitably located sites adjoining public transport connections. Apartments will not be permitted where there is an over concentration of this type of development. Higher density schemes will only be considered where they exhibit a high architectural design standard.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policies - Housing and Community		
HP22: To facilitate and co-operate in the provision of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities in tandem with residential development.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
HP23: To require the provision of Childcare Facilities in all new residential developments as appropriate. The indicative standard is one childcare facility, accommodating 20 children, for each 75 dwellings. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP24: To seek to ensure the necessary infrastructural investment to facilitate the overall level of housing output required to meet the current and anticipated levels of demand in a planned and coherent fashion.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP25: To facilitate the provision of purpose built dwellings for those with special needs, including provision for the needs of the elderly, persons with physical disabilities and persons with learning disabilities and in conjunction with other voluntary bodies and the private sector.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policies - Housing in the Agricultural Zone		

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
HP26: To manage the provision of one off housing in conjunction with the local need criteria as outlined above. Documentary evidence of compliance with the rural housing policy must be submitted as part of the planning application, including a separate statement by the applicant on the need to reside in the area.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP27: To ensure that, notwithstanding compliance with the Local Need eligibility criteria, applicants comply with all other normal siting and design considerations.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP28 To protect the physical, environmental, natural and heritage resources of the agricultural zone	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP29 To require that applicants comply with the requirements of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (November 2009).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policies - Special Needs Housing		
HP30: To provide adequate accommodation for Travellers in accordance with the Kildare Local Authorities Traveller Accommodation Programme.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP31: To facilitate the provision of purpose built dwellings individually and within mixed schemes for those with special needs, including provision for the needs of the elderly, persons with physical disabilities and persons with learning disabilities and in conjunction with other voluntary bodies and the private sector.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP32: To provide for and facilitate the provision of accommodation to meet the needs of the elderly and to encourage the provision of a range of housing options for elderly persons in central, convenient and easily accessible locations and to integrate such housing with mainstream housing where possible.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP33: To provide and facilitate the provision of accommodation to meet the needs of those with disabilities through the adaptation of appropriate accommodation.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Housing Objectives		
HO1: To secure the implementation of the Kildare Local Authorities Housing Strategy 2011-2017.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HO2: To provide adequate accommodation for Travellers in accordance with the Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HO3: To promote a high standard of architecture in the design of new housing developments and to encourage a variety of house types, sizes and tenure to cater for the needs of the population and facilitate the creation of balanced communities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 5: Town Centre

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Aim		
<p>To develop a compact urban form and to improve the vitality and viability of the town centre area of Athy through the provision of a high level and broad range of uses for residents, workers and visitors to the town; to provide greater opportunities for town centre living; to facilitate high quality urban design and through the provision of high quality public realm to promote the town centre as an attractive place for all to enjoy.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3) Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8)Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
Town Centre Uses Policies		
<p>TC 1: To promote the vitality and viability of the town centre area so that it becomes a high quality environment for shopping, working and visiting the town.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>TC 2: To encourage and promote development within the town centre which is of a high standard of design, has an appropriate mix of uses, enhances the built environment and delivers a high quality public realm.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>TC 3: To reinforce Athy Town Centre as the priority location for new retail and services development, with quality of design and integration /linkage with the existing urban form/ layout being fundamental prerequisites.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>TC 4: To promote appropriate residential development within the town centre and encourage the concept of 'Living Over the Shop' in the town centre.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
Town Centre Design Policies		
<p>TCD 1: To ensure that new development in the town centre will only be permitted where it conserves or enhances its character thereby promoting high quality urban change and improvement.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>TCD 2: To continue to enhance the streetscape and heritage assets of the town centre, to continue environmental improvements, to sustain and improve its attraction for living, working, visiting and investment.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>TCD 3: To ensure the retention of older shop fronts and other</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of</p>	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
significant elements of the streetscape, which enhance the visual amenity and distinctiveness of the town centre.	objective/policy	
TCD 4: To seek to improve existing shopfronts and to ensure that new shopfronts reflect the scale and proportions of the existing streetscape.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCD 5: To restrict unnecessary additional lighting, including intermittent lighting and neon lighting on external elevations, particularly in or adjacent to residential properties.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCD 6: To place underground new service cables and ducting such as electrical, telephone, broadband and cable television.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCD 7: To insist upon the use of high quality materials and traditional hand painted signs, as opposed to uPVC, plastic or other materials. Internally illuminated plastic signage will generally not be permitted.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCD 8: To restrict the use of external security grilles/shutters on shop fronts.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCD 9: To restrict advertising signs/ banners/ stickers on the inside of shop front/ commercial business windows.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Urban Renewal / Regeneration and Opportunity Sites Policies		
UR 1: To encourage a greater usage of backland areas and to promote the re-development of brownfield sites in the town centre area where new development will positively contribute to the commercial vitality of the town centre.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
UR 2: To encourage and promote the re-utilisation and revitalisation of derelict or obsolete structures or land in the town centre and encourage the renewal/repair and maintenance of structures on the Council's Derelict Sites Register. The Council will use its statutory powers, where appropriate and consider such sites for inclusion on the Register of Derelict Sites.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
UR 3: To encourage the use of upper floors of existing buildings and the development of mixed-use schemes, particularly for residential uses.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UR 4: To encourage the creation of new public spaces within the fabric of the town centre, provided they are passively supervised and surrounded by active ground floor use.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UR 5: To require that any new development creates or positively contributes towards a connected network of streets and spaces, which prioritises pedestrians and cyclists.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UR 6: To ensure that town centre environmental improvements including improved paving, street furniture and tree planting are designed and implemented to a high design	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
standard.		
Movement, Access and the Public Realm Policies		
PR 1: To provide pedestrian links from the nearby schools on the east and west of the River Barrow to recreational facilities and residential areas through the development of safe pedestrian routes and a pedestrian footbridge over the River Barrow.	Installation of a footbridge over the River Barrow may lead to loss of habitat and disturbance of Annex 1 species such as otter. Pollution of surface water may occur through the accidental spillage of fuel or concrete and the runoff of sediments.	This proposed pedestrian crossing will be subject to route selection and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive(ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9)) In addition the mitigation measures for Roads and other linear infrastructure crossing a Natura 2000 site, as outlined in Section 3.5.1 will apply (GT 15)
PR 2: To encourage the improvement of the area surrounding the Dominican Church.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PR 3: To work towards improving the overall visual appearance of Athy by encouraging the following: (a) The removal of overhead cables and wires placing them underground within the town centre in conjunction with the various utility companies. (b) The control of advertising, including the removal of existing signage which is visually obtrusive or out of character, in particular neon and poor quality plastic signage will be prohibited.	Placing cables and wires underground may lead to loss of habitat and disturbance of Annex 1 species such as otter. Pollution of surface water may occur through the accidental spillage of fuel or concrete and the runoff of sediments.	Where cable and wires are to be placed underground adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
Town Centre Objectives		
TCO 1: To maintain the Council's Derelict Sites Register and to exercise its powers under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCO 2: To seek the removal of unauthorised advertising/signage through enforcement provisions and to encourage new advertising and signage which is appropriate to the streetscape and positively contributes to the public realm.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCO 3: To prepare and implement an Environmental Improvement Scheme within the lifetime of this Plan to visually enhance the streetscape and key urban spaces with an emphasis on promoting a pedestrian and public transport friendly environment.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCO 4: To investigate the feasibility of the pedestrianisation of all or part of Emily Square during the Plan period.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TCO 5: To construct a pedestrian crossing over the River Barrow as appropriate to link schools, parks, playing fields and residential areas on both sides of the river	Installation of a footbridge over the River Barrow may lead to loss of habitat and disturbance of Annex 1 species such as otter. Pollution of surface water may occur through the accidental spillage of fuel or concrete and the runoff of sediments.	This proposed pedestrian crossing will be subject to route selection and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9) In addition the mitigation measures for Roads and other linear infrastructure crossing a Natura 2000 site, as outlined in Section 3.5.1 will apply (GT15)
TCO 6: To provide for a pedestrian crossing from the train station to the park/playground in People's Park.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 6: Retail

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
<p>Aim</p> <p>To promote and encourage major enhancement and expansion of the retail floorspace and town centre functions of Athy, to further develop its competitiveness with nearby towns such as Carlow and Portlaoise and to further recognise its importance as a Sub County Town Centre in County Kildare and the wider Greater Dublin Area.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
<p>Greater Dublin Area retail Strategy Policy</p>		
<p>SR 1: To promote the role of Athy as a key town serving the large rural hinterland of South Kildare seeking to create a critical mass within the urban core so that the retail opportunities in the town centre are developed to create a viable, attractive local destination for convenience and comparison shopping and thus reduce market leakage from this area.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply</p>
<p>Kildare County Development Policy</p>		
<p>SR 2: To promote and encourage major enhancement and expansion of the retail offer and town centre functions of Athy, Clane and Kildare Town to sustain and enhance their importance as Sub County Town Centres within the Central and South Sub Areas of the County.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply</p>
<p>SR 3: To work with Athy Town Council in delivering the policy objectives of the County Retail Strategy in order that it delivers its vision and potential as the mechanism for redressing high shopping expenditure leakage from its catchment area and the south of the County as a whole.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply</p>

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
Strategy Policies		
RS1: To guide major retail development in accordance with the framework provided by the County Retail Hierarchy to enable an efficient, equitable and sustainable distribution of floorspace throughout the town.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
RS2: To promote the Core Retail Area (refer to Map 6.1) and town centre as the primary focus and preferred location for new retail development.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
RS3: To guide retail development in accordance with the framework provided by the Sequential Approach to enable the vitality and viability of the town centre to be sustained and strengthened.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RS3: To assess all applications for large retail development in accordance with the criteria set out above and in Chapter 15 Development Management Standards of this Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Specific Retail Policies		
RP1: To promote and encourage major enhancement and expansion of the retail offer and town centre retail functions of Athy and to develop its importance as a Sub County Town Centre within the south of the County whilst ensuring high quality design in all retail proposals.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
RP2: To work with Kildare County Council in delivering the policy objectives of the County Retail Strategy in order that Athy delivers its vision and potential as the mechanism for redressing high shopping expenditure leakage from its catchment area and the south of the County as a whole.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP3: To work in partnership with local organisations, businesses and people in the delivery of the vision for Athy	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP4: To improve the shopping experience in Athy Town by promoting the potential of Athy Town for a range of additional convenience and comparison floorspace at appropriate locations.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
RP5: To align, as far as is practicable, new retail development with existing and proposed public transport infrastructure and services and encourage access by foot and bicycle to reduce the dominance of access by private car.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP6: To facilitate retail warehousing to the southeast of the town on zoned H2 Industrial & Warehousing lands in order to meet, more sustainably the needs in this sector of the market in the south of the County.	Any development within this area could potentially have indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through changes in water quality and drainage into the river. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
RP7: To recognise the tradition of Athy as a Market Town and to encourage the continuation and improvement of the 'Athy Town Market' and the continued development of a high quality 'Farmers Market' within the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
General Retail Policies		
RP8: To encourage and facilitate the enhancement and environmental improvement of Athy Town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP9: To pursue all avenues of funding to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of the public realm in Athy Town Centre.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP10: To ensure that the best quality of design is achieved for all new retail development and that design respects and enhances the specific characteristics of Athy Town in terms of design, scale and external finishes.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP11: To protect and enhance the amenities and character of Athy Town Centre. The Council will seek to balance the competing needs of commercial, service social and cultural functions which the town centre performs with the need to protect the recognised heritage and architectural quality of its streetscape. This will apply to skyline, shop fronts and advertising structures.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP12: To encourage and facilitate the development of appropriately located retail centres to meet the needs of existing and growing areas of the town in accordance with the sequential approach.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
RP13: To identify appropriate locations for new retail centres within established residential areas and where large scale residential development is planned over the period of the timescale of the Development Plan while having regard to the possible impact on Athy Town Centre.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
Retail Warehouse Parks Policy		

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
RP14: To prohibit mainstream and discount convenience retail developments in retail parks.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP15: To prohibit mainstream comparison floorspace or retailers in retail parks.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP16: To ensure that the level of retail and local services provision in existing and new major employment areas sustains and enhances their attraction as locations for investment.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP17: To provide the land use and retail planning framework to ensure that the mixed use strategies for new employment areas respond to the wider context of need and demand in related expanding residential areas in the interests of ensuring that these locations are attractive to new residents, workers and employers.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP18: To limit the level of shopping and local services provision in existing industrial estates or parks, unless there is an interface with neighbouring residential areas. Standalone mainstream and discount convenience or comparison floorspace will not be permitted in existing employment areas unless it is proven to be part of the wholesale retail market sector.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP19: To encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of land and buildings for retail and other town centre uses.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
RP20: To work with and encourage landowners, retailers and development interests to realise the potential of town centre lands in Athy Town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP21: To encourage and facilitate the development of retailing in the tourism and leisure sectors and encourage strong linkages between each.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP22: To encourage and facilitate the delivery of tourism related retail developments and initiatives in and around Athy Town Centre and waterfront.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
RP23: To take cognisance in the designations of areas for Casual Trading of the proper and sustainable development of Athy, including: the preservation and improvement of amenities; the safety and convenience of pedestrians; the traffic likely to be generated by Casual Trading; and, the promotion of tourism.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP24: To prosecute in situations where the Casual Trading 1995 Act is being contravened.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
RP25: To discourage amusement/gaming arcades in the Core Retail Area as they are considered to be an undesirable use and potentially detrimental to the business and commercial environment of the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP26: To discourage non retail and lower grade retail uses e.g. takeaways and betting offices in the Core Retail Area and other principal streets in the town centre in the interests of maintaining and sustaining the retail attraction of Athy Town Centre.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP27: To encourage and facilitate the potential of Athy Town as a centre for innovation in retailing in order to enhance the town's retail offer and attraction.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP28 To review and monitor retail trends that could have an influence on the performance of the sector within the town and pursue harnessing new concepts and formats in the Athy Town retail structure.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP29: To require applicants to indicate their proposed hours of opening. Late opening of shops will only be permissible where it can be clearly demonstrated that there will be no negative impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring areas.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
General Retail Policy		
GR1: To make an important contribution to sustaining and improving the retail profile and competitiveness of the town and County Kildare within the retail economy of the GDA and beyond.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GR2: To encourage and facilitate the preservation of the retail and services role of Athy in both the County and GDA contexts.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GR3: To reinforce the heart of the town centre as the priority location for new retail development, with quality of design and integration/linkage being fundamental prerequisites.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
GR4: To address leakage of retail expenditure from the town and its catchment by facilitating the strengthening of the range and quality of its retail offer.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GR5: To encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of derelict and underutilised land and buildings in the town centre for retail and other town centre uses, having regard to the Sequential Approach outlined in this Plan.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
GR6: To ensure an efficient, equitable and sustainable spatial	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Policy Deletion OR Amendment
distribution of retail centres in and around the town.	objective/policy	
GR7: To establish clear principles and guidance on where various forms of new retail floorspace would be acceptable.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GR8: To ensure that the retail needs of the Athy catchment area are met as fully as possible to promote social inclusion within the town and take due cognisance of the GDA retail hierarchy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 7: Movement and Transport

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Aim To promote ease of movement within and access to Athy, by integrating sustainable land use planning with a high quality, integrated transport system; to support improvements to the road, rail and public transport network, together with cycleway and pedestrian facilities and to provide for new and improved transport facilities within Athy in a manner which is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development.	Construction of transport infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and indirectly on the River Nore/River Barrow SAC, particularly where new links are built across the River Barrow. This could lead to impacts such as direct loss of habitat, changes in hydrology and changes in water quality through pollution and runoff of sediment during construction.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3) Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
GT 1: To co-operate with other agencies to promote and facilitate the implementation of a sustainable transportation strategy for Athy having regard to Transport 21 (2006- 2015), Department of Transport's Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020 and the Dublin Transportation Office's strategic document Platform for Change 2000-2016"and the forthcoming strategy to be published by the National Transport Authority.	Construction of transport infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and indirectly on the River Nore/River Barrow SAC, particularly where new links are built across the River Barrow. This could lead to impacts such as direct loss of habitat, changes in hydrology and changes in water quality through pollution and runoff of sediment during construction.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
GT 2: To support sustainable modes of transport that ensure that land use planning and zoning are fully integrated with the provision and development of high quality transportation systems.	Construction of transport infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and indirectly on the River Nore/River Barrow SAC, particularly where new links are built across the River Barrow. This could lead to impacts such as direct loss of habitat, changes in hydrology and changes in water quality through pollution and	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
GT 3: To promote and encourage the development and growth of Athy in line with the principles of sustainable development and to continue to support the policies and recommendations as outlined in the Athy Integrated Framework Plan for Land - Use and Transportation and the Athy Traffic Management Plan.	runoff of sediment during construction. Construction of transport infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and indirectly on the River Nore/River Barrow SAC, particularly where new links are built across the River Barrow. This could lead to impacts such as direct loss of habitat, changes in hydrology and changes in water quality through pollution and runoff of sediment during construction.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
GT 4: To provide a road network which is safe and efficient for all road users while being cognisant of the requirements of all traffic, including motorised vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.	Construction of transport infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and indirectly on the River Nore/River Barrow SAC, particularly where new links are built across the River Barrow. This could lead to impacts such as direct loss of habitat, changes in hydrology and changes in water quality through pollution and runoff of sediment during construction.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
GT 5: To ensure that Athy is well-connected to both the national road network and local centres of population.	Construction of transport infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and indirectly on the River Nore/River Barrow SAC, particularly where new links are built across the River Barrow. This could lead to impacts such as direct loss of habitat, changes in hydrology and changes in water quality through pollution and runoff of sediment during construction.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
GT 6: To progressively improve all urban roads and footpaths and maintain these to the highest possible standards, having regard to the availability of finance and amenity and townscape requirements.	Construction of transport infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and indirectly on the River Nore/River Barrow SAC, particularly where new links are built across the River Barrow. This could lead to impacts such as direct loss of habitat, changes in hydrology and changes in water quality through pollution and runoff of sediment during construction.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
GT 7: To improve road safety within the town centre by implementing gateway entry treatments and other speed reduction measures (incl. 50kph signage) inside the town boundary. This measure will include reducing the speed limit appropriately in the core town centre, and between the town centre and the town boundary.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GT 8: To investigate the reduction of vehicular traffic passing through the Town Centre to improve the pedestrian environment of the town's retail core.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GT 9: To co-operate with the public transport authorities and any other relevant bodies to promote the use of existing parking facilities in the town for park and ride purposes.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GT 10: To utilise the provisions of Sections 48(2)(C) and 49 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended to generate financial contributions towards the capital costs of providing strategic and local transport infrastructure.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GT 11: To continue to support the operation of and development of the bus service provided by South Kildare Community Transport supported by the Department of Transport	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GT 12: To have regard to the condition, location and accessibility	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
of heritage items in the planning and provision of transportation services.	objective/policy	
GT 13: To have regard to the policies, actions, outcomes and recommendations of the Kildare Local Authorities Noise Action Plan regarding new development in proximity to National Routes.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GT 14: To increase the level of access within Athy to a choice of transport modes and, in particular, to promote forms of development that reduce dependence on private car transport.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GT 15: To require roads and other infrastructure crossing a Natura 2000 site to comply with the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the need for the project in light of a “do nothing” context. • Develop and evaluate a comprehensive series of plausible alternative routes and design strategies. • Demonstrate how each route has taken due account of, and accommodated ecological considerations and legislative requirements including the Precautionary Principle. • Demonstrate that the chosen route will not cause any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. 	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GT 16: To support the Government’s Electric Transport Programme 2008, by facilitating the roll-out of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles at appropriate locations within the town, through the planning system.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TM 1: To promote the enhancement and to maximise the use of Athy train station and to assess the need to provide for additional parking facilities at this location.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TM 2: To facilitate and promote the development of upgraded rail infrastructure and services on the ‘Dublin-Waterford’ line through Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TM 3: To co-operate with the relevant transport bodies and authorities to secure improvements and further developments of the public transport system.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TM 4: To encourage public transport usage by improving bus shelters and associated passenger facilities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TM 5: To encourage the implementation and expansion of local bus services to link key trip generators and attractors in the town, particularly residential, employment, educational and retail centres.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TM 6: To require that public transport set-down and pickup points are located such that the safety of passengers is maximised and the safety of road users is not endangered through the creation of a traffic hazard	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TM 7: To facilitate the provision of taxi and hackney services and appropriately located parking in Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TM 8: To facilitate provision of a bus-bay and quality bus	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
waiting area in the town centre and to encourage interchange between bus and rail services.	objective/policy	
WC 1: To promote and encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly forms of transportation such as cycling and walking in accordance with national and regional walking and cycling policies.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 2: To increase priority for pedestrians and cyclists at signalised junctions in Athy town centre.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 3: To provide for safer routes to schools within the county and to encourage walking and cycling as suitable modes of transport as part of the Green School Initiative Programme and other local traffic management improvements.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 4: To facilitate and encourage cycling as a more convenient and safe method of transport through an integrated network of safe and convenient cycle and pedestrian routes throughout Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 5: To realise the potential of cycling and walking routes along the Grand Canal and River Barrow. (Refer to Recreation and Amenity Chapter 11)	Installation of cycling and walking routes along the River Barrow has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	Any proposed cycling or walking routes along the Grand Canal and River Barrow will be subject to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9, A7)
WC 6: To ensure the provision of cycle parking facilities in new development schemes.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 7: To provide and seek the provision of secure cycle parking facilities at key areas in Athy town centre and to encourage and promote the use of cycling by employees, shoppers and visitors to the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 8: To traffic calm and environmentally enhance the regional / national routes leading into the town, to make them safer and more pedestrian and cyclist friendly in conjunction with Kildare County Council and other statutory bodies.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 9: To ensure that roads and footpaths are designed and constructed to cater for the needs of the people with disabilities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 10: To provide footpath continuity at appropriate locations to the Town boundary.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 11: To improve existing lighting and seek the provision of additional lighting facilities in Athy as funding becomes available.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 12: To carry out a feasibility study regarding the provision of a boardwalk along Cromaboo Bridge. The scope of this report must have regard to the design and impact of the proposed boardwalk, having regard to the protected structure status of the bridge; it's location within the ACA and the SAC status of the River	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Barrow and the associated requirements of the Habitats Directive.		
WC13: To encourage the provision of secure bicycle parking facilities in the town centre e.g Emily Square and Edmund Rice Square and at public facilities such as schools, the library, the train station and in all new developments in accordance with the standards set out in the development management standards in Chapter 15.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WC 14: To ensure that the national roads system throughout County Kildare is planned for and managed in an integrated manner enabling sustainable economic development of the County and wider area while encouraging a shift towards more sustainable travel and transport in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines (DoECLG, 2011) as may be amended.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
DR 1: To ensure that new distributor/relief roads are designed and constructed in a manner that will enable them to fulfil their functions.	Construction of relief roads which incorporate bridges crossing the River Barrow have the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey. Installation of in stream structures may lead to direct losses of protected species and changes in hydrology, leading to further impacts downstream.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, A7)
DR 2: To limit direct access onto distributor/relief roads to a number of strategically located junctions.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
DR 3: To continue the development of proposed distributor/relief roads namely the Northern and Southern roads.	Construction of relief roads which incorporate bridges crossing the River Barrow have the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey. Installation of in stream structures may lead to direct losses of protected species and changes in hydrology, leading to further impacts downstream.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) In addition the mitigation measures for Roads and other linear infrastructure crossing a Natura 2000 site, as outlined in Section 3.5.1 will apply (GT 15)
DR 4: To require housing scheme roads to be provided in accordance with: a) Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) and accompanying Best Practice Design Manual (2009). b) Architecture 2009-2015 Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment (2009). c) Manual for Streets published by the Department of Transport, and Communities and Local Government (England and Wales) (2007) and any new guidance/ standards issued from the	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
DoECLG.		
PK 1: To optimise the use of existing parking stock, and to provide, facilitate and regulate the provision of parking spaces conveniently located to serve the various land uses.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PK 2: To seek to ensure that all new private car parking facilities are provided to an appropriate standard, including the provision of public lighting, permanent surfacing and marking, the provision of adequate circulation and aisle widths.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PK 3: To manage the provision of on street parking and to promote the provision of off-street car parks at edge-of-town centre locations and to reduce on street parking in the town centre.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PK 4: To require significant new industrial developments in the vicinity of Athy to incorporate designated HGV parking areas.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PK 5: To ensure that car parking is generally provided in accordance with "Buildings for Everyone" 2002 published by the National Disability Authority.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PK 6: To prepare a car parking strategy for the town ensuring that there is a network of car parks at strategic entry points to the town centre.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PK 7: To review all parking standards, in consultation with relevant stakeholders during the life of this Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GO 1: To implement the recommendations of the Athy Traffic Management Plan, including the environmental and traffic management improvements.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GO 2: To prepare a traffic and public realm plan for Emily Square and to make recommendations on the necessary improvements.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GO 3: To liaise with Kildare County Council on the possibility of developing a central website containing information on public transport services and routes available in Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GO 4: To assess the viability of diverting HGVs away from the town centre and consider the feasibility of providing localised parking centres for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GO 5: To support the improvement of public transport services generally by reserving land in suitable locations.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GO 6: To improve road/street signage by undertaking a survey to assess proliferation, gaps and quality in signage and to develop a policy for the future provision of signage within the town, including the location of parking facilities and key public buildings and attractions throughout the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
GO 7: To optimise use of the existing parking stock, by increasing turnover, by increasing occupancy at under-utilised locations and to direct traffic to locations where spare capacity is available.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
<p>GO 8: To consider the development of multi-storey car parks and/basement car parks in the town.</p>	<p>Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
<p>GO 9: To require all proposed developments to provide appropriate turning areas for emergency and service vehicles.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>GO 10: To ensure all new developments are accessible to sustainable modes of transportation.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>GO 11: To identify car parks and other suitable locations for the provision of appropriate battery charging infrastructure for electrically powered cars/vehicles as a means by which the Council can assist in achieving a reduction in carbon emissions.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>GO 12: To further upgrade and improve the pathway between St. John's Lane and Greenhills in order to maximise the accessibility and amenity value of the area. These works should be carried out within the context of a strategic plan to upgrade and improve pedestrian connectivity and permeability throughout the town.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>STO 1: To engage with service providers to regularise the number of bus stops and provide bus pull in bays and shelters along the main routes thereby improving safety and traffic flow.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>STO 2: To encourage Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann and private companies to improve the frequency and quality of public transport facilities to, from and within the town.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>STO 3: To investigate the potential for a number of "park and walk" sites which would provide convenient pedestrian access to the town centre, as an alternative to providing additional car parking within the town centre area.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
<p>STO 4: To continue the road and footpath improvements, which facilitate pedestrian safety at various locations within the town centre, and in particular at the following junctions:</p> <p>(a) N78 / Kirwans Lane (b) N78 / Church Road (c) N78 / Chapel Lane (d) N78/ Meeting Lane (e) N78 / St John's Lane (f) N78 / Green Alley (g) N78 / Nelson Street (h) Mount Hawkins / Chapel Lane (i) Kirwans Lane / Mount Hawkins (j) Woodstock Street / Barrack Lane</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>STO 5: To investigate the pedestrianisation of certain town centre routes once the New Town Centre Street is constructed.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>STO 6: To construct a pedestrian bridge over the River Barrow as appropriate to link schools, parks, playing fields and residential areas on both sides of the river, thereby providing safer routes to school. This bridge will be constructed to the specifications of all statutory bodies.</p>	<p>Installation of a footbridge over the River Barrow may lead to loss of habitat and disturbance of Annex 1 species such as otter. Pollution of surface water may occur during construction through the accidental spillage of fuel or concrete and the runoff of sediments.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) In addition the mitigation measures for Roads and other linear infrastructure crossing a Natura 2000 site, as outlined in Section 3.5.1 will apply (GT 15)</p>
<p>STO 7: To upgrade and construct continuous walkways and cycle ways along both sides of the River Barrow and Grand Canal, to provide attractive leisure routes and alternative routes to the town centre..</p>	<p>Installation of cycling and walking routes along the River Barrow has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.</p>	<p>Any proposed cycling or walking routes along the Grand Canal and River Barrow will be subject to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (A7)</p>
<p>STO 8: To assist and encourage the development and expansion of rural transport initiatives, in conjunction with other statutory and development agencies.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>Roads Programme Objectives</p>		
<p>RP 1: To construct a Southern distributor road including a proposed link from this route to the town centre via the train station and to preserve these routes free from development. This is a priority objective of this plan. (Refer to Land Use Zoning Map 16.1)</p>	<p>Construction of a southern distributor road which incorporates a bridge crossing the River Barrow has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey. Installation of in stream structures may lead to direct losses of protected species and changes in hydrology, leading to further impacts downstream.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) In addition the mitigation measures for Roads and other linear infrastructure crossing a Natura 2000 site, as outlined in Section 3.5.1 will apply (GT 15)</p>
<p>RP 2: To support the construction of a Northern Distributor</p>	<p>Construction of a Northern distributor road which incorporates a</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this</p>

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Road and until such time as construction commences to preserve the route free from development.	bridge crossing the River Barrow has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey. Installation of in stream structures may lead to direct losses of protected species and changes in hydrology, leading to further impacts downstream.	policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) In addition the mitigation measures for Roads and other linear infrastructure crossing a Natura 2000 site, as outlined in Section 3.5.1 will apply (GT 15)
RP 3: That following completion of the Detailed Design and Appropriate Assessment for the Northern Distributor Road (NDR), the proposed land take, indicated on Map No 16.1 be amended to coincide with the proposed land take for the NDR.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3) Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
RP 4: To support the construction of the New Town Centre Street and to co-operate with Kildare County Council in acquiring land to facilitate its construction. The design of the proposed New Town Centre Street and bridge crossing shall have regard to the potential impact on Emily Square and adjoining lands.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	This proposed bridge will be subject to route selection and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) In addition the mitigation measures for Roads and other linear infrastructure crossing a Natura 2000 site, as outlined in Section 3.5.1 will apply (GT15)
RP 5: To complete road improvements to the Fortbarrington Road from Blackparks to Ardrew.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP 6: To improve the junctions of the R418 (Castledermot Road) with the N78.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP 76: To improve the junction of the Kildare Road with the N78, having regard to the constraints of nearby protected structures.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP 8: To continue the construction of gateway features on the west-end of the N78 and to introduce gateway features on the	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
eastern-end of the N78 to alert drivers that they are entering an urban area. This will include improved lighting, traffic calming measures, provision of higher level of signage along with road markings.		
RP 9: To carry out the improvement of the local road from Prusselstown Cross Roads to the N78 Dublin Road.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP 10: To ensure that adequate set back is provided adjacent to the four railway bridges in Athy to allow for the upgrading of the railway in consultation with Iarnrod Eireann	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP 11: To implement traffic calming and other associated measures on the R417 and R428 as part of new developments.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP 12: To implement traffic calming measures on Stanhope Place and Mount Hawkins.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP 13: To implement traffic calming measures on the N78 at the GAA club.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP14: To review and set out an implementation plan for the roads programme, including the improvement of walking and cycling routes, as part of a "local traffic plan" to be prepared following publications of the NTA Transport Strategy for the GDA and in accordance with Section 65 of the DTA Act 2008.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RP 15: To prepare the preliminary design of the Northern Distributor Road within 21 months from the day of the adoption of this Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 8: Water, Drainage and Environmental Services

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Aim To develop, protect, improve and extend water and wastewater and environmental services throughout Athy and to prioritise the sustainable provision of water services infrastructure to complement the overall strategy for the economic and population growth of the town and achieve enhanced environmental protection.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Water Supply Policies WS1: To secure the timely development of the priorities relating to Athy outlined in the Water Services Investment Programme - Assessment of Needs 2010 to 2012.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS2: To secure priorities outlined in the Water Services Investment Programme - Assessment of Needs 2010 to 2012 including the network upgrade of the Athy Sewerage Scheme and the Barrow Abstraction Scheme	Abstraction of water has the potential to decrease water flows in the River Barrow and thus have impacts on species and habitats that are sensitive to changes in hydrology. Discharge of treated sewage to the River Barrow potentially will impact on water quality.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
	Both abstraction and sewage schemes are controlled through a separate licensing process and would be subject to Appropriate Assessment of individual schemes.	
WS 3: To prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council. Such a Plan may be prepared jointly with other Water Services Authorities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS4: To provide water, sufficient in quantity and quality to serve the needs of existing and future population.	Abstraction of water has the potential to decrease water flows in the River Barrow and thus have impacts on species and habitats that are sensitive to changes in hydrology.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)
WS5: To examine ways of improving and upgrading the drinking water supply in Athy to cater for existing development in line with changing EU and National Directives, and concurrently to allow for increased residential, industrial and commercial growth in line with the objectives of this Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS5: To upgrade the existing water supply network infrastructure with the aim of improving the supply and quality of drinking water and reducing the level of unaccounted for water.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS7: To promote conservation of water resources and where possible effect a reduction in the overall demand for treated water.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS8: To promote water conservation measures within Athy by requiring the installation of water meters in all new residential units and in cases where planning permission is required for an extension.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS9: To explore sustainable water conservation initiatives including large scale rainwater harvesting, re-use of grey water and improved leakage controls.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS10: To require developments to connect to the public water supply.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS11: To actively minimise leakage from the water supply network.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WS 12: To provide a clean water supply which meets the requirements of the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No 2) Regulations 2007 and any subsequent amendments to the regulations during the period of this Plan.	Abstraction of water has the potential to decrease water flows in the River Barrow and thus have impacts on species and habitats that are sensitive to changes in hydrology.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)
Wastewater Treatment Policy		
WW1: To reserve and allocate a proportion of the capacity of the Athy Sewerage Treatment Plant to development that yields long terms sustainable employment in the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WW2: To minimise leakage from the foul sewer network and surface water infiltration into the foul sewerage system while at the same time reducing groundwater pollution.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WW3: To ensure that public wastewater collection and treatment	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
infrastructure - which fully complies with requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) including the need to provide secondary treatment and other treatment as required - shall be operational and with adequate capacity to accommodate waste water arising from development, prior to developments being occupied. Discharges arising from this collection and treatment shall also comply with the requirements of the Directive.	objective/policy	
WW4: To implement the relevant recommendations set out in Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons - A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007 (EPA Office of Environment Enforcement, 2009).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WW 5: To have regard to all relevant waste water legislation particularly sections 43 and 44 of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Surface Water and Drainage Policy SW1: To implement the requirements of the DoEHLG The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) in the carrying out of functions during the period of the Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SW2: To ensure that appropriate drainage facilities are provided which will allow development to proceed without leading to an increased risk of pollution or flooding.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SW3: To ensure that all new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDS).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SW4: Future development proposals should be subject to an appropriate flood risk assessment in accordance with the Athy Town Development Plan (2012–2018) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SW5: To require Persons/Companies undertaking Flood Risk Assessments to certify that the Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the DoEHLG Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and utilising other flood information as it becomes available.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SW6: To ensure that all structures adjacent to watercourses (including hard landscaping) adjacent to watercourses is set back from the edge of the watercourse to allow access for channel clearing/ maintenance. A set back of 10 metres will generally be required depending on channel width and location	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SW7: To ensure that the requirements of Inland Fisheries	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
<p>Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowance for dry weather flow conditions to be reflected in channel cross section; • Appropriate programming of any "instream works" to reflect the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland. 	objective/policy	
<p>SW8: To protect groundwater resources and drinking water catchments having regard to the County Kildare Ground Water Protection Scheme 1999 (as amended) and Environmental Protection Agency Code of Practice or Building Regulations applicable at the time from the effects of flooding.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>Water Quality Policy WQ 1: To co-operate with the EPA, HSE and other authorities, in the continued implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and assist and co-operate with the lead authorities for the South Eastern River Basin District.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>WQ2: To ensure, through the implementation of the River Basin Management Plans and their associated Programmes of Measures and any other associated legislation, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the town.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>WQ 3: To work, in co-operation with relevant organisations and major stakeholders, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the protection and improvement of water resources.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>WQ 4: To continue efforts to improve water quality under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, (as amended) and by implementing the measures outlined under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and other relevant Regulations.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>WQ 5: To promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect both surface water and groundwater bodies.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>WQ6: To ensure that all agricultural activities adhere to any current or future legislation on water quality, such as the Phosphorous Regulations, Water Framework Directive and Nitrate Directive.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>WQ7: To ensure conformance with the relevant recommendations set out in The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland - A Report for the Years 2007-2008 (EPA Office of Environment Enforcement, 2009).</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>Water, Wastewater and Drainage Objectives WDO1: To improve the provision of water and drainage services in new developments and in those areas of the town where deficiencies exist.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
<p>WDO2: To protect, improve and conserve the town's wastewater resources.</p>	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
WDO3: To facilitate the provision of necessary water infrastructure in a sustainable manner.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO4: To improve water quality in the town in accordance with European and National legislation.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO5: To monitor and review the water quality standards of Athy Town Council in light of European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 (SI 278 of 2007), and to ensure continuing compliance with the regulations.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO6: To improve and expand the water supply to all areas in accordance with the Water Services Investment Programme for County Kildare.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WD 07: To promote rain water harvesting as a complementary surface water management system in all developments and in particular, for larger developments.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO8: To promote the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in Athy where this is feasible.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO9: To carry out a survey of the surface water culverts in Athy to assess their current state, and to improve culverts where necessary.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO10: To carry out a programme of dredging surface water drains and to continue to ensure that the drains are regularly maintained to minimise the risk of flooding.	Surface water drains within the plan area are likely to drain eventually to the River Barrow. Dredging may result in the mobilization of sediments, which could eventually discharged to the River Barrow, impacting negatively on water quality and species such as lamprey, salmon and crayfish	Any works that occur through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)
WDO 11: To promote sustainable water conservation initiatives, particularly for larger developments including rainwater harvesting, re-use of grey water and improved leakage control with a view to their implementation within the town's water supply and drainage network.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO 12: To decommission as many lead public water mains as possible in older areas of Athy where they are present.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO13: To fulfil its responsibilities under the Flood Risk Directive 2007/60/EC and cooperate with the Office of Public Works in the development of any Catchment-based Flood Risk Management Plan as necessary. Any relevant recommendations and outputs arising from Flood Risk Management Plan will be incorporated into the Development Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
WDO14: To integrate into the Plan, relevant findings of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS) for the River Barrow Catchment when it is finalised in 2014, as appropriate.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Environmental Services Aim		
To conform with EU, national and regional policies in relation to waste management, to protect and enhance water, air and noise quality and to promote environmental awareness in Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Waste Management Policies		
<p>WM1: To have regard to the County Kildare Waste Management Plan in the implementation, operation and management of schemes and services for the disposal of waste.</p>	<p>Any development of waste infrastructure within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
<p>WM 2: To seek to ensure that Athy is served by adequate recycling facilities in the form of kerbside collection, the continued operation and improvement of the existing Civic Amenity Centre and bring bank-recycling facilities.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>WM 3: To encourage waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste. Where waste management is not being carried out properly, the Waste Management Act, 1996 to 2008 will be used as a means to ensure specific national policies and regulations are adhered to.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>WM 4: To promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness, community-based recycling initiatives and environmental management initiatives, which will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>WM 5: To ensure that the "Code of Practice Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites" published by the EPA is adhered to regarding any contaminated sites within the town council boundary and to ensure that a risk based assessment procedure is carried out for all historic unregulated waste disposal sites; the potential risks are assessed and that the appropriate remedial measures or corrective actions are put in place before any development takes place.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
Litter Management Policy		
<p>L1: To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>L2: To prepare a Litter Management Plan for Athy in</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of</p>	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
accordance with the Litter Pollution Act 1997.	objective/policy	
L3: To continue education and awareness programmes in local schools and to promote grant schemes and initiatives to residential associations and other groups, in particular the Tidy Towns Committee, which aim to reduce litter in the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
L4: To require the provision of litter bins on or directly adjoining the premises of all neighbourhood facilities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Pollution Control- Water, Air and Noise Policies		
N 1: To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
N 2: To seek to ensure that noise levels do not exceed accepted standards and that new developments incorporate measures to ensure compliance with the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these Regulations.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
N3: To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which require regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
N4: To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Light Policy		
LT1: To seek to minimise the effects of all new external lighting on environmental amenity	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Environmental Services Objectives		
ENO 1: To facilitate the implementation of the County Kildare Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 and any subsequent revisions thereof during the period of this Plan.	Any development of waste infrastructure within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
ENO 2: To investigate the possibility of the further provision of recycling facilities in Athy.	Any development of waste infrastructure within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation measures as previously outlined will apply
ENO 3: To facilitate the preparation and implementation of the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2009 and Athy Litter Management Plan and any subsequent amendments during the period of the Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ENO 4: To continue to monitor air quality at selected locations throughout the town in co-operation with the Health Service Executive and the Environmental Protection Agency.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ENO 5: To continue to monitor watercourses and other sensitive	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
areas of the town's environment with a view to early detection and prevention of pollution.	objective/policy	
ENO 6: To continue to support Community Groups, Resident's Associations and Tidy Town's Committee, in the promotion of Athy as a clean and attractive town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ENO 7: To continue to expand environmental awareness initiatives designed to create increased public awareness of waste prevention, minimisation and reuse.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 9: Energy and Communications

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Aim To promote energy conservation in Athy through appropriate land use and building standards with an aim to reduce the demand for energy and fossil fuels in particular and to promote and facilitate the development of telecommunications infrastructure.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policy- Energy Waste EN1: To support the regional, national and international initiatives and strategies and to facilitate measures that seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. In this regard, the Council will generally support initiatives taken to provide for more sustainable forms of energy use in an environmentally acceptable manner, subject to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policies – Renewable Energy RE 1: To promote, support and facilitate the development of renewable energy in Athy, where it is considered appropriate.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RE 2: To explore all viable options with regard to utilising renewable energies for all public infrastructure and developments, subject to funding.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policies – Energy Efficiency EE 1: To promote energy conservation and efficiency measures and to facilitate innovative building design that promotes energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources in accordance with national policy and guidelines.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
EE 2: To encourage use of passive solar design principles for residential building(s).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
EE 3: To support and encourage the installation of solar collectors and panels for the production of heat or electricity in residential and commercial buildings, in line with relevant design criteria.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
EE 4: To have regard to and implement where feasible, the recommendations of the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

2012.		
Policies – Non Renewable Energy		
NR 1: To encourage through coordinated land-use and transport planning, a reduction in the demand for vehicular travel and journey lengths.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NR 2: To promote the design and construction of buildings so as to limit the amount of energy required for the operation of the buildings and the amount of CO2 emissions associated with this energy use.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NR 3: To implement a programme to place all existing overhead cables underground throughout the town centre during the lifetime of the plan, subject to available funding.	Placing cables and wires underground may lead to loss of habitat and disturbance of Annex 1 species such as otter. Pollution of surface water may occur through the accidental spillage of fuel or concrete and the runoff of sediments.	Where cable and wires are to be placed underground adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
NR 4: To support the infrastructural renewal and development of electricity networks in Athy town and environs as appropriate. The development of secure and reliable electricity transmission infrastructure is recognized as a key factor for supporting economic development and attracting investment to the area.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NR 5: To encourage the extension of the existing gas infrastructure network in Athy and its environs in consultation with Natural Gas providers.	Extending the gas infrastructure may lead to loss of habitat and disturbance of Annex 1 species such as otter. Pollution of surface water may occur through the accidental spillage of fuel or concrete and the runoff of sediments.	Where gas infrastructure is to be installed adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
Policies - Telecommunications		
TE 1: To encourage the development and expansion of communication, information and broadcasting networks, including mobile phone networks, broadband and other digital services.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TE2: To encourage owners and operators of telecommunication structures to facilitate the co-location of antennae on existing support structures and masts.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

TE 3: To achieve a balance between facilitating the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in the interests of social and economic progress and sustaining residential amenity and environmental quality.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TE 4: To ensure that the location of telecommunications structures minimises and/or mitigates any adverse impacts on communities and the built or natural environment.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TE 5: To preserve significant views from the visual intrusion of large scale telecommunications infrastructure.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TE 6: To ensure that new telecommunications infrastructure are adequately screened, integrated and/or landscaped so as to minimise any adverse visual impacts on the environment.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TE 7: To promote and encourage the delivery of a high capacity ICT infrastructure, broad-band network, cable and broadcasting technologies throughout Athy and to facilitate access to these services by all sectors of the community by developing initiatives through the public library service.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TE 8: To support national policy for the provision of new and innovative telecommunications infrastructure, including a fibre optic broadband network and to recognise that the development of such infrastructure is a key component of future economic prosperity of Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Energy and Communication Objectives		
EC1: To support the modernisation and development of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure to support the economic development of Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
EC2: To implement on a phased basis a programme of placing all existing and proposed overhead cables underground throughout the town centre and to seek DoECLG financial support to undertake such works. Future capacity should be taken into account and appropriate ducting should also be put in place when the cables are placed underground.	Placing cables and wires underground may lead to loss of habitat and disturbance of Annex 1 species such as otter. Pollution of surface water may occur through the accidental spillage of fuel or concrete and the runoff of sediments.	Where cable and wires are to be placed underground adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
EC3: To support the implementation of the National Broadband Scheme insofar as it relates to Athy and to co-operate with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in any future additions to the scheme.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 10: Social Community and Cultural Development

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
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Aim		
Aim: To ensure that Athy is an attractive place to live and work by building strong inclusive communities that have a sense of place and belonging, with the provision of accessible social and community facilities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Community Services and Facilities Policies		
CF 1: To ensure that sufficient lands are zoned to cater for the social and community needs of the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 2: To actively promote the provision of community, educational, social and recreational facilities in tandem with future housing development. In certain large mixed use schemes the frontloading of such infrastructure may be required prior to the commencement of development. In this regard, applicants will be required to submit a Social Infrastructure Assessment (SIA) for the following; residential schemes on zoned land which are greater than 50 units, or where deemed necessary by the planning authority. The suitability and scale of proposed developments will be assessed against the level of social infrastructure in the town. The Planning Authority will seek to ensure that unsustainable levels of population growth do not take place in the absence of adequate levels of social infrastructure.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 3: To carry out a review of the SIA process to assist in the implementation of policy CF2 above in conjunction with Kildare County Council.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 4: To encourage the shared use of educational and community facilities for community and non-school purposes where possible so as to maximise the sustainable use of such infrastructure and promote community cohesion.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 5: To assess the suitable provision of nursing homes, crèches and other commercially run community facilities and amenities at appropriate locations in the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 6: To facilitate the provision of social, community and cultural services along safe walking routes and within a walking distance of communities, through prudent and inclusive planning.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 7: To ensure that future social, community and cultural facilities are adequate and of a standard to meet the needs of the communities they serve and that they are physically and spatially integrated into the local area. Such facilities need to be provided in tandem with the phasing of new residential development.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 8: To work with Kildare Leader Partnership to develop Social and Community Projects within the town.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH 9) All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the

		<p>GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) <p>Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to</p>
Social Inclusion and Community Development Policy		
SC 1: To promote equality of access to services and facilities and assist in the removal of barriers to full participation in society.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SC 2: To work with the Athy RAPID Area Implementation Team to co-ordinate and improve services aimed at the RAPID target groups.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SC 3: To support and encourage the establishment of consultative structures, particularly those associated with the County Development Board, which enhance and enable communities to engage in policy making.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SC 4: To ensure that all arts and cultural facilities in the ownership and management of the Council are accessible to the wider community and to promote the role of these facilities as focal points for the community.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SC 5: To support and encourage communities in the restoration and rehabilitation of community halls / centres, thereby facilitating a greater level of social and community inclusion. Assistance in the form of funding will be subject to budget allocations.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SC 6: To support and facilitate the improvement of public service infrastructure and facilities in the town, in particular health centres and local clinics, Garda Station and installations.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Groups with Specific Design / Planning Needs Policies		
YPC 1: To consider the needs of children and young people, including those with disabilities and additional needs, in the provision of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities (refer to Chapter 11 for additional policies on recreation and amenity).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
YPC 2: To support and encourage the establishment of facilities for young people at appropriate locations within the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PD 1: To ensure that all buildings, public open spaces, recreational and amenity areas are accessible for people with disabilities, having regard to the Building Regulations, the	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

objectives of 'Building for Everyone' (National Disability Authority) and 'Access for the Disabled' (No. 1 to 3) (National Rehabilitation Board).		
PD 2: To ensure that parking spaces provided for people with disabilities are appropriately indicated and are located in a manner which has regard to dismounting, safety of drivers and passengers.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PD 3: To ensure that all footpaths and public areas are accessible and safe for people with disabilities and/or reduced mobility by way of dishing of footpaths, location of crossings etc.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PD 4: To provide for the needs of people with visual difficulties in the design of pedestrian facilities, by assessing the options available and choosing the most appropriate design to implement on a case by case basis.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OP 1: To facilitate the provision of continuing care facilities for the elderly, such as: own homes (designed to meet the needs of elderly people), sheltered housing, day-care facilities, nursing homes and specialised care units (e.g. dementia specific units) at appropriate locations in the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OP 2: To cater for the diversity of older people's needs by promoting adaptability and flexibility in the design of homes, and the promotion of appropriately located commercial and community facilities in the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OP 3: To site residential care facilities for the elderly in accordance with the following: (i) Facilities should be located close to community and social facilities required by occupants (e.g. shops, post office, community centres, etc) thereby ensuring that older people can remain part of existing communities. (ii) Facilities should be easily accessible for residents, employees, visitors and service providers. A mobility strategy should be provided detailing connections to local/social infrastructure facilities, amenities and public transport services for residents, employees and visitors. (iii) Located within an environment that is suitable for their stated purpose, integrating within the wider community while providing a safe environment for residents. (iv) Located in an area which can benefit from the creation of strong links between the care for the elderly facilities and the local community including activities linked to other community groups.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OP 4: To require the design and layout of residential care facilities for the elderly to comply with all relevant standards set out in the 'National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland' published by the Health Information and Quality Authority (February 2009) or the relevant standards for any subsequent national guidelines. Relevant standards are	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

contained within Chapter 15 Development Management Standards.		
OP 5: To support the provision of social and physical infrastructure to encourage the development of Athy as an Age Friendly Town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TC1 To explore the feasibility of designated lands for the provision of an equine based facility.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
TC2 To support the Athy horse project in association with Kildare Traveller Interagency Strategy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Local Development / Community Groups Policies		
LDG 1: To continue to co-operate with statutory bodies, in particular the County Development Board, Enterprise Ireland and other agencies including the voluntary sector, residents, business and environment groups to counter disadvantage and social exclusion, to secure improvements in the quality of community facilities and to promote equality of access to public and social services for all members of the community.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
LDG 2: To work with the Athy RAPID Area Implementation Team to co-ordinate and improve services aimed at the RAPID target groups.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
LDG 3: To promote social inclusion, improved facilities and encourage greater integration of marginalized groups, including ethnic minorities, in community-based initiatives.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Arts and Culture in the Community Policies		
AC 1: To develop and improve the physical infrastructure of cultural facilities in the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AC 2: To ensure that all arts and cultural facilities in the ownership and management of the Council are accessible to the wider community and to promote the role of these facilities as focal points for the community.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AC 3: To continue to support an Arts and Cultural Programme for Athy Community Library.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AC 4: To support the town's existing Heritage Centre/Tourist Office by the promotion of further heritage services within the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AC 5: To assist the development of the Arts Service within the town and to expand the town's cultural infrastructure.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AC 6: To recognise and support the continued use of the Youth Café (in the Quaker Meeting House) and the Arts Centre (in the Methodist Church) in providing social, community and cultural services within the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AC 7: To facilitate the development of a cinema at an appropriate location within the Town Centre area of Athy.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9) All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict

	discharge point.	<p>surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
Library Services Policies		
LR 1: To provide and improve access to library services and provide an integrated approach to the delivery of library, arts, archives and local studies services.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
LR 2: To continue to improve access for the disabled in the existing library accommodation/Heritage Centre/Tourist Office.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
School Facilities Policies		
ED 1: To facilitate the provision of new education and other community facilities, and appropriate extensions to such facilities, within the town through the reservation / zoning of land for such uses.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
ED 2: To continue to facilitate the provision of dedicated facilities for adult and community education in recognition of the	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

growing demand for life long learning opportunities and the perceived shortage of such facilities at present.		
ED 3: To ensure that new or additional educational facilities are designed and located and have adequate management arrangements in place so as to enable the greatest possible use by the wider community.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Childcare Facilities Policies		
CF 1: To ensure the provision of childcare facilities in accordance with the Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG) and the Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations 1996 and 1997, 'Ready, Steady, Play! A National Play Policy' (2004) and any other relevant statutory guidelines which may issue during the period of this Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 2: To facilitate and encourage the provision of childcare facilities, including community crèche facilities, of an appropriate type and scale, at appropriate locations in the town.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
CF 3: To assess, in conjunction with the Kildare County Childcare Committee, the continuing needs around childcare and related facilities and review progress on provision during the mid term review of this Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
CF 4: To promote and encourage the provision of a network of childcare facilities that reflects the distribution of the residential population in the town in order to minimise travel distances and maximise opportunities for disadvantaged communities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Health Services Policies		
HS 1: To support and co-operate with promoters or operators of public and private health care facilities by facilitating and encouraging the provision of improved health care facilities in appropriate locations in the town	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
HS 2: To facilitate the integration of appropriate healthcare facilities within new and existing communities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HS 3: To support the provision of 'one stop' primary care medical centres and GP practices particularly along public transport routes and at locations easily accessible to members of the wider community.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Burial Grounds Policies		
BG 1: To protect the cultural heritage of the town's burial grounds and to encourage their management and maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
BG 2: To provide or assist in the provision of burial grounds at	Any development within the town could potentially have direct	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply

appropriate locations in the town.	and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	
Objectives		
SCO 1: To assess the suitability and demand for care facilities for the elderly and to facilitate the use of appropriate site(s) within the town for such uses.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SCO 2: To develop a partnership approach in funding and developing play opportunities in the town, in accordance with any forthcoming Council's Play Policy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SCO 3: To improve library provision and services subject to the availability of resources and finance.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SCO 4: To improve fire service provision, subject to the availability of resources and finance.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SCO 5: To provide or assist in the provision of burial grounds by reservation of land at suitable locations and provision of local authority burial grounds, where feasible.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
SCO 6: To actively pursue the location of a third-level outreach facility in Athy so as to improve access to further education and provide a greater range of opportunities for members of the community. A possible location for this facility would be in Rathstewart adjacent to the Community College.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
SCO 7: To continue to enforce the By-laws in association with Kildare County Council relating to the control of horses in public places.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 11: Recreation and Amenity

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
To ensure the retention, provision and maintenance of accessible recreational and amenity facilities including parks and open spaces to meet the needs of the growing population of Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Recreation Policies		
R 1: To encourage the provision, improvement and expansion of more varied recreational and sporting facilities to serve the needs of the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
R 2: To encourage recreational and amenity facilities to be multi-functional and not used exclusively by any one group.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

R 3: To encourage and promote the provision of pedestrian, cycle routes and networks linking parks and open spaces to residential developments so as to facilitate recreation and amenity activity, where feasible.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
R 4: To safeguard existing leisure, recreational facilities in Athy town and encourage the provision of new facilities for community use in new areas, or in areas where an identified shortage of such facilities exist.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
R 5: To facilitate the provision of sports and community facilities on Council owned land north of the Town Centre in a co-ordinated manner ensuring accessibility and usability by all members of the community.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
R 6: To seek to develop in conjunction with Kildare County Council, a county play and recreational and amenity strategy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
R 7: To support Kildare Sports Partnership and encourage participation in sport and recreation in Athy through strategic placement, planning, refurbishment and management of new and existing facilities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
R 8: To promote active amenity sports along the River Barrow and the Canal.	Development of sports facilities/playing facilities along the River Barrow could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss. Recreational disturbance due to increased presence of people may affect species such as otter. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point. Use of fertilisers on playing fields may also impact on surface water quality.	Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, A7)
R 9: A study will be carried out to explore the feasibility of developing a marina within the town area. This study will examine the need for the marina in light of a "do nothing" context, a range of sizes, locations and adjoining uses. Any development proposed in light of this study will be subject to EIA and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive	Development of a marina on the River Barrow may lead to negative impacts on the SAC and its qualifying habitats and species, including direct habitat loss and recreational disturbance of species such as otter. Instream works during construction may lead to direct loss of species such as lamprey, crayfish and salmon as well as loss of the habitats which support them. Instream works may also cause water pollution through the accidental spillage of fuels, oils and concrete.	The original wording of this policy was changed to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. The original wording was as follows: To encourage the development of a marina within the town area of approximately 50 berths and appropriate adjoining uses". This proposed development of a marina would need to be the subject of an AA and SEA and a separate study to determine the optimum and most appropriate location of the development.
Amenity Policy		
A1: To continue the development of riverside and canalside walking routes with the creation of a linear park along the River Barrow and canal in conjunction with the relevant statutory bodies.	Installation of walking routes along the River Barrow has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	Any proposed walking routes along the Grand Canal and River Barrow will be subject to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive(ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, A7)
A 2: To continue the amenity development of the People's	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of	

Park and to retain its enclosed urban park character.	objective/policy	
A 3: To maintain and develop the amenity potential of the canal for recreation.	Although the canal is not designated under the Habitats Directive, it does flow into the River Barrow. There is the potential that any amenity development of the canal may result in negative impacts on water quality, particularly through the accidental spillage of pollutants during construction	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) • Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during construction will be adhered to.
A4: To ensure that any future development along the Canal and the River provides walking routes and does not disproportionately affect their amenity value.	Installation of cycling and walking routes along the River Barrow and Canal has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	Any proposed cycling or walking routes along the Grand Canal and the River Barrow will be subject to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9, A7)
A5: To promote an increased awareness of Athy walking routes and heritage trails as attractive and unique recreational and educational amenities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
A6: To protect and improve all existing rights-of-way and to create further rights-of-way where necessary and appropriate.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
A7: To facilitate, where practicable, the provision of cycle-ways or walkways along the extent of the canal, in co-operation with landowners, Waterways Ireland and government departments. Any proposed cycling or walking routes along the Grand Canal and River Barrow will be subject to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive	Installation of cycling and walking routes along the River Barrow has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	<p>The original wording of this policy was changed to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. The original wording was as follows:</p> <p>To facilitate, where practicable, the provision of cycle-ways or walkways along the extent of the canal, in co-operation with landowners, Waterways Ireland and government departments.</p>
A 8: To support the conservation and development of local angling waters and associated infrastructure required to advance the sport in the town. Any proposed restocking will be carried out	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and in co-operation with Inland Fisheries Ireland. Any proposed works, including infrastructural works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive."		
A 9: To encourage and support the development of water safety awareness initiatives in association with Kildare Water Safety.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Parks and Open Spaces Policy		
OS 1: To develop and facilitate the provision of public open space generally in accordance with "Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas-Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DoEHLG, 2009) and with the 'Kildare Open Space Strategy'.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OS 2: To facilitate and encourage a series of high quality open spaces throughout the town, preferably as part of a larger linked network that is available to all ages and accessible to everyone, including people with mobility impairments.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OS 3: To retain open space lands with established recreational uses.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OS 4: To preserve, manage and maintain to a high standard the existing parks and open spaces in the town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OS 5: To encourage the provision of open space for both passive and active recreation to serve the needs of the town's existing and future population concurrent with new residential development.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
OS 6: To protect lands zoned Open Space and Amenity from inappropriate development, to provide for public access for recreational purposes, and to facilitate nature conservation in these areas.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AL 1: To encourage and facilitate the development of allotments of an appropriate scale which meet the following criteria; (i) The lands are appropriately situated within or immediately adjacent to the edge of the town; (ii) The lands are easily accessible to the residents of the town; and (iii) Adequate water supply and adequate bicycle and car parking facilities can be provided.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Recreation and Amenity Objectives		
To support the development of a quality open space area to include the provision of sports and community facilities on Town Council owned land north of Barrack Lane (Refer to Map 11.1).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RAO 2: To carry out a landscape management plan for the open space area to the north of Barrack Lane containing a detailed planting, landscaping and maintenance programme for the area. This landscape plan should address issues such as: • The need for attenuation ponds • Street furniture including lighting, seats and bins	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and Cycle facilities • New planting and management facilities 		
RAO 3: To facilitate the provision of secure bicycle locking facilities at the people's park.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RAO 4: To investigate developing Lord's Island as a Wildlife amenity area open to all members of the community.	Lord's Island is located within the River Barrow/River Nore SAC. Development of the island as a wildlife amenity has the potential to cause negative impacts through habitat loss as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction of any facilities on the island may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	This proposal shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive(ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9)
RAO 5: To support the development of a linear walkway along the banks of the Canal and River Barrow. Any proposed cycling or walking routes along the Grand Canal and River Barrow will be subject to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.	Installation of a linear walkway along the River Barrow and Grand Canal has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	Any proposed walking routes along the Grand Canal and River Barrow will be subject to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive(ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9, A7)
RAO 6: To undertake a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate location for a skateboard park.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RAO 7: To continue landscaping and maintenance of amenity areas.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RAO 8: To provide and develop walking and cycling routes throughout the Town, particularly ones linking various areas of public open spaces and amenity in accordance with Map 11.1	Installation of cycling and walking routes along the River Barrow has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	Any proposed cycling or walking routes along the Grand Canal and River Barrow will be subject to a feasibility study and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive(ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NHO 1, NH9, A7)
RAO 9: To continue to maintain existing open space areas within housing developments, which have been taken in charge by the Council.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
RAO 10: To implement the recommendations of the Kildare Open Space Strategy as appropriate.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 12: Archaeological and Architectural Heritage

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Aim To conserve, protect and enhance the architectural and	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
archaeological heritage of Athy. To strike a reasonable balance between conservation and development objectives and continue to protect, conserve and enhance buildings, areas, structures, sites and features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.		
General Heritage Policy HP 1: To work with relevant agencies in promoting awareness and pride in the natural, built and archaeological heritage of the county and to develop codes of best practice in relation to conservation of this heritage.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
HP 2: To encourage participation by heritage groups, community associations and local people in the identification, protection, conservation and enhancement of the heritage in Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Archaeological Heritage AH1: To ensure full consideration is given to the protection of archaeological heritage when undertaking or authorising development in order to avoid unnecessary conflict between development and the protection of the archaeological heritage.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH 2: To have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) Table 12.1 when assessing planning applications for development.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH 3: To protect and preserve any archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH 4 To ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest is not detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk or detailing and to ensure that such proposed developments, are subject to an archaeological assessment. Such an assessment will seek to ensure that the development can be designed in such a way as to avoid or minimise any potential effects on the archaeological heritage.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH 5: To encourage the provision of signage to publicly accessible recorded monuments.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH 6: To have regard to the Zone of Archaeological Potential shown on Map 12.1 and ensure that planning applications are referred to the appropriate prescribed bodies and to have regard to the advice and recommendations of the prescribed bodies.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH 7: To retain where possible the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH 8: To protect the historical burial grounds within Athy town and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles in co-operation with the Historic Monuments Advisory	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Committee and National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG).		
AH9: To encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and re-use of older structures, where appropriate. Such rehabilitation, renovation and re-use to existing vernacular structures must positively contribute to the streetscape of the area and shall have regard to bats and their roosts.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Architectural Heritage PS1: To conserve and protect the town's built environment and heritage in terms of streetscapes, individual buildings and features of historical, architectural, artistic, cultural, scientific, social and technical interest using the powers vested in it by the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2011.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PS2: To ensure the protection, conservation and, where necessary, appropriate restoration of the architectural heritage of the town for future generations, and protect structures on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Any conservation and restoration works must positively contribute to the streetscape of the area.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PS3: To promote and encourage the sensitive alteration/extension to Protected Structures so that they are in keeping with the character of the building and adjoining buildings.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PS4: To require a method statement for the conservation of any works to protected structures. Method statements should make reference to the DoELHG Advice Series in how best to repair and maintain historic buildings.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PS5: To assist owners of Protected Structures in the maintenance and repair of their properties through the Building Conservation Grant Scheme where funding is provided by the DoAHG.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PS6: To refuse planning permission for the demolition of any protected structure unless the Council is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PS7 : To protect the curtilage of protected structures or proposed protected structures and to prohibit inappropriate development within the curtilage or attendant grounds of a protected structure which would cause loss of or damage to the special character of the protected structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of heritage value within the curtilage of the protected structure	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
PS8: To encourage uses compatible with the character of protected structures. In certain cases, the planning authority may relax its requirements in order to secure the protection and restoration of the structure. These requirements including site development standards, zoning etc, may be relaxed if the	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
protected structure, its special interest, character and setting is protected and its use and development is consistent with conservation policies and its special interest, character and setting is protected.		
PS9 To endeavour to strategically target conservation funding for specific priority projects.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ACA1: To ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions within an Architectural Conservation Area are sited and designed appropriately, and are not detrimental to the character of the structure or to its setting or the general character of the ACA.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
ACA2: To have regard to architectural heritage when considering proposed infrastructure developments (including transport, telecommunications, sewerage and water) located in close proximity to Protected Structures or the Architectural Conservation Area.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
IH1: To promote the marketing and interpretation of industrial heritage sites and to encourage public awareness and appreciation of this heritage with a view to optimising its tourism potential.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
IH2: To conserve items of architectural or industrial archaeological interest associated with the canal systems in association with Waterways Ireland, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the DoAHG and local communities.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
VH1: To encourage the protection, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular heritage of the town including their settings and features.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
F11: To protect and conserve important heritage items such as historic gardens, stone walls, bridges, street furniture, post boxes, curtilage features, and other significant historic features of interest.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Archaeological and Architectural Objectives		
AHO1: To review on an ongoing basis the Record of Protected Structures and make additions and deletions as appropriate over the period of this Plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AHO2: To seek the protection of all structures listed on the Record of Protected Structures and to protect the town's vernacular architectural heritage.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AHO3: To publish an information booklet outlining the specific recommendations for development within the Architectural Conservation Area.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AHO4: To secure the preservation (in-situ or by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AHO5: To prepare a buildings at risk register and to prevent the endangerment of Protected Structures, historic or vernacular	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
buildings.		
AH06: To encourage, where practicable, the provision of public access to sites identified on the Record of Monuments and Places under the direct ownership or control of the Local Authority and the State.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH07: To record and protect heritage items, such as walls, bridges and street furniture, within Athy.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
AH08: To support the Athy Heritage Centre and museum as an important tourism and heritage resource for the town. To support its board of directors in progressing related programmes and proposals including, in particular, the further development of the Ernest Shackleton theme.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Aim To protect, conserve and manage natural heritage in a sustainable manner ensuring that the future economic growth and development of Athy complements its natural setting.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
General Natural Heritage and Designated Sites Policy NH 1: To implement the actions contained in the County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2013 through the identification of priority actions subject to the availability of funding.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 2: To facilitate the conservation, protection and enhancement of the Grand Canal pNHA, and the River Barrow cSAC, including the adjacent wetlands and associated habitats and to ensure that development does not significantly adversely affect conservation values.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 3: To preserve the quality and quantity of water in the Grand Canal system and the Barrow in partnership with Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the DoAHG	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 4: To have regard to the views and guidance of National Parks and Wildlife Service of the DoAHG in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on sites with nature conservation designations.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 5: To require the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment for all development which may have a significant impact on the Canal, river and riparian habitats. This assessment should where appropriate suggest a minimum buffer of	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
<p>undisturbed vegetation to be retained to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential, maintain habitats and provide an ecological corridor. The buffer zone shall, where possible be maintained free of development and hard surfaces. The assessment shall address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected species i.e. bats otters including the requirement for derogation licences Cumulative impact of the proposed development. 		
<p>NH 6: To ensure that any project with the potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site(s) ie the River Barrow shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NH 7: To ensure that no project which gives rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites 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 be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects)¹</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NH 8: A suitable buffer zone will be maintained between the Grand Canal and the River Barrow and any proposed development. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NH 9: To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant species, animals and birds listed in the Flora Protection Order, Wildlife Act 1976-2000, those listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive and those listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>Policies - Non Designated Sites NH 10: To facilitate, maintain and enhance as far as is practicable the natural heritage and amenity of the town by seeking to encourage the preservation and retention of</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	

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

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
woodlands, hedgerows, stonewalls, rivers, streams and wetlands. Where the removal of such features is unavoidable appropriate measures to replace like with like should be considered, subject to safety considerations.		
NH 111: To ensure that existing biodiversity features such as watercourses, streams, hedgerows, trees, ecological corridors and linkages are incorporated into the design of new developments.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 12: To protect, conserve and enhance the town's biodiversity and natural heritage including wildlife (flora and fauna), habitats, landscapes and/or landscape features of importance to wildlife.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 13: To seek compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to encouraging the management of features in the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure act as biodiversity (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 14: To support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate, as opportunities and resources allow.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Policies – Trees and Hedgerows NH 15: To promote the protection and preservation of existing hedgerows, where appropriate and encourage planting of native hedgerow species.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 16: To promote the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 17: To discourage the felling of mature trees and encourage tree surgery rather than felling where appropriate.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 18: To restrict the cutting of hedges during the bird-nesting season (1st March until 31st August), except in certain legally defined circumstances, in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 19: To discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development, and will encourage tree surgery rather than felling where possible.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NH 20: To promote the protection of trees, in particular native and broadleaf species, which are of conservation and/or amenity value. Development that requires the felling of mature trees of species interest, notwithstanding the fact that they may not be listed in this Plan, will be discouraged.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
<p>Policies - Rivers, Streams and Canals NH 21: To protect existing rivers, streams and watercourses and wetlands located on land zoned for development and incorporate them within the overall design for the area, thereby contributing to and connecting into an overall green network for the town.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NH 22: To consult, as appropriate, with Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to developments that could potentially impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NH 23: To protect rivers, streams and other water courses and, wherever possible, maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitats for fauna and flora and discouraging culverting or realignment.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NH 24: To seek during redevelopment the creation of a riparian buffer strip along either side of all watercourses where practicable.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>Policies - Green Infrastructure GI 1: To have regard to the recommendations of the forthcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy prepared for the County as part of the County Development Plan.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>Policies - Views and Prospects NH 24: To preserve views listed in Table x</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NH 25: To ensure that development does not disrupt available vistas or impact on the landscape quality and scenic value of the Grand Canal corridor.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>Natural Heritage/Biodiversity Objectives NHO 1: To conserve and protect national/EU designated sites and to ensure that any new development proposal in the vicinity of, or affecting a designated site, provides sufficient information to show how its proposals will impact on the habitat of the site, and appropriate amelioration, and the Council will consult with the DoAHG in this regard.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NHO 2: To encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands utilising funding available through schemes such as the Neighbour Wood and Native Woodland Schemes.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NHO 3: To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service prior to undertaking, approving or authorising any works or development that may impact on the natural heritage</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NHO 4: To map the habitats contained within and adjacent to the Plan area and to identify the biodiversity areas and recommendations made for their protection and enhancement.</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	
<p>NHO 5: To carry out a tree survey of all trees in the town and to implement its recommendations in relation to the protection of specific trees and groups of trees of special amenity value, including the possible masking of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).</p>	<p>No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy</p>	

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
NHO 6: To prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County, including Athy during the lifetime of this plan.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NHO 7: To request National Parks and Wildlife Service to prioritise the preparation of a Management Plan for the River Barrow Natura 2000 Site and to have regard to the objectives and management practices proposed in the Management Plan as appropriate.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
NHO 8: To identify suitable buffer zones between designated ecological sites and areas zoned for development	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 14 Urban Design and Opportunity Areas

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
To create a vibrant and bustling town and to enhance the quality of the built environment.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
General Urban Design Policies		
UDG 1: To utilise the town's historic core as a tool to regenerate the town centre to achieve a place with a positive public image.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDG 2: To facilitate the development of the historic core as a cultural quarter that reinforces Athy's status as a Heritage town.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDG 3: To improve access and use of new and existing amenity spaces in the town through well designed developments that provide connections from the town centre by way of good linkages and higher level of permeability.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDG 4: To improve the quality of the public open spaces along the banks of the river and develop the amenities provided by the town's unique location adjacent to the waterways.	Installation of cycling and walking routes along the River Barrow has the potential to cause impacts through habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increased recreational disturbance on otters in particular. In addition, construction may lead to impacts on water quality through accidental spillage of fuel and/or oil from construction vehicles and run off of sediment. This in turn may lead to negative impacts on species such as salmon, crayfish and lamprey.	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (ref. NH 2, NH6, NH 7, NH9, NHO 1:)</p> <p>All new developments shall incorporate SuDS facilities to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with the principles of the GSDS (SW3)</p> <p>Where Development occurs adjacent to the River Barrow or any watercourse that drains into the Barrow the following measures will apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a setback of 10 metres will be required (SW6) • A suitable buffer zone will be maintained. The extent and composition of this undisturbed riparian buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist. In all instances however a buffer of 2.5 metres of vegetation shall be retained along the canal bank to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential and maintain habitat. (NH8) <p>Measures outlined in section 3.5.2 to prevent pollution during</p>

		construction will be adhered to.
UDG 5: To provide better definition of public parks and open space that allows for greater levels of use, particularly in the vicinity of the Town's Park.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDG 6: To improve the approaches to the town and provide well designed entrances to mark the edges of the town centre at appropriate locations that reflect its character.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDG 7: To achieve better connectivity and permeability to overcome the traffic congestion along Leinster Street and Duke Street.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDG 8: To provide overlooked cycle and pedestrian linkages between the residential areas, amenity areas and the town core.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Urban Design Framework Policies		
UDF 1: To consolidate the existing town centre through an integrated approach that consolidates the town centres activities in a sustainable manner.	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply
UDF 2: To improve the image of the town centre by increasing permeability, creating well defined street edges (where private space and public space meet), developing high quality streets with active ground floor frontages	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 3: To strengthen the identity of the town by achieving a balance between old and new which reinforces the distinctiveness of the historic town core.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 4: to improve the quality of the town's streetscape by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and encouraging high quality shopfront design particularly within the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) (Refer to Chapter 15 in this Plan). Encouraging the retention, sensitive repair and re-use of traditional shopfronts. Encouraging the sensitive conversion of retail units to residential use where viable. Reducing visual clutter by removing and preventing the introduction of poor quality projecting signage.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 5: To provide an attractive streetscape along Leinster Street, Duke Street and Emily Square by rationalising and calming traffic flow, regularising on street car parking using high quality materials to create a quality public realm.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 6: To intensify town centre development by establishing a consistent approach to key redevelopment sites by way of comprehensive design guidelines (refer to section 14.X – Character areas)	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 7: To allow for the intensification of the town centre by utilising undeveloped, backland and brownfield land within or	Any development within the town could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the River Barrow/River Nore SAC	Mitigation Measures as previously outlined will apply

adjacent to the town centre area.	through fragmentation of habitats or habitat loss and disturbance of species. Surface water pollution may occur during construction and through the discharge of treated wastewater. This in turn may lead to cumulative and indirect impacts downstream of the discharge point.	
UDF 8: To strengthen and formalise existing routes within the town as well as creating new linkages along which development can take place.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 9: To facilitate traffic calming measures, most importantly at the entrances and approaches to the town, which improve the comfort for pedestrians and enhance the public realm.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 10: To develop a network of public spaces throughout the town that are easy to move between allowing for various modes of transport.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 11: To utilise and enhance the environmental qualities of the town to provide quality facilities in terms of passive and active recreational green spaces.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 12: To prepare and submit a design statement for developments within the town centre, as deemed necessary by the Planning Authority.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
UDF 13: To incorporate the Key Design Guidelines set out for each of the five character areas (defined in section 14.7 of the plan) in the preparation of design statements.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 15: Development Management Standards

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Aim To ensure the orderly and sustainable development of high quality living and working environments in the town through the setting out of objectives and standards for the management of development.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

Chapter 16: Land Use Zoning

Objectives and Policies	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Aim To ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the town through the setting out of zoning objectives for a variety of uses.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
Land Use Policies LU1: To ensure that a logical and sequential approach is adopted for development within the Athy Town Plan area (i.e.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	

prioritising the development from the core area outwards.)		
LU2: To prohibit the proliferation of any individual use which in the opinion of the Planning Authority does not contribute to the vitality and viability of the town centre.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	
LU3: To encourage a mix of uses where appropriate.	No negative impacts anticipated from implementation of objective/policy	