

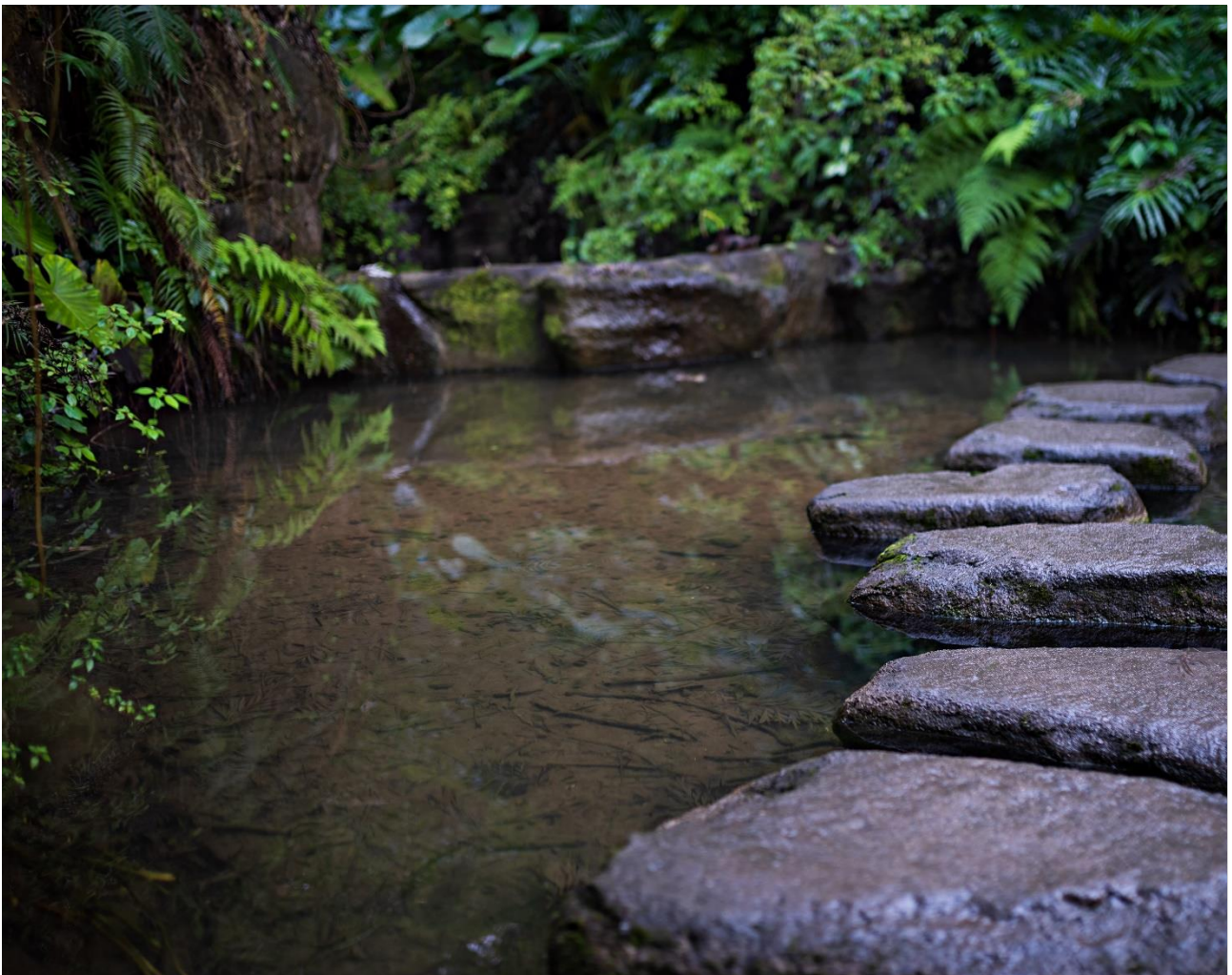
Kildare County Council

Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan

Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) report has been prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd (Arup) on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC) in connection with the proposed Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) in regard to the ‘Settlement Plan’ for Kilcullen town (hereafter referred to as the ‘proposed Variation’).

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that any plan or project, which is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, should be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

1.2 Report Aim

This AA Screening Report has been prepared to provide information for the ‘competent authority’¹ regarding the potential for ‘Likely Significant Effects’ (LSE) of the proposed Variation, on European sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the proposed Variation.

1.3 Kildare County Development Plan Background

KCC published the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 in January 2023 which is the key strategy document which structures the proper planning and sustainable development of land-use across County Kildare over the six-year statutory time period of the plan. The CDP consists of two volumes:

- **Volume 1 Written Statement** - The Written Statement constitutes the main body of the document which comprises the Vision, Core Strategy, development management standards and the overarching policies and objectives of the Plan.
- **Volume 2 Small Towns and Villages Strategy** - The Small Towns and Villages Strategy (STVS) provides a coherent planning framework for the small towns, villages, and rural settlements across the county. The Strategy includes land use zoning maps and specific objectives which are underpinned by the strategic vision and the overarching guiding principles of the Kildare CDP.

KCC is currently preparing a proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029. The purpose of the proposed Variation is to incorporate the town of Kilcullen into Volume 2 of the Kildare CDP. This will ensure that a planning framework is in place for Kilcullen, in the form of a ‘Settlement Plan.’

1.4 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) (the ‘Habitats Directive’ provides the legal protection for habitats and species, with Articles 3 to 9 providing legislation protection to the EU wide network of sites known as the Natura 2000 site network. Natura 2000 is a network of protected sites which comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (referred to as European sites within this report). SACs are protected sites designated under the Habitats Directive whilst SPAs are protected sites designated under the Birds Directive. They are high quality sites that contribute significantly to the conservation of a large range of habitats and species.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA whilst Article 6(4) sets out the Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and compensatory measures where Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European sites cannot be excluded.

¹ Per the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) the competent authority is defined as “A competent authority, in performing the functions conferred on it by or under this Part, shall take appropriate steps to avoid in a European site the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as the disturbance of the species for which the site has been designated, insofar as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the Habitats Directive”

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) (as amended), and by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). In the context of the proposed Variation, the governing legislation is principally Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

1.5 Relationship with the SEA Directive

In the preparation of this AA Screening report, the approach has been conducted in parallel with the requirements of the SEA process (2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law). Article 3.2(b) of the SEA Directive expressly links to AA.

1.6 Statement of Competency

The statements of competencies for the contributing authors to this Screening for AA report are provided below:

Donncha Madden has a BSc in Applied Ecology and a PGDip in Restoration Ecology and is a Chartered Ecologist and Full Member of CIEEM. Donncha has over 20 years' experience in the environment and ecology sector and has prepared numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening and full Appropriate Assessment reports for a variety of plans and projects in both Ireland and the UK.

Hannah Sheridan has a BSc (Hons) in Marine Science and an MSc in Marine Planning for Sustainable Development and is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM. Hannah has four years of experience working as an ecologist in public and private sectors and has prepared Screening for Appropriate Assessments, Natura Impact Statements/Reports and biodiversity chapters for EIARs across a number of projects and plans in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

1.7 Report Structure

The report is structured below:

- Section 2 provides an overview of the proposed Variation;
- Section 3 outlines the AA process and provides important definitions;
- Section 4 outlines the guidance, data and methodology used to inform the assessment;
- Section 5 sets out the screening assessment using the Source-Pathway-Receptor-model;
- Section 6 details the assessment for effects and screening;
- Section 7 provides a summary and conclusion.

2. The Proposed Variation

2.1 Overview

The Kildare CDP 2023-2029 consists of two volumes, the second of which provides a coherent planning framework for the small towns, villages, and rural settlements across the county. In order to develop thriving areas where people want to live, the overall objective of Volume 2 is to;

- (i) support the sustainable growth of our small towns, villages and settlements,
- (ii) support appropriate local employment opportunities and economic activity,
- (iii) build on each areas unique character and natural assets.

The Kilcullen Local Area Plan 2014-2020 is the existing spatial framework for development locations and land use in Kilcullen. KCC proposes to undertake a proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 and to incorporate Kilcullen into Volume 2 of the CDP.

Thus, the proposed Variation of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 relates to the incorporation, into Volume 2 of the CDP, of a ‘Settlement Plan’ for Kilcullen.

2.2 Proposed Variation Objectives

There are fifteen sectors for which objectives have been set within the proposed Variation. The full list of objectives can be found in within the proposed Variation. The fifteen sectors are provided in Table 1 below with a summary of the objectives adjoining it.

Table 1 Summary of draft Kilcullen Settlement Plan Objectives

Objective Sectors	Summary of objectives
Town Centre	Objectives aim to harmonize new developments with Kilcullen’s traditional architecture, promote high-standard designs, and enhance the town centre. They encourage active travel, rehabilitation of underutilised properties, and diverse retail options. The objectives also include traffic management, improving streetscape quality, and reducing non-active retail frontages on Main Street.
Regeneration / Public Realm	The objectives include enhancing the quality of Kilcullen Main Street through new paving, mature trees, streetlamps, high-quality seating, and street furniture. They aim to reduce on-street parking and support the objectives of the recently approved Part 8 for environmental and public realm improvements in the town centre. The objectives aim to improve the town’s entry points to strengthen Kilcullen’s identity and support the forthcoming Kilcullen Centre First / Town Renewal Plan. The objectives outline surveys of derelict/ vacant sites and encourage their reuse and regeneration. Opportunity sites shall require planning applications to include proposals for landmark mixed-use/retail developments, with a masterplan and phasing arrangement agreed with the Council. These developments should consider the Greenway route identified within the Mobility objectives Map.
Tourism Development	The objectives aim to maximise the potential of the River Liffey for tourism and recreational purposes by improving public access and possibly introducing a linear park. They plan to enhance the promotion and marketing of Kilcullen as a tourist destination, highlighting attractions like Dun Ailinne, Camphill Farm, and the River Liffey, and its proximity to the Curragh. The objectives consider the development of a greenway or cycle way to connect the town with the Corbally Line of the Grand Canal and other attractions. They also explore the possibility of a Thoroughbred Trail to connect Kilcullen with nearby equestrian facilities. Objectives aim to introduce consistent town branding at entry points through high-quality signage to strengthen Kilcullen’s identity as a tourist destination.
Education, Social and Community Infrastructure	The objectives include developing the River Liffey riverside with a linear park, high-quality seating, a cycling and pedestrian route, and native tree planting. They plan to conduct an Ecological Impact Assessment for any proposed lighting along the river corridor. They further aim to facilitate community services, including local services, youth facilities, sports, schools, creches, and other education and childcare facilities in new and existing residential areas.

Objective Sectors	Summary of objectives
	<p>The objectives aim to improve and expand GP facilities, health centres, local clinics, nursing homes, Garda service, library facilities, and sports facilities in Kilcullen. They encourage recreational, amenity, and community facilities to be multi-functional, fully accessible, and open to all groups.</p> <p>Objectives pertaining to feasibility studies of constructing pedestrian bridges across the River Liffey and support the Camphill Community Farm, café, and shop as a notable town attraction. Objectives to improve and expand educational, sports, recreational, and cultural facilities for St. Brigid's Primary School and the Cross and Passion College Secondary School.</p>
Residential	<p>The objectives aim to require a design statement for any scheme of 20 units or more. This statement should describe how the proposal relates to its site and context. The new development should contribute to a compact settlement and integrate with the existing one. It should provide linkages to the town centre, public transport, and other facilities, and reinforce the existing town centre.</p> <p>Local views into and out of the scheme should be recognised and reinforced. The design should respond to local character, referencing elements that give character and a sense of place, such as urban grain, historic core, buildings of architectural merit, and local characteristics. Existing buildings, landform, and ecological features should be noted on drawings.</p> <p>Proposals should contribute to the overall open space network of the settlement. There should be a demonstration of contemporary and innovative architecture and design that creates a unique sense of place. The drawings and statement should illustrate why a particular design solution was chosen for a particular site and how the design responds to the ecology, topography, and features existing on site and immediately adjacent to the site.</p>
Economic Development	<p>The objectives aim to promote Kilcullen as a local employment centre, focusing investment on creating additional employment opportunities that will sustain the town and its local hinterland. They aim to accommodate a compatible mix of employment uses within the town centre. The objectives also promote the Link Business Park on the Naas Road and the Kilcullen Business Campus south of the town centre as appropriate locations for developing employment uses suitable to their land use zoning.</p>
Retail Development	<p>The objectives aim to encourage and facilitate the continued development of a unique combination of heritage, retail, and tourism experiences within the town, and to strengthen the connections between these attractions. They also aim to work with all stakeholders to further promote the asset of Kilcullen's townscape and its location on the River Liffey.</p>
Water Supply	<p>The objective pertains to ensuring new developments utilise and connect to existing water infrastructure.</p>
Wastewater	<p>The objectives aim to ensure the transition from septic tanks to collection networks wherever feasible, with all new developments utilising and connecting to the public wastewater infrastructure. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Kilcullen area will be discouraged to minimise groundwater pollution risk. They aim to preserve the wayleaves of all public sewers free from development and minimise surface water infiltration into the foul sewerage system. The objectives also include investigating the feasibility of constructing a second wastewater rising main from Kilcullen to Newbridge. They plan to continue working with Uisce Eireann and support the provision of new or upgrading infrastructure when necessary.</p>
Surface Water Drainage and Flood Alleviation	<p>The objectives aim to implement the policies and objectives of the recently adopted 'Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Guidance Document' for Co. Kildare. They require a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment for development proposals in lands identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, demonstrating compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. Underground retention solutions are only considered when all other options have been exhausted. Surface water drainage plans should regard the policy and objectives of the Habitat and Green Infrastructure Mapping.</p> <p>A conditioned survey of the surface water culverts in Kilcullen is to be carried out to assess their current state. The objectives apply the general policies, objectives, and actions contained in Chapter 6 of the Kildare County Development Plan to ensure that flood risk management is fully integrated into the Kilcullen Town Plan and future development proposals. Development along urban watercourses must comply with the Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment', maintaining a</p>

Objective Sectors	Summary of objectives
	minimum riparian zone for river channels. Development within this zone will only be considered for water compatible developments.
Pollution Control and Waste Services	Objective relates to the provision of litter bins around neighbourhood facilities in Kilcullen.
Architectural and Archaeological	<p>The objectives aim to ensure that views to and from the Bridge over the River Liffey are protected. They resist the demolition of vernacular structures of historical, cultural, and aesthetic merit that contribute positively to the character, appearance, and quality of the local streetscape and the sustainable development of Kilcullen.</p> <p>They also aim to investigate the designation of the main street as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), including the identification of boundary and Statement of Character.</p>
Natural Heritage	The objectives aim to protect specific trees and groups of trees in various locations, including open spaces, roads, school grounds, and residential developments. They generally prohibit development where it could damage these trees or those with particular local amenity or nature conservation value. The objectives require all new developments to contribute to the protection and enhancement of existing green infrastructure assets and seek the provision of linkages between larger areas of green infrastructure where appropriate. They ensure that key green infrastructure and the linkages they provide are retained where appropriate and integrated into the design of new developments. The objectives also aim to work with local biodiversity groups to protect and maintain the key areas of green infrastructure as identified in the Kilcullen Community for Climate Action Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2033.
Infrastructure	The objectives aim to liaise with the ESB to investigate and encourage the ducting and underground routing of overhead powerlines in Kilcullen town centre, in tandem with other work programmes. They also aim to support, encourage, and cooperate with the Kilcullen Community Action Group in preparing an energy masterplan for the community and delivering infrastructure and services that assist in developing a Sustainable Energy Community for Kilcullen.
Movement and Transport	The objectives aim to promote walking and cycling, monitor traffic, maintain routes, develop cycle and footpath networks, and ensure new developments are designed for sustainable travel. They plan to audit existing infrastructure, prepare Traffic Management Plans, implement traffic measures, and safeguard major roads' strategic function. They also aim to improve pedestrian links, provide public lighting, examine routes for a relief road, construct new greenways and streets, and improve junctions.

2.3 Geographic Area

The Kilcullen Settlement Plan boundary is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

3. Appropriate Assessment Process

3.1 Appropriate Assessment Stages

The AA process involves a number of steps and tests that need to be applied in sequential order.

An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. First of all, a plan or project must be screened to identify whether the potential for likely significant effects on a European site(s) exists. If that possibility cannot be excluded, an Appropriate Assessment is to be undertaken prior to any consent being granted. Consent shall not be granted if it cannot be concluded that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site. Article 6(4) allows for consent to be granted in particular and exceptional circumstances, even if adverse effects may arise.

The AA Screening must include a final determination by the competent authority as to whether or not a proposed project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. In order to reach a final determination, the public authority must undertake examination, analysis and evaluation, followed by findings, conclusions and a final determination.

3.2 Definitions

3.2.1 European Sites

European sites, as defined under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011)(as amended) are part of the Natura 2000 network and include those designated as SACs, candidate SACs (cSACs), SPAs or proposed SPAs (pSPAs). These are sometimes referred to as Natura 2000 sites.

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I² habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II³ species (other than birds).

SPAs are selected for the conservation of Annex I birds and all migratory birds and their habitats.

The Annex habitats and species, for which each site is selected, are termed the Qualifying Interests (QI) for SACs and termed Special Conservation Interests (SCI) for SPAs of each site.

3.2.2 Conservation Objective

Conservation Objectives (COs) for the European sites are defined for the relevant QIs and SCIs. In its most general sense, a CO is the specification of the overall target for the species and/or habitat types for which a site is designated in order for it to contribute to maintaining or reaching favourable conservation status⁴.

² Annex I habitats are habitats whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

³ Annex II species are animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation

⁴ Commission Note on Setting Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites (November 2012) European Commission, Doc. Hab.12-04/06. Accessed at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/commission_note/commission_note2_EN.pdf

3.2.3 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

The Source-Pathway-Receptor model is used to assess where a potential effect may result by examining the source, its pathway and the receptor. As per guidance from the OPR⁵ these can be defined as follows:

- **Source:** The origin of a potential effect which may include characteristics of a plan or project that have the potential to result in effects e.g. direct impacts such as loss of habitat;
- **Pathway:** How the potential effect may occur on the source. These are identifiable through linkages that may occur through the plan or project and European sites e.g. direct pathways such as physical proximity, hydrological connections or indirect pathways such as disturbance to migrating species; and
- **Receptor:** The European site network and respective QIs/SCIs, their ecological condition and sensitivities e.g. freshwater pearl mussel is sensitive to siltation in water.

3.2.4 Zone of Influence

A Zone of Influence (ZoI) within any assessment of projects and/or plans considers the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed plan/project and associated activities.

⁵ OPR (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01

4. Methodology

4.1 Guidance

The following guidance was used in carrying out the assessment:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive; Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) 1/10 and PSSP 2/10;
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 Sites: Methodical guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 20214);
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000);
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2007);
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2019);
- Office of the Planning Regulator Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021); and
- Strict Protection of Animal Species Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public authority (NPWS 2021).

The requirements for Screening for AA, and AA, for European sites, are set out in Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) with numerous relevant rulings and opinions issued in both Irish and EU courts. AA is a process required under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive as transposed by the aforementioned legislation as stated within Section 1.4.

4.2 Data Sources

The ecological data reviewed to inform this report comprises:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Map Viewer⁶;
- EPA- Ireland's Environment. An Integrated Assessment 2020 Article 12 web tool⁷;
- Kildare County Council (2023) Kildare County Development 2023-2029⁸;
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives Series⁹;
- NPWS (2023) SAC and SPA Datasheets¹⁰;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Designations web viewer¹¹;
- NPWS Protected Sites in Ireland¹²;
- NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland Web Viewer¹³;
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. Unpublished NPWS report¹⁴. NPWS (2019);
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report¹⁵. Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neil. NPWS (2019); and
- The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report¹⁶ (2019). Edited by: Deirdre Lynn and Fionnuala O'Neill (2020).

4.3 Methodology

In line with the relevant guidance and case law, this Screening for AA consists of the below steps:

1. **Impact Prediction:** Identify the aspects of the proposed Variation likely to affect the COs of European sites. The more general classification of impacts can include direct and indirect effects; short and long-term effects; construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and isolated, interactive and cumulative effects. A Source-Pathway-Receptor model has been used to identify the zone of influence. This also includes transboundary considerations.
2. **Assessment of Effects:** The actions of the proposed Variation are assessed as to whether they are likely to result in likely significant effects upon the integrity of European sites. This requires understanding of relevant QIs/SCIs and associated COs.

⁶ EPA Map Viewer accessed at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> accessed November 2023

⁷ Article 12 of the Birds Directive Web tool accessed at <https://nature-art12.eionet.europa.eu/article12/> accessed November 2023

⁸ Kildare County Council (2023) Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Accessed at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/KildareCountyDevelopmentPlan2023-2029/> May 2024.

⁹ NPWS Conservation objectives accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives> accessed November 2023

¹⁰ NPWS SAC and SPA Datasheets accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data/sac-and-spa-datasheets-downloads> accessed November 2023

¹¹ NPWS Designations web viewer accessed at <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba> accessed November 2023

¹² NPWS Protected sites accessed at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> accessed November 2023

¹³ NPWS The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland web viewer accessed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/1a721520030d404f899d658d5b6e159a> accessed November 2023

¹⁴ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Volume 1 Summary Overview accessed at https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_Article17.pdf September 2023

¹⁵ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: Habitat Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol2_Habitats_Article17.pdf September 2023

¹⁶ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments. Unpublished NPWS report accessed at https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol3_Species_Article17.pdf September 2023

4.3.1 Impact Prediction: Identifying the Zone of Influence

The ZoI is established using the SPR method and takes into consideration the scale of the elements of the proposed Variation. There is no recommended ZoI, and guidance from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recommends that the distance should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the plan/project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects (cumulative).

For an effect to occur there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. construction works at a proposed development site), a 'receptor' (e.g. QI or SCI of a European site), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse which connects a plan area to an SAC, ex situ foraging habitat for SCI birds). The principle for establishing ZoI, as outlined in the 2021 OPR Practice Note PN01 applies equally to a plan level AA and so the SPR method has been used in this report.

The identification of the European sites within the ZoI has been carried out by utilising GIS datasets from NPWS and of the European site network. The sites have been determined through the identification of the potential sources of the impacts of the proposed Variation and their pathways for effect to European sites.

4.3.2 Assessment of Effects

Where a plan or project is likely to undermine the conservation objectives, it must be considered as a likely significant effect upon that EU site. The assessment of effects stages determines whether the potential impacts identified using the SPR could result in a likely significant effect.

From establishing the ZoI using the SPR method, focusing on the relevant QIs and SCIs of European sites which may be at risk of likely significant effects arising from the proposed Variation. The potential impacts of the proposed Variation are assessed against the conservation objectives of the relevant QIs and SCIs to determine in a likely significant effect may occur as a result of implementation. Within this assessment, factors such as type, extent, duration, intensity, timing, probability and in-combination effects of the potential impact, as well as the vulnerability of the QIs and/or SCIs concerned⁵.

5. Screening Assessment

5.1 Overview

The scope of the proposed Variation has a scale of application across the boundary of Kilcullen Town.

Conservation objectives of relevant European sites can be accessed on www.npws.ie and have been considered as part of the screening process, but for the purposes of brevity, these have not been reproduced.

5.2 Source – Pathway – Receptor

Potential connectivity between the implementation of the proposed Variation and European sites and their respective QIs/SCIs is identified via the S-P-R model which highlights the potential impact pathways such as land, air, hydrological pathways etc which may support direct or indirect connectivity. Where connectivity exists between the proposed Variation and receptors, these receptors are taken forward to the assessment of likely significant effects.

5.3 Identification of Potential Sources of Impacts

In identifying the potential impacts of the implementation of the proposed Variation, it is important to note that this risk is an estimation based on scientific evidence and best practice. It does not constitute that an impact will occur or that it will result in ecological or environmental damage resulting in significant effects on European sites within the ZoI. The significance of the effect is dependent upon factors such as duration, magnitude and intensity of the project/plan in question and the existence of a credible S-P-R link. It is also determined by the extent of the exposure to the risk and the characteristics of the receptor.

By establishing a credible source and pathway, the receptors i.e. the QI and SCI habitats and species are only considered where links are identified to be credible. Factors include the distance between receptors and sources and the means by which the pathway travels through air, water, ground etc., occurs.

All objectives of the proposed Variation have undergone a thorough review for potential impacts. In instances where objectives have been determined to potentially generate construction level activities or impacts arising from operation of sectors (recreation, water treatment etc.) a variety of potential impacts have been identified.

Construction activities may result in impacts including air pollution from dust and other pollutants, water contamination due to improper handling of materials and waste, and soil erosion from ground disturbance. Noise pollution from construction sites can result in disturbance and/or displacement of species and construction can potentially result in the destruction of important habitats. The generation of significant amounts of waste, often not properly disposed of or recycled, is another concern. Operational activities of wastewater treatment plants, recreation, transport, residential and industrial sectors can also contribute to similar inputs to the environment as construction.

After examining all the objectives that could potentially result in an impact, each objective was categorised under the corresponding impacts. It is crucial to emphasize that the list of activities discussed in this report is largely theoretical, not necessarily reflecting actual scenarios or events. These activities are hypothetical examples with the potential to arise from the proposed Variation objectives, aiding in understanding and should not be interpreted as definitive or actual occurrences. Additionally, the potential for connectivity, a significant aspect of this discussion, is explored in detail in Section 5.4 of the report. This section offers an extensive exploration of the concept, highlighting the interconnectedness of the elements within the study.

A summary of the potential impacts identified are provided below.

- Potential changes in water quality, hydrology to waterbodies as a result of construction activities arising from objectives ST KL7, ST KL11, ST KL17, ST KL20, ST KL30, ST KL36, ST KL37, ST KL63, ST KL64, ST KL65, ST KL71, ST KL74;
- Potential habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation as a result of construction activities arising from objectives ST KL21, ST KL22, ST KL23, ST KL27, ST KL28, ST KL48, ST KL73, ST KL75, ST KL76, ST KL77, ST KL78, ST KL79, ST KL80, ST KL81, ST KL82; and

- Potential disturbance to species as a result of construction activities arising from objectives: ST KL21, ST KL22, ST KL23, ST KL27, ST KL28, ST KL48, ST KL73, ST KL75, ST KL76, ST KL77, ST KL78, ST KL79, ST KL80, ST KL81, ST KL82.

5.4 Identification of Potential Pathways

Establishing the potential pathways that may exist between the source of impact and receptors of European sites was carried out in consideration of the proposed Variation elements and the viability of direct and indirect pathways on site. This incorporates considering the geographical and topographical elements of proposed Variation area in addition to any in-situ features which may act as a barrier between the potential sources of impact and potential receptor European sites.

5.4.1 Characteristics of Kilcullen Town

Kilcullen town is situated on the River Liffey, approximately 40km from the centre of Dublin and 6km from Newbridge. The town is characterised by a varied landscape, with the Wicklow and Dublin Mountains defining the boundary to the south and east and with flat areas of the Kildare lowlands to the west. The River Liffey flows southeast to northwest of the town. Habitats found within the town boundary include hedgerows, treelines, woodlands, fen, river, agricultural fields, recreational areas, parks, brownfield sites and hardstanding areas.

5.4.1.1 Hydrological Connectivity

The River Liffey flows downstream through the Poulaphouca Reservoir from the Wicklow Mountains more than 16km to the east of the town boundary. The river flows through the town until it reaches the sea in Dublin Bay. The nearest hydrologically connected European site to proposed Variation area is approximately 72km downstream (as the river flows).

As stated within the proposed Variation, Kilcullen is connected to the ULVSS (Osberstown WWTP) which treats any wastewater and is foreseen to have sufficient capacity to accommodate any additional growth over the life of the proposed Variation. The Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Urban Waste Water (UWW) is located downstream of Kilcullen town, approximately 22km downstream. The UWW is a tertiary level treatment plant capable of removing a significant portion of organic matter and suspended solids, excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus and microbiological contaminants. Two further UWW plants (Lower Liffey Valley UWW and Ringsend UWW) are located downstream of Kilcullen. Settlements located along the River Liffey have their waste water treated at each respective UWWT sites thereby reducing any risk of cumulative build-up of contaminants within the River Liffey.

Should an accidental or deliberate release of pollutants occur to the River Liffey within Kilcullen town or to a waterbody within the proposed Variation area that shares a hydrological connection to the River Liffey, it is highly likely that any such contaminants would be readily dispersed and diluted prior to reaching the nearest hydrologically connected European site (Dublin Bay SAC 72km away).

Given the criteria listed above, including the distance between Kilcullen and the nearest hydrologically connected SAC (South Dublin Bay SAC) and the likelihood of potential pollutants being assimilated within the watercourse, it is not anticipated that hydrological connectivity would act as a viable pathway for effect.

5.4.1.2 Functionally Linked Land

Functionally linked land is defined as areas of land or sea occurring outside a designated site which is considered to be critical to or necessary for the ecological, behavioural functions in a relevant season or a qualifying feature of which SACs or SPAs have been designated. These habitats are frequently used by the QIs or SCIs of the respective sites to support their functionality and integrity of the designated sites for these features.

The nearest SAC from the proposed Variation boundary for which an Annex II species is designated is Pollardstown Fen (7km west) which has QI species of Geyer's whorl snail (*Vertigo geyeri*), narrow-mouthed whorl snail (*Vertigo angustior*) and Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*). These species are of

limited mobility and distribution (1km¹⁶) and considering there are large infrastructure barriers between the proposed Variation area and Pollardstown Fen SAC (M9 Motorway, R445 and Newbridge town) there is no functionally linked land within the proposed Variation boundary. Similarly, otter species are the sole QI species for the Wicklow Mountains SAC (16km east). A range of heavily urbanised areas are present within the proposed Variation boundary which have the potential to act as a barrier for movement (e.g. roads, bridges, settlements). The likely main corridor for movement of otter through the landscape is via the River Liffey, Poulaphouca Reservoir to the Wicklow SAC which is approximately 72km. Therefore, it is considered that the otter population are not anticipated to depend on the proposed Variation area as functionally linked land.

SCI species¹⁷ for nearby sites Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (9km east) and Wicklow Mountains SPA¹⁸ (16km east) are not anticipated to depend on the proposed Variation area. In Poulaphouca reservoir SPA, greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and lesser black backed gull (*Larus fuscus*) are typically found in habitats such as lakes, reservoirs, farmland, wetland and grassland (greylag geese) and along rocky and sandy shores, estuaries and reservoirs (lesser black backed gulls). The SCI of Wicklow Mountains SPA merlin (*Falco columbaris*) depend on upland habitats such as blanket bog and conifer plantations (merlin) whereas peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) can be found in a variety of habitats including urbanised areas. However, given the availability of prey in the uplands of the Wicklow Mountains and the nearer the coastline of Wicklow it is not anticipated that peregrine falcon would be likely to depend upon the Kilcullen area for prey availability.

As a result of the information include above, the potential of the Kilcullen proposed Variation area to serve as functionally linked land is considered negligible due to the availability of suitable habitat within the respective SPAs and within closer proximity.

Given the criteria outlined above, including the distances between Kilcullen and the nearby European sites, the availability of suitable habitat, it is not anticipated that functionally linked land would act as a viable pathway for effect.

5.4.1.3 Aerial Connectivity

Prevailing wind conditions at Kilcullen town originate from the south and west, blowing in a north and east direction. Thereby any such emissions, which may include dust, that have the potential to originate from projects arising from the proposed Variation, which could be transported by aerial means would likely travel in a similar direction. It is anticipated that any such material would be dispersed over a large area of the landscape and deposited in micro amounts and not give rise to harmful effects.

Given that the nearest European sites are located approximately 7km west (Pollardstown Fen) and in consideration of the typical prevailing wind conditions and the distances to the nearest European sites, it is not anticipated that aerial connectivity will act as a viable pathway for effect.

5.5 Identification of Potential Receptors

Given that Section 0 has established that viable pathways for effect does not exist for the potential impacts identified in Section 5.3, no potential receptors can be identified within this S-P-R assessment.

5.6 In-Combination Effects

The purpose of the in-combination assessment is to ascertain whether the proposed Variation may give rise to effects in-combination with other plans and/or projects. In the application of the S-P-R method, this report has found that no viable pathways for effect exist for the proposed Variation and as such, no receptors are at risk of impacts. Arising from this, the consideration of in-combination effects is not required given that the proposed Variation alone, shall not result in LSE.

¹⁷ SCIs of Poulaphouca SPA are greylag goose (*Anser anser*) and lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*)

¹⁸ SCIs of Wicklow Mountains SPA are merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

5.7 Summary

Section 5.3 identified that potential impacts arising from construction and operational activities associated with the proposed Variation objectives were established to be potential changes in water quality, hydrology to waterbodies; potential habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation; and potential disturbance to species.

Section 0 assessed the potential for a viable pathway for effect to European sites through hydrological connectivity, functionally linked land and aerial connectivity. Figure 2 in Appendix B illustrates the European sites which have been discussed in the report.

A pathway for likely significant effect via hydrological connectivity does not exist due to the distance between Kilcullen and the nearest hydrologically connected SAC (South Dublin Bay SAC) and the likelihood of potential pollutants being assimilated within the watercourse.

A pathway for likely significant effect via functionally linked land pathway does not exist due to the distances between the proposed Variation boundary and European sites and the lack of available functionally linked land for species within the proposed Variation area.

A pathway for likely significant effect via aerial connectivity does not exist when considering the typical prevailing wind conditions for the proposed Variation area and the distances to the nearest European sites.

As a viable pathway for effect does not exist, receptors could not be identified.

As a result, the potential for likely significant effects to European sites, alone or in-combination, does not exist.

6. Summary and Conclusion

6.1 Summary

KCC is currently preparing a proposed Variation to the Kildare CDP 2023-2029. The purpose of the proposed Variation is to incorporate the town of Kilcullen into Volume 2 of the Kildare CDP. This will ensure that a planning framework is in place for Kilcullen, in the form of a 'Settlement Plan'.

A Screening for AA has been carried out in line with Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act (as amended). The Source-Pathway-Receptor model has been used to carry out the screening assessment.

Three potential impacts (**Sources**) were determined potential changes in water quality, hydrology to waterbodies; potential habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation; and potential disturbance to species all arising from future construction and operational activities pertaining to the proposed Variation objectives.

No viable **Pathways** for effect were identified in the process. This was as a result of factors including distance between the proposed Variation area and European sites.

Therefore, no **Receptors** could be identified.

As a result, there is no risk of likely significant effects to any European site as a result of the objectives of the proposed Variation.

6.2 Conclusion

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the best available information, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant effects on any European sites, whether arising from the plan alone or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded, for the reasons set out in Section 5 above. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the plan and its potential relationship with all European sites within the ZoI, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that this plan does not require an AA.

Appendix A

A.1 Assessment of Impact of proposed Variation objectives

No.	Objective	Potential for Impacts
V2 2.7.1 Town Centre		
ST KL1	Ensure that new development is consistent in form and scale with the existing older/traditional buildings in the town.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL2	Encourage and promote development within the town centre, which is of a high standard of architectural design and where appropriate contemporary architectural design, has an appropriate mix of uses, enhances the built environment, and delivers a high-quality public realm.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL3	Promote Active Travel infrastructure and remove on-street car-parking on both sides of Main Street.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL4	Actively encourage the rehabilitation, restoration, and re-use of vacant, derelict, and underutilised properties in the town centre.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL5	Actively encourage the provision of shops and services to consolidate and strengthen the role of Kilcullen in meeting the needs of its population and its hinterland.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL6	Encourage owners and developers in the town centre to provide for “living over the shop” as a means of promoting a more sustainable use of existing building stock while also maintaining an active residential presence within the town.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL7	Relieve traffic congestion within the town centre by improving permeability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade and improve the junction of the R448 and R415 by employing an adaptive traffic control system, which would provide for the safe movement of pedestrians and Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs). 	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL8	Strengthen the Main Street by encouraging a diversity of shops and businesses to improve the vitality of the town centre.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL9	Improve the quality of the town’s streetscape by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting and encouraging high quality shopfront design. Encouraging the retention, sensitive repair, and re-use of traditional shopfronts. Reducing visual clutter by removing existing and preventing the introduction of poor-quality signage. 	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL10	Seek to reduce the presence of non-active retail frontages on the Main Street.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.2 Regeneration / Public Realm		
ST KL11	Improve, where feasible and practical, the quality of Kilcullen Main Street with new paving, mature trees, streetlamps, high-quality seating, street furniture and reduction in on-street car-parking to mark the importance of this area as the heart of the town centre. (see Town Centre Map).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
ST KL12	To leverage funding from relevant national or other appropriate sources to support the development of projects/proposals which will serve to improve the public realm and other civic spaces within the town.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL13	Improve the town entry points at the Gateway locations (See Map) to strengthen Kilcullen’s identity and give a better overall first impression of the town.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.

ST KL14	Survey derelict or vacant sites and to encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of derelict land and buildings in Kilcullen as a priority. The Council will use its powers, where appropriate, to consider such sites for inclusion on the Register of Derelict Sites.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL15	(i) Require that any planning applications on the Opportunity site (See Op 1 on LUZ and Town Centre Map) at the existing Mart site and adjoining lands on the Newbridge Road consist of proposals which include a landmark mixed use / retail development, creating a strong frontage at this town centre location.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(ii) This significant town centre site will be contingent on a masterplan and phasing arrangement being prepared by the landowner(s) and agreed in writing with the Planning Department of Kildare County Council.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(iii) Any proposed development located within the Opportunity Site shall have regard to the Greenway route identified within the Mobility objectives Map.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL16	(i) Require that any planning application at the Opportunity site (See Op 2 on LUZ and Town Centre Map) includes a landmark mixed-use development, which shall consolidate this town centre location thereby creating a strong presence at this infill location. (ii) This significant town centre site will be contingent on a masterplan and phasing arrangement being prepared by the landowner(s) and agreed in writing with the Planning Department of Kildare County Council.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.3 Tourism Development		
ST KL17	Maximise the potential of the River Liffey for tourism and recreational purposes by improving public access to the river, including the provision of a linear park (in conjunction with the relevant statutory authorities) and subject to appropriate environmental assessments.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
ST KL18	(i) Improve the promotion and marketing of Kilcullen as a tourism destination (in particular attractions such as Dun Ailinne / Camphill Farm / River Liffey) and its close proximity to the Curragh.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(ii) Investigate the feasibility of developing a greenway / cycle way connecting the town with the Corbally Line of the Grand Canal and other tourist attractions such as Dun Ailinne and the Curragh.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(iii) Investigate the feasibility of a Thoroughbred Trail, which connects Kilcullen to equestrian facilities in the immediate vicinity.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL19	To support the introduction of consistent town branding at the town entry points in the form of high-quality signage, in order to strengthen Kilcullen's identity as a tourist destination.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.4 Education, Social and Community Infrastructure		
ST KL20	Sensitively develop the River Liffey riverside in conjunction with all relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies to include the following:	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
	(i) A linear park	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
	(ii) High quality formal and informal seating arrangements.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
	(iii) Investigate the provision of a high-quality cycling and pedestrian route along the riverside.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(iv) The maintenance and planting of a mixture of semi mature and mature native tree species for the length of the linear park, both formally and informally; and	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities

	(v) In the event of lighting being proposed along the river corridor, an Ecological Impact Assessment (and Appropriate Assessment where necessary) including bat and otter surveys should be conducted by specialists and the recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented where appropriate. This shall be done in consultation with NPWS and in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL21	Facilitate and co-operate in the provision of community services including, local services, youth facilities, sports, schools, creches and other education and childcare facilities in tandem and in the vicinity of all new and existing residential development.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL22	Facilitate the provision of a BMX and Skateboarding Park adjacent to the existing Kilcullen GAA pitches (please refer to Map attached).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL23	Facilitate the improvement and expansion of GP facilities, health centres, local clinics, nursing homes, Garda service, library facilities and sports facilities in Kilcullen.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL24	Encourage recreational / amenity / community facilities in Kilcullen to be multi-functional, fully accessible, and not used exclusively by any one group.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL25	Investigate the feasibility of constructing pedestrian bridges across the River Liffey at the canoe club and north of Kilcullen bridge (see Mobility Map) subject to appropriate environmental assessments.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL26	Support the Camphill Community Farm, café and shop as a notable attraction in the town.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL27	Facilitate the improvement and expansion of educational, sports, recreational and cultural facilities for St. Brigid's Primary School and the Cross and Passion College Secondary School.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL28	Facilitate the development of a teen play facility on appropriately zoned lands in the town, subject to funding	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
V2 2.7.5 Residential		
ST KL29	Require the submission of a design statement for any scheme for 20 units or more or where deemed necessary by the planning authority. The design statement should clearly describe how the proposal relates to the site and its context. The following must be addressed in a design statement:	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(i) New development shall contribute to the formation of a compact settlement by being designed to integrate successfully with the existing settlement.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(ii) Linkages to the town centre, public transport and other facilities must be provided.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(iii) It must be demonstrated that the development reinforces the existing town centre.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(iv) Local views into and out of the scheme must be recognised and reinforced through any development scheme.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(v) There must be a response to local character without necessarily repeating adjacent forms and details. This shall include referencing the elements of the area that give character and a sense of place such as urban grain, historic core, buildings of architectural merit and local characteristics (e.g. local materials, building lines, walls, building heights, rivers, streams, trees / hedgerows and other local built/landscape features);	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.

	(vi) Existing buildings, landform and ecological features should be noted on drawings.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(vii) Proposals to contribute to the overall open space network of the settlement must be clearly set out.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(viii) There must be a demonstration of contemporary and innovative architecture and design that ensures the creation of a unique sense of place; and	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(ix) The drawings and statement should illustrate why a particular design solution was arrived at for a particular site and how the design responds to the ecology, topography, and features (both natural and man-made) existing on site and immediately adjacent to the site.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL30	Support the development of age-friendly housing in Kilcullen, particularly on lands located within town centre or on lands proximate to the town centre, subject to appropriate siting and design considerations. Proposals should recognise the best practice model and delivery of such services for older people at McAuley Place, Naas.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
V2 2.7.6 Economic Development		
ST KL31	Promote Kilcullen as a local employment centre where investment can be focused on creating additional employment opportunities that will sustain the town and its local hinterland.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL32	Accommodate a compatible mix of employment uses within the town centre.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL33	Promote the Link Business Park (Q lands) on the Naas Road and the Kilcullen Business Campus (H) south of the town centre as appropriate locations to develop employment uses appropriate to its land use zoning.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.7 Retail Development		
ST KL34	Encourage and facilitate the continued development of a combined and unique heritage, retailing and tourism experience within the town and to encourage strong linkages between these attractions.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL35	Work with all stakeholders in further promoting the asset of Kilcullen's townscape and location on the River Liffey.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.8 Water Supply		
ST KL36	Ensure that all new developments in Kilcullen utilise and connect to existing water infrastructure.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
V2 2.7.9 Wastewater		
ST KL37	Ensure the changeover from septic tanks to collection networks in all cases where this is feasible (subject to connection agreements with Irish Water) and that all new developments utilise and connect to the public wastewater infrastructure. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Kilcullen area will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards, including the EPA's a Code of Practice; Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (P.E < 10), (EPA, 2009), as may be amended, will be required.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
ST KL38	Preserve free from development the wayleaves of all public sewers.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL39	Minimise surface water infiltration into the foul sewerage system.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL40	Investigate the feasibility of constructing a second wastewater rising main from Kilcullen to Newbridge.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL41	Continue to work with Uisce Eireann and support the provision of new or upgrading infrastructure when deemed necessary.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.

V2 2.7.10 Surface Water Drainage and Flood Alleviation		
ST KL42	Implement the policies and objectives of the recently adopted 'Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Guidance Document' for Co. Kildare.	The Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Guidance Document for Co. Kildare arose from policy P4 and objectives O22, O24 and O26 of the CDP. The CDP itself was subject to an AA Screening and AA, with a full suite of mitigation adopted as part of the process to result in no adverse effects to the integrity of EU sites. With the provision of mitigation, the design and implementation of SUDS is not anticipated to result in adverse effects through this guidance document.
ST KL43	Require, for development proposals in lands identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment to an appropriate level of detail, addressing all potential sources of flood risk, demonstrating compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) or any updated version of these guidelines, paying particular attention to avoidance of known flood risk, avoidance of development in flood plains, residual flood risks and any proposed site-specific flood management measures.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL44	Only consider underground retention solutions when all other options have been exhausted and this has been demonstrated. Underground tanks and storage systems will not be accepted under public open space, as part of a SuDS solution.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL45	Require surface water drainage plans to have regard to the policy and objectives of the Habitat and Green Infrastructure Mapping (See Green Infrastructure Map).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective
ST KL46	Carry out a conditioned survey of the surface water culverts in Kilcullen to assess their current state.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL47	Apply the general policies, objectives and actions contained in Chapter 6 (Infrastructure & Environmental Services) of the Kildare County Development Plan (or as maybe amended) for the purpose of ensuring that flood risk management is fully integrated into the Kilcullen Town Plan and future development proposals in the town.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL48	Ensure that development along urban watercourses must comply with the Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (2020), including the maintenance of a minimum riparian zone of 35 metres for river channels greater than 10 metres in width, and 20 metres for rivers channels less than 10 metres in width. Development within this zone will only be considered for water compatible developments.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
V2 2.7.11 Pollution Control and Waste Services		
ST KL49	Require the provision of litter bins on or directly adjoining the premises of all neighbourhood facilities in Kilcullen.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.12 Architectural and Archaeological		
ST KL50	Ensure that views to / from the Bridge over the River Liffey shall be protected (See Heritage and Town Centre Map).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL51	Resist the demolition of vernacular structures of historical, cultural, and aesthetic merit, which make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of the local streetscape and the sustainable development of Kilcullen.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL52	Investigate the designation of an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) to protect the historic urban core of Kilcullen and to resist the demolition of and conserve/enhance buildings of significance identified through the NIAH in advance of any ACA designation.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.13 Natural Heritage		
ST KL53	Protect the following trees / groups of trees (See Heritage Map)	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.

	(i) On open space in Moanbane Park.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(ii) Along the Naas Road from the town boundary to the town centre.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(iii) Along the entrance to Bishop Rogan Park.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(iv) Within the grounds of Hillside house including the green area in front of Hillside House.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(v) In the riparian zone along the River Liffey within the town boundary.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(vi) In the grounds of Cross and Passion College - Along Convent view road. - Along the Newbridge Road.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(vii) In the grounds of the Parochial House and the Catholic Church.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(viii) In the grounds of the Kilcullen Community Centre and along the entrance avenue.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(ix) In the grounds of St. Brigid's National School.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(x) From the motorway bridge towards the town to Avondale Drive.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(xi) All mature trees within residential developments.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL54	Generally, prohibit development where it is likely that damage would be caused to trees listed above or to those which have a particular local amenity or nature conservation value. Development that requires the felling of mature trees of amenity value, conservation value or special interest notwithstanding the fact that they may not be listed in this plan, will be discouraged.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL55	Require all new developments to contribute to the protection and enhancement of existing green infrastructure assets, as identified on Map (Green Infrastructure), through the protection of existing green infrastructure and through the provision of new green infrastructure as part of any planning application.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL56	Seek the provision of linkages between larger areas of green infrastructure (particularly areas of public open space) where appropriate.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL57	Ensure key green infrastructure, identified on Map (Green Infrastructure), and the linkages they provide to larger areas of green infrastructure and the wider countryside, are retained where appropriate and integrated into the design of new developments.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL58	Work with the local biodiversity group(s) to protect and maintain the key areas of green infrastructure as identified in the Kilcullen Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025 or any successor to same.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.14 Infrastructure		
ST KL59	It is an objective of the council to liaise with the ESB to investigate and encourage where possible the ducting and underground routing of overhead powerlines in Kilcullen town centre in tandem with other work programmes, such as road resurfacing and footpath construction works.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL60	Support, encourage and co-operate with the Kilcullen Community Action Group in the preparation of an energy masterplan for the community and in the delivery of infrastructure and services, which assist in the development of a Sustainable Energy Community for Kilcullen.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
V2 2.7.15 Movement and Transport		
ST KL61	Develop proposals that promote walking and cycling modes in Kilcullen by ensuring consistency with the relevant measures contained in the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 (or as amended) during the period of this plan.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.

ST KL62	Monitor traffic movements within the town and provide passive traffic calming measures at appropriate locations as the need arises.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL63	Ensure regular maintenance of walking and cycling routes and ensure that all roads in new developments are designed in accordance with the principles, approaches and standards contained in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets 2013 and the Cycle Design Manual 2023 (CDM).	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
ST KL64	Develop a network of cycle routes throughout the town by carrying out a cycle network study, which seeks to remove on-street car-parking and determine appropriate cycle routes.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
ST KL65	Provide a footpath network by improving pedestrian facilities through the refurbishment of footpaths, construction of new footpaths and the provision of appropriate crossing facilities as required.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
ST KL66	Ensure site layout proposals for new developments detail present and possible future connections to pedestrian / cycle links and improve permeability between existing and proposed developments including adjacent developments thereby facilitating the '10 – minute settlement' concept.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL67	Implement the policies and objectives of the recently adopted 'Permeability Guidance Document' for Co. Kildare.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective
ST KL68	Carry out a quality audit of the existing pedestrian and cycle infrastructure within Kilcullen to ensure a reduction in on-street car-parking, universal accessibility and that infrastructure is designed in accordance with the principles, approaches and standards contained in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, the NTA Cycle Design Manual and other relevant standards.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL69	Ensure that the design and layout of new developments enables, facilities and encourages the use of sustainable travel modes.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL70	Prepare Traffic Management Plans for new developments and seek to identify filtered permeability ^[1] measures including, home zones ^[2] and low-traffic neighbourhoods ^[3] , which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote a more sustainable, connected way of life.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL71	Implement a scheme of traffic measures on the R448 Naas Road, including the narrowing of carriageways, which shall reduce vehicular speeds on the approach to the town from Naas.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
ST KL72	Ensure that the strategic function of the M9 and the associated junction no. 2 is safeguarded through adherence to national policy as set out in the Spatial Planning and National Road guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL73	Implement footpath and traffic calming measures to housing estates within the town, where practicable.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL74	Retain and improve existing pedestrian links and connectivity between the different areas of the town.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in changes in water quality, hydrology to water bodies as a result of potential construction activities
ST KL75	Provide appropriate public lighting and facilities for people with disabilities throughout the footpath network.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL76	Provide footpaths / cycleways and public lighting at the following locations. (a) On the R448 Naas Road from the town centre to the Link Business Park. (b) On the L6081 Sunnyhill Road.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.

	(c) On the R448, connecting Kilcullen to the Old Kilcullen Round Tower.	
ST KL77	Examine the route needed for a relief road to the east of the town from the R448 Naas Road to the R448 Athy Road, as shown indicatively the Mobility Map.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(i) Examine route options for such a road and to investigate the feasibility of providing same having regard to environmental, archaeological and conservation considerations, and the feasibility of constructing a crossing of the River Liffey.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(ii) Preserve the preferred route option free from development.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
	(iii) Seek the construction of this road, including a new crossing of the River Liffey and a new junction with the L6074 Logstown Road.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL78	Seek the construction of the following new greenways and streets as identified on the Mobility Map and to preserve the routes of these greenways and streets free from development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) From the R448 at (Kilcullen Business Campus) (i) to the R448 at the Liffey Bridge (Camphill) (iii) including a new junction with the R413 at the community centre entrance (ii). (b) From the R448 on the Main Street (iv) to the existing access street in Riversdale Manor (v). 	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL79	Carry out improvement works on those roads and streets identified for road and street upgrades on the Mobility Map in accordance with the principles and standards of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Bridges.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL80	Re-align, widen and / or improve the road network as necessary at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The R413 Newbridge Road opposite the Castlemartin Stud Farm. (b) The bend on the L6074 Logstown Road. (c) Sections of the Newabbey Road R413. (d) Sections of the Sunnyhill Road L6081. 	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL81	Implement safety and / or capacity improvements as necessary at the following junctions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The R448 and R413 junction. (b) The R448 and Riverside Manor junction. 	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL82	Implement improvement works at the junction between the R448 and M9.	Yes, potential for impacts arising from this objective could result in habitat loss, degradation/fragmentation and/or potential species disturbance/displacement as a result of potential construction activities.
ST KL83	Identify a suitable location to facilitate a bus turning point in the town that can support existing Local Link and public transport service providers.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.
ST KL84	To consider alternative town centre parking solutions and investigate the feasibility of such proposals with the preparation of a parking strategy for the town.	No, no potential impacts anticipated arising from this objective.

Appendix B

B.1 European sites discussed within this report

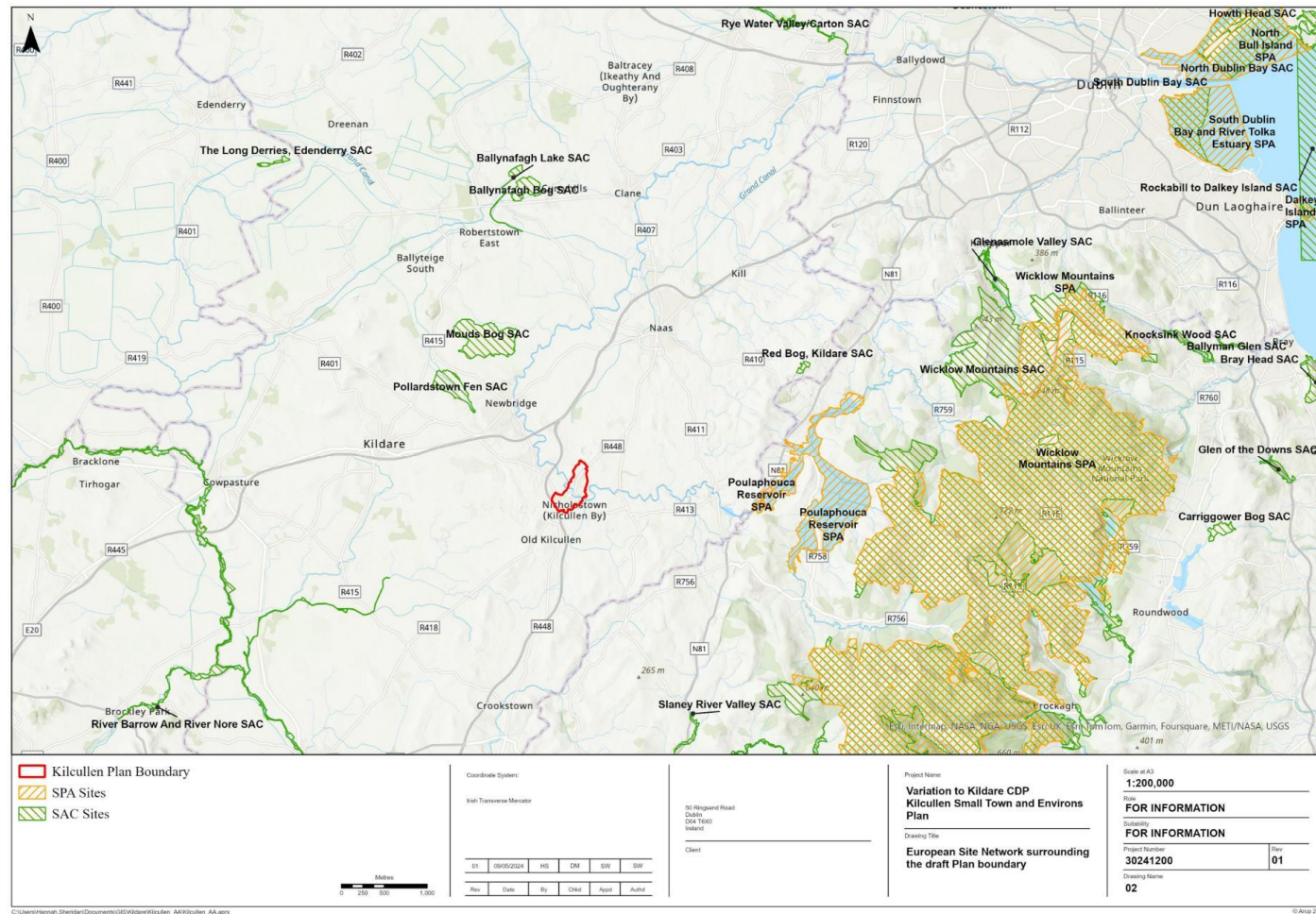


Figure 2 European sites discussed within this report