

Kildare County Council
Draft Revised Leixlip LAP
Natura Impact Report

262800/NIR/Issue 2

Issue 2 | 21 May 2019

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Job number 262800-00

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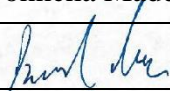


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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Kildare County Council (KCC), as the competent authority, has prepared a draft revised Local Area Plan (LAP) for Leixlip on foot of the Ministerial Direction to Kildare County Council under Section 31 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018 ('The Acts'). The revised Leixlip Local Area Plan hereafter referred to as 'the Revised LAP,' will replace the existing Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023 and will run from 2020-2026. The key purpose of the Ministerial Direction is to ensure that additional lands are zoned for housing in Leixlip in the interests of meeting the housing allocation requirement in the core strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (the CDP).

This report for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared by Arup on behalf of Kildare County Council. It provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed Draft Revised Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2026 (hereafter referred to as the "Draft Revised LAP") to impact on Natura 2000 sites (European sites).

This Appropriate Assessment documentation forms part of this initial stage of the plan making process. The Draft Revised LAP is being considered at this stage to assess if there is likely to be a significant effect or adverse effect on any Natura 2000 site. Following the public consultation period, any proposed amendments will be assessed for potential impacts. This proactive approach allows for the adjustment of the policies and proposals of the Draft Revised LAP at all stages in the plan making process up to and including plan adoption. This approach will ensure that the Draft Revised LAP will not pose a risk of adversely affecting (either directly or indirectly) the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

A draft report for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening is presented in Section 3 of this report. The conclusion of the screening was that it was not possible to rule out, as a matter of scientific certainty, that the proposed Draft Revised LAP is either likely to have a significant effect on a European site(s), or that any such likelihood is uncertain or cannot be ruled out. Therefore, a draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared as a precautionary measure to inform and assist Kildare County Council in carrying out its Appropriate Assessment as to whether or not the proposed Draft Revised LAP will adversely affect the integrity of European sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the conservation objectives of the European sites.

An NIR is presented in Section 4 of this report. This NIR has examined and analysed, in light of the best scientific knowledge, with respect to those European sites within the zone of influence of the proposed Draft Revised LAP, the potential impact sources and pathways, how these could impact on the sites' Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and QI/Special Conservation Interest¹ species and whether the predicted impacts would adversely affect the integrity of the European sites.

Mitigation measures are also set out within the NIR and they ensure that any impacts on the conservation objectives of European sites will be avoided during the proposed Draft Revised LAP such that there will be no risk of adverse effects on these European sites.

A Scoping Report was previously prepared during the scoping stage of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which provided information to allow consultation with defined statutory bodies on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the environmental assessment. Any issues or concerns raised during the scoping process relating to the protection of European sites have been incorporated into this report.

1.2 Legal Requirement for Habitats Directive Assessment

This is the draft version of the report for AA Screening and NIR that is published alongside the Draft Revised LAP. This report serves as a documented record of the process of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Draft Revised LAP during its preparation.

The responsibility for carrying out AA lies with Kildare County Council and this report for AA Screening and NIR facilitates the AA by the Council. Kildare County Council's AA decision at the final Plan Stage will be published alongside the adopted LAP in due course.

The preparation of the Draft Revised LAP has regard to Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Directive).

This is transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Regulations") and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for AA, i.e. an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites.

¹ Qualifying Interest (QI) features are identified on each SAC site, i.e. all occurrences of Annex I habitats and Annex II species which are considered to be of European importance and Special Conservation Interest species are the list of species for which an SPA site is nationally and internationally important is compiled.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (i.e. Stage 2 AA):

Article 6(3) states that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

The subsequent paragraph allows proposed plans and projects to be approved in certain conditions as Article 6(4) states that:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected.

It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

This AA Screening and NIR has informed the AA process for the Draft LAP.

2 Overview of AA Process in relation to the preparation of the Plan

In the preparation of this assessment reference has been made to the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, updated November 2018);
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC; (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001);
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2007);
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive; Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10;
- 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); and
- Department of the Environment (1994). Planning and Policy Guidance: Nature Conservation (PPG9) (HMSO).

Any (draft) land use plan (development plans, local area plans, regional planning guidelines, schemes for strategic development zones) or amendment/variation to it proposed under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018 must be screened for significant effects on areas designated as Natura 2000 sites (normally called Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) candidate SACs or Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Screening should be based on any ecological information available to the authority and an adequate description of the plan and its likely environmental effects. This should take into account any policies that will set the terms for future development. The results of the AA screening should be recorded and made available to the public. In any case where, following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or that such an effect cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach an Appropriate Assessment of the plan must be carried out and - in any case where a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) would not otherwise be required, an SEA must also be carried out.

The European Commission's methodological guidance recommends a 4-stage approach (**Figure 1**).

There are a number of methodologies in use for the characterisation and assessment of potential impacts and effects. This assessment broadly follows the approach specified by the professional association for ecologists, the Chartered Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Management (CIEEM), which encourages a case by case assessment and description of impacts rather than relying on a strictly defined set of characters. This acknowledges the variation in the effects of impacts depending on the receptors involved.

Guidance highlights the iterative nature of the assessment process "*As with other forms of impact assessment, the AA process is an iterative one and the information gathered in respect of Natura 2000 sites, their conservation objectives, environmental sensitivities and existing environmental problems, should be used to guide the policies and objectives of the plan and to avoid impacts on the sites*" (DEHLG 2010). Where later work has allowed a clear and unambiguous screening out of an impact, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, the screening section has been revised to account for this.

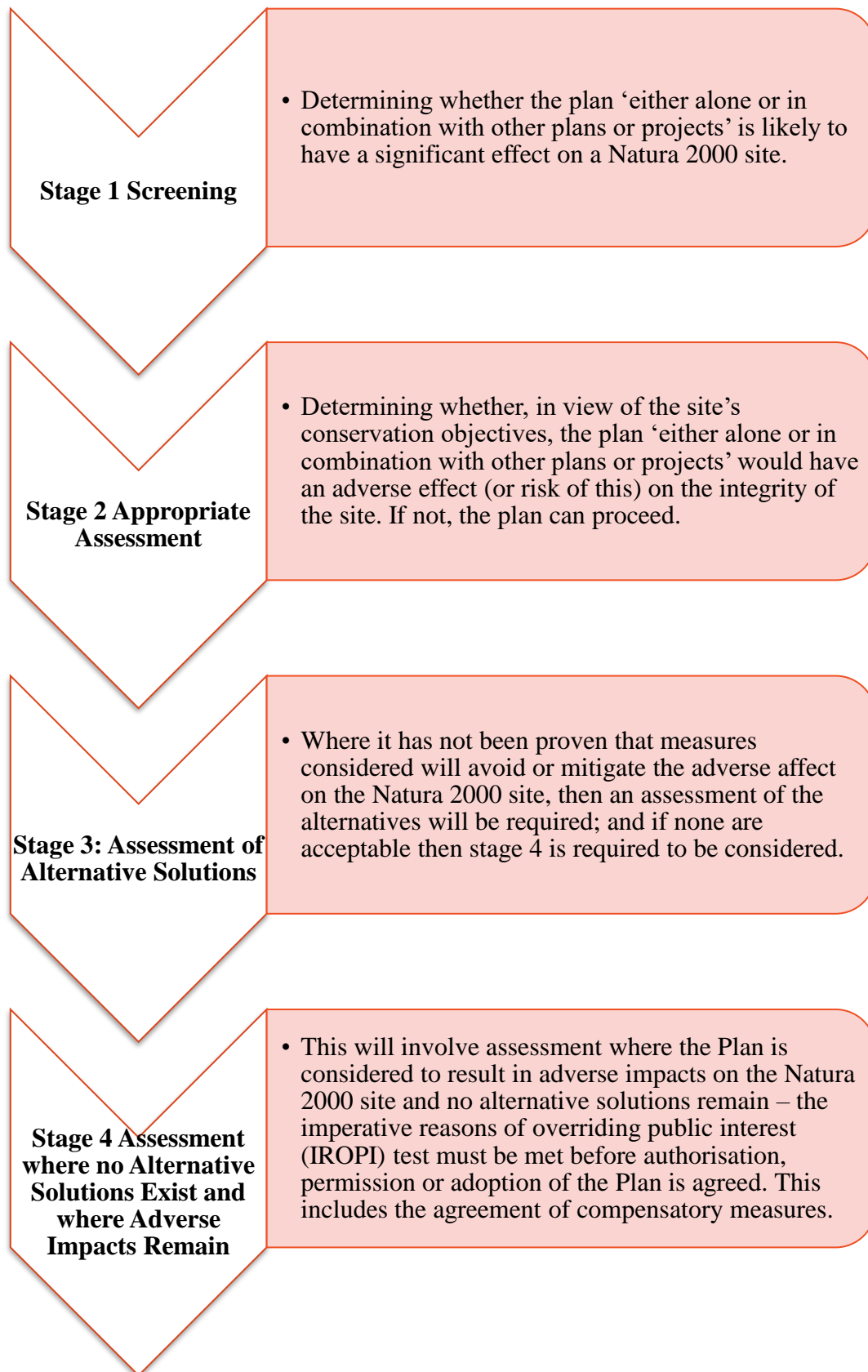


Figure 1: Four-stage approach to Appropriate Assessment

3 Stage One Screening

3.1 Introduction

Screening is used to identify whether the Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. This screening assessment follows European Commission (2001) guidance which recommends that screening follow a four-step process as shown in **Figure 2**.

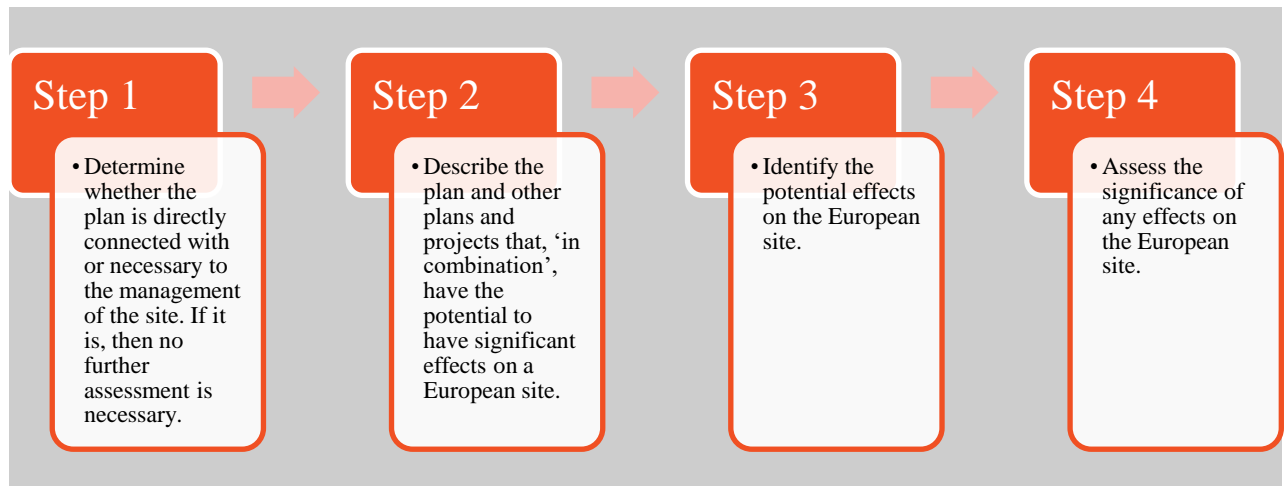


Figure 2: Steps in Stage 1 Screening

3.2 Step One of AA Screening – Connection to Natura 2000 site management

As the Draft Revised Plan is a land use plan and not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 site, this screening assessment will proceed to step two of the AA screening process.

3.3 Step Two of AA Screening - Description of the Plan and other Plans and Projects

3.3.1 Revised Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2026

At present, the planning strategy for Leixlip is set out in the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023 for which an NIR² was prepared and it was determined that the proposed Plan would not likely have any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site. KCC, as the competent authority, is currently preparing a Revised LAP under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018. The Revised LAP is being made on foot of the Planning and Development (Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023) Direction 2018, hereafter referred to as 'the Direction'.

² Natura Impact Report Draft Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023 (Scott Cawley, 2017)

The Direction, as administered on 6th March 2018, primarily reinforces Section 19(2) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018, which states that a Local Area Plan must be consistent with the core strategy of the relevant County Development Plan (CDP).

The Direction states that the existing Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023, which came into effect on 1st March 2018, is not in compliance with the requirements of Section 19(2) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018.

The core strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 sets out a statutory housing requirement in the order of 3,315 new dwellings in the Leixlip area.

The Direction states that KCC, as the competent authority, must take the following steps with regards the existing Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023:

- a) *The preparation of a revised Draft Leixlip Local Area Plan under s.20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), to ensure that sufficient and suitable lands are zoned for residential use to meet the statutory housing requirement of the order of 3,300 new dwellings for Leixlip as required by the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-23.*
- b) *In taking such steps as are necessary to comply with (a) above, the Planning Authority shall ensure that the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017- 2023 is consistent with statutory national planning guidelines issued under s.28 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) including the Development Plans Guidelines (2007), the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines (2009) and the Local Area Plans Guidelines (2013), particularly with regard to the following principles:*
 - (i) *Adoption of a sequential approach to additional residential land use zoning objectives which shall prioritise development of lands adjacent to town cores and public transport, especially rail routes and access nodes such as rail stations over locations peripheral to the town at the edge of the settlement;*
 - (ii) *The integration of transport and land use planning with significant new housing development to be focused at locations proximate to high quality public transport, especially rail access, that is easily accessible to existing local infrastructure such as schools, and local services such as neighbourhood centres, in the interest of a sustainable pattern of urban development;*
 - (iii) *Protection of the integrity of strategic employment lands for long-term employment and economic development related activities in accordance with national, regional and county economic policy objectives; and*
 - (iv) *The phasing of new development in tandem with the delivery of required infrastructure that should be determined through a detailed infrastructural assessment and master planning process for significant new housing development areas.*

c) The revised Draft Leixlip Local Area Plan shall be published not later than 6 months following the issuing of a Direction.

It should be noted that KCC has since been afforded an extension to the publication timeframe set out in paragraph (c) of the Direction.

The Revised LAP will provide the main public statement of planning policies and objectives for Leixlip for the duration of the revised LAP (2020-2026) and will replace the existing Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023.

The policies and objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development in the study area, as the Local Area Plan is the primary statutory land use policy framework against which planning applications are assessed.

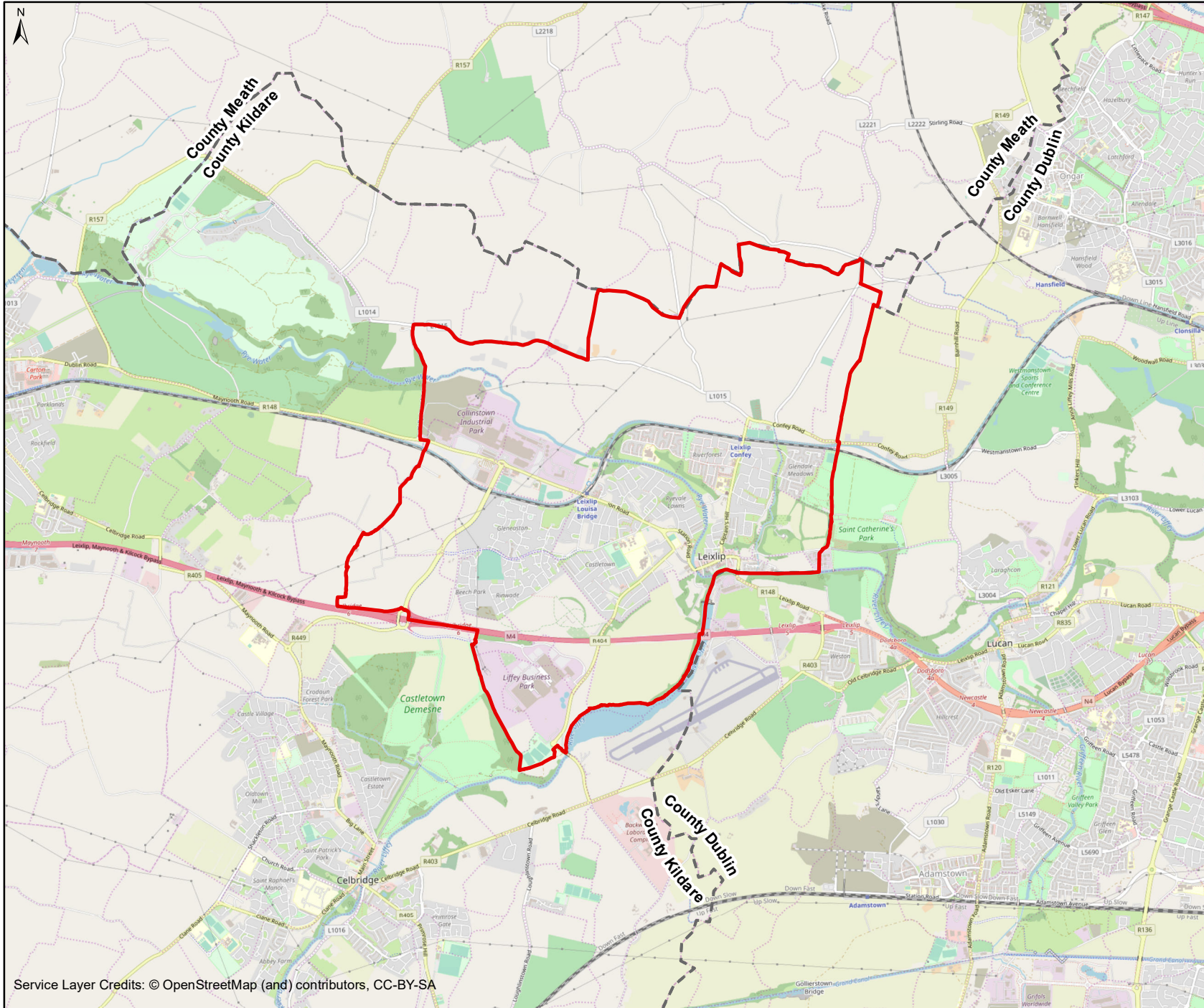
The objectives of Revised Plan will also be used by KCC to guide their activities and to indicate priority areas for action and investment by the Council such as focusing on attracting employment into the district or enhancing the district as a centre for tourism.

The Revised LAP will be a key document for setting out a vision for how Leixlip should develop over the years 2020-2026 and beyond.

Figure 3 indicates the location of Leixlip town which is the subject of the Draft Revised LAP and shows the boundary of the Draft Revised LAP.

The Draft Revised LAP is consistent with the objectives set out in the following documents:

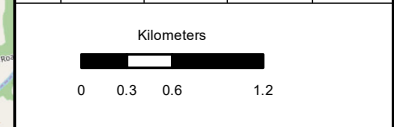
- The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022;
- The draft Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031;
- Greater Dublin Area Transportation Study 2016-2035;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023;
- Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021;
- County Kildare Heritage Plan 2005 - 2011; and
- County Kildare Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014.



Legend

- LAP Study Area
- County Boundary

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Leixlip LAP Natura Impact Report – Draft Revised LAP Boundary

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3.3.2 Vision and Development Strategy

A key aim of the Draft Revised LAP is to set out the vision and development strategy for the future development of Leixlip. The vision and development strategy must be consistent with the ‘Core Strategy’ of the County Development Plan and reflect the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of Leixlip.

The aim of the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan, is to respond in a coherent sustainable, spatial fashion to the challenges facing the county, while building on its strengths and providing a more focused approach to planning for future growth. The Core Strategy facilitates a more consolidated compact urban form, maintenance and improvement of a sustainable economic base, and the creation of sustainable and integrated communities, together with the balancing of our natural and built environment with sustainable and appropriate development.

The Kildare County Development Plan seeks to encourage the focus of new development on:

- (i) Consolidation within the existing urban footprint with particular focus on the Metropolitan and Hinterland towns;
- (ii) Supporting the achievement of more sustainable towns and villages through residential and employment opportunities together with supporting social and community facilities;
- (iii) Supporting national investment in public transport services by focusing new development areas in key locations to achieve the integration of land uses and high quality public transport provision;
- (iv) Achieving economies of scale for services and infrastructure in identified growth towns;
- (v) Promoting economic development and employment opportunities within defined economic clusters;
- (vi) Facilitating development in the smaller towns and villages in line with the ability of local services to cater for growth that responds to local demand;
- (vii) Recognising the role of the rural countryside in supporting the rural economy and its role as a key resource for agriculture, equine, bloodstock, forestry, energy production, tourism, recreation, mineral extraction and rural based enterprises;
- (viii) Supporting, facilitating and promoting the sustainable development of renewable energy sources in the county;
- (ix) Protecting local assets by preserving the quality of the landscape, open space, recreational resources, natural, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage and material assets of the county;

- (x) Promoting social inclusion and facilitating the delivery of objectives contained in the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

3.3.3 LAP Vision

The Draft Revised LAP sets out a vision for the future development of the plan area, in accordance with the County Development Plan. All policies and objectives outlined in the Revised LAP can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this vision.

The overall vision for Leixlip is made up of the strategic aims in the following sections.

3.3.4 LAP Development Strategy

In accordance with the Direction, as described previously, KCC is currently preparing a proposed revision to the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023 under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018, The Direction primarily reinforces Section 19(2) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018, which states that a Local Area Plan must be consistent with the core strategy of the relevant County Development Plan (CDP).

Leixlip has been designated as a 'Large Growth Town II' in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The County Development Plan acknowledges that Large Growth Towns II play a key role in supporting the wider local economy and comprises populations of between 15,000 and 30,000 people. The core strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 subsequently sets out a statutory housing requirement in the order of 3,315 new dwellings in the Leixlip area.

The Revised LAP has been prepared in accordance with the statutory housing requirements of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-23, and as such, aims to provide sufficient residential capacity in the study area in the order of approximately 3,315 new dwellings.

In order to develop in a sustainable manner, the town must accommodate the appropriate levels of residential, economic, recreational and community development in tandem with necessary improvements in physical infrastructure and public transport.

The Revised LAP therefore aims to adopt a sequential approach to additional residential land-use zoning objectives which prioritises development of lands adjacent to town cores and public transport, especially rail routes and access nodes such as rail stations over locations peripheral to the town at the edge of the settlement.

According to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023, Leixlip is identified as one of three primary economic growth towns to be promoted for regional enterprise.

The Revised LAP therefore further aims to protect the integrity of strategic employment lands for long-term employment and economic development related activities, in accordance with national, regional and county economic policy objectives.

The Revised LAP includes objectives relating to land use zoning and protection of the environment.

It also has regard to Ministerial Guidelines under the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2018 and will be prepared in accordance with national planning legislation and relevant European legislation.

3.3.5 Description of other plans and projects reviewed to identify potential in-combination effects on Natura 2000 Sites

Other strategies, plans, programmes and projects are listed in **Table 1** in order to consider the potential for ‘in combination’ effects. ‘In combination’ is taken to refer to the cumulative effect of influences acting on sites from all plans and projects in the context of prevailing environmental conditions. Underlying environmental trends such as sea level rises, climate change and increased flood risk are also taken into account.

Table 1: Other Plans and Projects

Level	Legislation, Plans and Programmes
International/EU Level	Water Framework Directive & associated Directives
	SEA Directive
	Floods Directive
	Groundwater Directive
	Habitats Directive
	Birds Directive
	Freshwater Fish Directive
	Shell fish Directive
	Drinking Water Directive
	Bathing Water Directive
	Environmental Impact Assessment Directive
	Seveso Directive
	Sewage Sludge Directive
	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
	Waste Framework Directive
	Nitrates Directive
	Soils Directive
	Air Quality Directives including Framework Directive
	National Emissions Ceiling Directive
	Environmental Noise Directive
	Climate Change Programme (ECCP II)
	Paris Agreement
	Industrial Emissions Directive

Level	Legislation, Plans and Programmes
	<p>EU Reach Initiative</p> <p>European Landscape Convention</p> <p>UN Convention of Biological Diversity, 1992</p> <p>Kyoto Protocol</p> <p>Stockholm Convention</p> <p>Valetta Convention</p> <p>Ramsar Convention</p> <p>OSPAR Convention</p> <p>Granada Convention</p> <p>Gothenburg Strategy</p>
National Level	<p>National Development Plan 2018-2027</p> <p>A Programme for Partnership Government 2016</p> <p>Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016-2021</p> <p>Policy Position on Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development. National Policy Position Ireland (2014)</p> <p>National Adaptation Framework (2018)</p> <p>National Mitigation Plan (2017)</p> <p>Guidelines on Urban Development and Building Heights for Local Authorities (2018)</p> <p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025:</p> <p>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</p> <p>Draft Clean Air Strategy</p> <p>Draft National Energy and Climate Plan</p> <p>Draft Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</p> <p>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland - The Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020</p> <p>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2013-2020</p> <p>National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020</p> <p>Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2015)</p> <p>Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities. Best Practice Guidelines for Delivering Homes Sustaining Communities (2007)</p> <p>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management. Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)</p> <p>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages) (2009)</p> <p>Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Retail Planning (2012)</p> <p>Local Area Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2013)</p> <p>Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Spatial Planning and National Roads (2012)</p> <p>Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (2012)</p> <p>Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 (2nd National Biodiversity Plan)</p> <p>3rd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2017)</p> <p>Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidelines for Planning Authorities (revised 2010)</p>

Level	Legislation, Plans and Programmes
	Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004) Guidelines for Planning Authorities - Retail Planning (2012) Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 National Policy on Town Defences (2008) Implementation of Regional Planning Guidelines Best Practice Guidance (2010) Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 (2013) National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland (2016)
Regional Level	Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 Draft Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031 Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016 Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area up to 2035 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021. Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM) Study Flood Risk Management Plans Groundwater Protection Schemes
Local Level	Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 South East Draft Flood Risk Management Plans (2016) County Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2011 County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014 Other Local Area Plans

3.4 Step Three of AA Screening - Identify the potential effects on European Sites

3.4.1 Introduction

This is the third step of Stage One Screening, the purpose of which is to identify the potential effects of the plan. Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the plan area are listed and their characteristics identified. In identifying the potential issues which could have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site, a range of factors were taken into account, including the possibility of effects manifesting themselves in the short, medium and long-term, in-combination effects and the potential impacts of climate change. In addition, the precautionary principle was adhered to in the preparation of this screening report.

3.4.2 Zone of Influence

Current guidance on the zone of influence to be considered during the AA process states the following:

“A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006³). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects”.

In practice the designation of an immoveable reference distance is not deemed to be useful as QI/SCI have different sensitivities. However, for the purpose of this specific NIR a distance of 15km was deemed to be sufficient to address all possible impacts from the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP. However, due regard has also been given to Natura 2000 sites outside the Zone of Influence in the consideration of potential for significant environmental effects in respect of the precautionary principal and potential for source-path-receptor linkages.

3.4.3 Identification of Natura 2000 sites located within or in the vicinity of the plan area (in situ and ex situ)

For the purposes of this report the ex situ sites are taken to be those located within 15km from the nearest Plan Area Boundary (See **Table 2** for all sites within 15km and downstream of the plan area). There is only one Natura 2000 site located within the plan area and one Natura 2000 site located outside the plan area within 15km. There are four further sites approximately 20km downstream in Dublin Bay.

A potential hydrological pathway has also been identified between the study area and Natura 2000 sites beyond 15km, in that Leixlip is located at the confluence of the River Rye and the River Liffey, which drains to Dublin Bay. A total of four European Sites are located in Dublin Bay, and these have also been taken into consideration. These four Natura 2000 sites in Dublin Bay are considered of sufficient distance downstream to be screened out for the potential for significant effects.

Glenasmole Valley SAC, is also outside the plan area’s water catchments and accordingly significant effects on this site are considered to be unlikely. Therefore, given its distance from the plan area, Glenasmole Valley SAC is screened out and will not be considered any further in this report.

Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC is within the plan area and therefore it is considered that this site’s qualifying features have the potential to be significantly affected by developments arising from the implementation of the plan. Therefore, Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC is assessed in more detail.

³ Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants, 2006. Appropriate assessment of plans. Scott Wilson: Basingstoke.

Table 2: European Sites within 15km (and those beyond 15km where hydrological pathway exists) of the Plan Area

Site Name	Site Code	Distance from Study Area	Qualifying Interests
Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC	001398	Within study area	7220 Petrifying Springs* 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)
Glenasmole Valley SAC	001209	~14km	6210 Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland* 6410 Molinia Meadows 7220 Petrifying Springs*
North Dublin Bay SAC	000206	~ 20km	1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 1395 Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 2190 Humid dune slacks
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	~ 20km	1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	004024	~ 20km	A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> A137 Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> A144 Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> A192 Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> A193 Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> A194 Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> A999 Wetlands
North Bull Island SPA	004006	~ 20km	A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> A048 Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>

Site Name	Site Code	Distance from Study Area	Qualifying Interests
			A052 Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>
			A054 Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
			A056 Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>
			A130 Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
			A140 Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
			A141 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
			A143 Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>
			A144 Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>
			A149 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
			A156 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>
			A157 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>
			A160 Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
			A162 Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
			A169 Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
			A179 Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
			A999 Wetlands

3.4.4 Key elements of the plan

Key elements of the plan are outlined below which alone or in combination with other projects or plans, are which have been considered to have the potential for having significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

The Kildare County Development Plan and the Draft Revised LAP will continue to govern the development of the plan area. Both contain environmental protection objectives and policies which have been taken into consideration as part of this assessment. Population and economic growth allocations outlined in the Plans have regard to the capacity of existing and proposed waste water and water infrastructure.

Having considered the key elements of the Revised Draft LAP in addition to other projects and plans; it is considered that the following elements have the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites:

- Changes in land use zoning proposals in the vicinity of Natura 2000 sites; and
- Infrastructure development proposals in the vicinity of Natura 2000 sites.

3.4.5 Characteristics of Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity and identification of potential effects/pathway for impact

Table 3 lists the qualifying features of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC the conservation objectives and the potential effects of the Draft Revised LAP on the qualifying features.

The assessment criteria for potential for significant effects on qualifying features of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC are as follows:

1. Hydrological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts to surface and ground water quality;
2. Direct habitat loss of European sites or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites; and
3. Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species.

In consideration of the potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites, the below potential impacts were taken into account:

- Reduction/erosion/fragmentation of key habitat(s),
- Disturbance/mortality/harm of key species (e.g. noise or light pollution, trampling, general disturbance),
- Alteration of key environmental conditions (e.g. water quality, water supply, air quality),
- Facilitation of the introduction/spread of exotic invasive species within Natura 2000 sites,
- Interference with the movement of key species within, between or in the vicinity of Natura 2000 site,
- Interference with the movement of mobile dune and intertidal Natura 2000 habitats,
- Interactive/cumulative/in combination impacts including potential climate change impacts and those with other plans and projects.

Table 3: Qualifying Interests of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC and potential for Significant Effects

Analysis of Likely Significant Effects on Conservation Objectives of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC ⁴					
1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i>					
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets (taken from Kenmare River SAC ⁴ Conservation Objectives):					
Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria ⁵		
			1	2	3
Distribution and occupied site	Number	No decline.		✓	✓
Presence on transect	Occurrence	Adult or sub-adult snails are present in at least 3 places on the transect where optimal or sub-optimal habitat occurs.		✓	✓
Abundance on transect	Number per sample	At least two samples on the transect should have more than 10 <i>V. angustior</i> individuals.		✓	✓
Transect habitat quality	Metres	At least 20m of habitat of the transect is classed as optimal or sub-optimal or optimal.		✓	✓
Transect optimal wetness	Metres	Soils, at time of sampling, are damp (optimal wetness) and covered with a layer of		✓	✓

⁴ No "Site Specific Conservation Objectives" exist for the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC. Therefore, in accordance with the NPWS recommended approach, specific conservation objectives for the sites Qualifying Interests have been taken from a site holding that Qualifying Interest and for which "Site Specific Conservation Objectives" exist; in this case Kenmare River SAC (for Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) and River Barrow and River Nore SAC (for Desmoulin's Whorl Snail and Petrifying Springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)).

⁵ The assessment criteria are as follows: 1. Hydrological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts to surface and ground water quality; 2. Direct habitat loss of European sites or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites; 3. Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species.

Analysis of Likely Significant Effects on Conservation Objectives of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC ⁴					
			humid thatch for at least 20m along the transect.		
Habitat extent	Hectares		1.5ha of sub-optimal with optimal areas	✓	✓
1016 Desmoulin's Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>					
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Desmoulin's Snail, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets (taken from River Barrow and River Nore SAC Conservation objectives)					
Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria		
			1	2	3
Distribution: occupied sites	Number	No decline.		✓	✓
Population size: adults	Number per positive sample	At least 5 adult snails in at least 50% of samples		✓	✓
Population Density	Percentage positive samples	Adult snails present in at least 60% of samples per site		✓	✓
Area of occupancy	Hectares	Minimum of 1ha of suitable habitat per site		✓	✓
Habitat quality: vegetation	Percentage of samples with suitable vegetation	90% of samples in habitat classes I and II as defined in Moorkens & Killeen (2011)		✓	✓
Habitat quality: soil and moisture levels	Percentage of samples with appropriate soil moisture levels	90% of samples in moisture class 3-4 as defined in Moorkens & Killeen (2011)		✓	✓

Analysis of Likely Significant Effects on Conservation Objectives of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC⁴

7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets (taken from River Barrow and River Nore SAC Conservation Objectives):

Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria		
			1	2	3
Habitat area	Square metres	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.		✓	✓
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline.		✓	✓
Hydrological regime: height of water table; water flow	Metres; metres per second	Maintain appropriate hydrological regimes.	✓		
Water quality	Water chemistry measures	Maintain oligotrophic and calcareous conditions.	✓		
Vegetation composition: typical species	Occurrence	Maintain typical species.		✓	✓

⁴ No “Site Specific Conservation Objectives” exist for the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC. Therefore, in accordance with the NPWS recommended approach, specific conservation objectives for the sites Qualifying Interests have been taken from a site holding that Qualifying Interest and for which “Site Specific Conservation Objectives” exist; in this case Kenmare River SAC (for Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) and River Barrow and River Nore SAC (for Desmoulin’s Whorl Snail and Petrifying Springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)).

⁵ The assessment criteria are as follows: 1. Hydrological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts to surface and ground water quality; 2. Direct habitat loss of European sites or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites; 3. Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species

The Draft Revised LAP has the potential to have significant effects on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC qualifying interest features through direct impacts on habitats and indirect impacts on water supply and quality.

3.5 Step Four of AA Screening - Assessment of the significance of any effects on Natura 2000 Sites

3.5.1 Introduction

This is the fourth and final step of Stage One Screening and involves an assessment of the significance of any effects on Natura 2000 Sites, building on the previous steps of the process. Where objectives/policies in the plan have been worded so as to provide a positive indication that they will not have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, this has been taken into account. Where potential significant effects have been identified, which may require more detailed and considered assessment and or require site specific mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites then those aspects of the plan have been carried forward to Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment.

3.5.2 Data sources, consultation, gaps and limitations

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment is based on consultation, a desktop review of literature, existing and relevant NPWS Natura 2000 Site Synopses Data, Qualifying Interests, Conservation Management Plans and the (draft) Conservation Objectives. A review was also carried out of Appropriate Assessments/Natura Impact Assessments and Reports carried out in relation to plans/projects in the area – including those of the:

- Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;
- The draft Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023; and
- The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.

The NPWS document “Monitoring and Condition Assessment of Populations of *Vertigo geyeri*, *Vertigo angustior* and *Vertigo moulinsiana* in Ireland”⁶ was reviewed to identify issues relating specifically to the *Vertigo angustior* and *Vertigo moulinsiana* populations in Rye Valley SAC.

The Scoping report for the SEA of the plan was sent to the statutory bodies including the NPWS/Development Applications Unit (DAU) and submissions received have been incorporated into the plan where appropriate.

⁶ Moorkens, E.A. & Killeen, I.J. (2011) Monitoring and Condition Assessment of Populations of *Vertigo geyeri*, *Vertigo angustior* and *Vertigo moulinsiana* in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 55. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

The primary data gap and limitation identified relates to the generic nature conservation objectives for Natura 2000 qualifying features of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. However, in accordance with the NPWS recommended approach, specific conservation objectives for the sites Qualifying Interests have been taken from a site holding that Qualifying Interest and for which “Site Specific Conservation Objectives” exist; in this case Kenmare River SAC (for Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) and River Barrow and River Nore SAC (for Desmoulin’s Whorl Snail and Petrifying Springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)).

3.5.3 Significance Assessment

Assessment of significance is undertaken having regard to potential significance indicators, to qualifying interests and conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. In line with the precautionary principle, where doubt exists, it is assumed that effects could be significant. **Appendix A** lists all policies and objectives of the Draft Revised LAP and assesses these in relation to the types of effects which could arise from that particular policy/objective, as listed below. If there is no potential for significant effects this is stated.

- Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality;
- Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites;
- Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species.

Following assessment (as shown in **Appendix A**) those policies and objectives which are considered to have potential for significant effects are listed in **Table 4**. These aspects are considered further in the Stage 2 Natura Impact Report (Section 4 onwards).

Table 4: Policies and objectives which are considered to have potential for significant effects

Aspect of the Plan	Objective	Risk of Significant 'Effect (including in combination and accumulative effects)
Confey Master Plan	Confey objectives, HC1.2	Hydrological connection between the Rathleek Stream and River Rye and potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through disturbance.
Arthur Guinness Square and strengthen the connection between Main Street and River Liffey.	UCR3.5, Public Realm Objective 1: Arthur Guinness Square, OS1.1	Proximity to Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC <50m and ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through construction works.
Riverside walk along the northern bank of the River Liffey from William Roantree Park to Liffey Bridge And Potential for development at riverside woodland adjacent Rye River Mall and at the riverside amenity William Roantree Park.	UCR3.6, Public Realm Objective 2: Riverside Boardwalk, BH1.10, UCR3.8, UCR3.9	Proximity to Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC <50m and ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through construction works. Potential threat to the underlying hydrological conditions for which the tufa springs depend and potential impact to the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through disturbance.
Greenways and Heritage Trails	EDT3.2, EDT3.3, HC4.2, MT1.5,	Potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC and River Liffey pNHA through habitat loss and through disturbance.
Royal Canal towpath development	MT1.11, OS1.4, OS1.6	Potential for impacts on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through habitat loss and hydrological links.
Upgrading of the Dublin – Sligo rail line	MT2.3	Potential for impacts on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through habitat loss and hydrological links.
Road improvement schemes implementation	MT3.2	Potential for impacts on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through habitat loss and hydrological links and increased disturbance during construction.
Surface water infrastructure improvement works	I2.1	Potential for impacts on water quality on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC, for impacts through habitat loss during works and for impacts through increased disturbance during works.

Aspect of the Plan	Objective	Risk of Significant 'Effect (including in combination and accumulative effects)
Rezoning of land at Louisa Bridge	-	Potential for impacts on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through hydrological or hydrogeological links, direct habitat loss or disturbance.
Expansion of the land currently zoned for Community and Educational use between the River Rye and Captains Hill	-	Potential for impacts on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through hydrological or hydrogeological links, direct habitat loss or disturbance.

3.5.4 Overview of Potential Significant Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

The preceding section has screened the objectives, policies and strategies of the plan. For the most part no potential for significant effects were identified, however it was recommended that the following aspects of the plan be assessed by way of a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment:

- Possible disturbance and temporary water quality impacts; and
- Potential significant effects arising from disturbance effects and or habitat loss and degradation.

There are no other likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites for the following reasons:

- Proposals for development within land use zonings will be considered taking into account potential for impact on sites of nature conservation importance. This is expressly stated within the land use zoning provisions.
- Policies and objectives contained within the plan will either: not lead to development, are intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, are intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment and are unlikely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 site, will positively steer development away from Natura 2000 sites and associated sensitive areas, positively make provision to ensure that implementation will not have a significant effect or adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and or have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case by case AA Screening.
- The plan together with the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 contains supporting text, policies and objectives safeguarding nature conservation interests (See **Appendix B** for Protective Policies and Objectives contained within the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023).

4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment – Natura Impact Report

4.1 Introduction

This stage of the Appropriate Assessment process, determines whether, in view of the site’s conservation objectives, the plan ‘either alone or in combination with other plans or projects’ would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. If not, the plan can proceed. Where a potential adverse impact is identified, mitigation measures can be proposed to reduce or eliminate the impact. In line with best practice, a hierarchy of mitigation, beginning with avoidance has been followed. As part of this, modifications to zoning maps and the addition of objectives, caveats and/or changes to the wording of supporting text may be recommended, as appropriate. Mitigation measures do not remove legal obligation to carry out Appropriate Assessment at project level, as required by the provisions of the Habitats Directive.

Aspects of the plan which were identified at Stage One Screening Stage, as potentially having significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are listed in **Table 4**.

4.2 Methodology

4.3 Formal Guidance

The AA process has taken account of guidance contained in the following documents:

- 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 NPW1/10 and PSSP 2/10;
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate - General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive;
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, updated November 2018);

- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007); and
- 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).

4.4 Sources of Information Used

Information relied upon for this NIR included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on land - use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on the Eastern River Basin District from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2013a and 2013b);
- Information on the conservation status of birds in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins, 2014);
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 Natura Impact Report;
- Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and associated NIR;
- South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 and associated NIR;
- Various Local Area Plans within Kildare, Fingal and South Dublin County Council County and associated AA Screening Reports and NIRs; and
- Ecological reports and EIS reports for proposed developments within LAP lands.

4.5 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment: Purposes and Process

The outcome of the AA Screening in Section 3 of this document determined that due to the types and locations of development that could arise as a result of implementing the Draft Revised LAP, that significant effects could not be ruled out and that the Draft Revised LAP would need further assessment during its preparation.

- The documented output of the AA Screening stage is included in section 3 of this document.
- The AA process then moved to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment as required under Section 177V, Part XAB, 2000 Planning and Development Act, as amended.
- The AA involved analysing the relationship between the proposed elements of the Draft Revised LAP and the Conservation Objectives of the European sites. Where there was the potential for an adverse impact to occur, then the assessment team has recommended changes to elements of the Draft LAP to avoid or mitigate the potential impact. These recommendations have been integrated into the various elements of the Draft Revised LAP so that the implementation would not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- The Draft Revised LAP and NIR will be published for a period of public consultation. Any submissions will be scrutinised by the team and the KCC will be alerted as to any submissions that may have implications for European sites.

4.6 Overlap with the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft Local Area Plan

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Draft LAP has been carried out concurrently with the AA. Where appropriate the Environmental Protection Agency document “*Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment – Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner’s Manual*”⁷ has been consulted. There were several areas of overlap considered in accordance with good practice in terms of the following stages:

- Sharing of baseline data gathering and sharing, data on European sites and potential sensitivities and threats;

⁷ Available at

<https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/biodiversity/Integrated%20Biodiversity%20Impact%20Assessment%20-%20Streamlining%20AA,%20SEA%20and%20EIA%20Processes%20-%20Practitioner's%20Manual.pdf>

- Settlement zoning maps were scrutinised by the team for potential adverse effects on integrity of the European Sites in terms of their Conservation Objectives but also any other ecological impacts outside of the European sites were highlighted to ensure that they would be addressed in the SEA; and
- The SEA highlighted potential interactions between other environmental issues such as water quality and infrastructure and the sensitivities of European sites which fed into the AA.

4.7 Consultation Strategy

Whilst consultation is not an obligatory part of the AA process, it provides important information on the state of the European sites and any specific concerns that key stakeholders may have.

A generic submission has been received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to SEA scoping. The AA Screening report and NIR has taken full account of these observations in these submissions.

In addition, the Draft Revised Plan and draft NIR will be used for the purposes of undertaking consultation with NPWS and other relevant organisations as appropriate to inform the AA process.

4.8 How the AA Process is Applied within the Planning Hierarchy

The AA process takes place at several stages within the land use planning hierarchy. In this case the Draft Revised LAP must take cognisance of the County Development Plan. In accordance with overarching European and national legislation, the Draft Revised LAP will implement a framework to ensure AA of individual planning applications which must take this NIR into account.

As actions pass through the planning hierarchy from national policy to the County Development Plan to the Draft Revised LAP and then to individual planning applications, the following aspects become expressed at a more detailed level:

- Geographic specificity (i.e. from non-specific actions in the County Development Plan, to actions proposed for identifiable land parcels in the Draft LAP);
- Duration and timing of impacts (usually not known as part of the Draft Revised LAP); and
- Raw materials required, wastes and energy generated (can be predicted in a generic sense as part of the Draft Revised LAP but precise constituents and quantities usually only known once the individual planning application is made available).

In order to address this hierarchy of level of detail, the current Draft NIR of the Draft Revised LAP has adopted the precautionary principle, i.e. made certain that where the certain aspects are not currently predictable but may pose a risk to the European site and instances where project details are known, that this is highlighted in the AA process and appropriate safeguards or capture mechanisms are proposed.

Table 3 in Section 3.4.5 identifies which Qualifying Interests are covered by these assessment criteria.

4.9 Assessment Criteria

The AA process involves the assessment of a proposal against the Conservation Objectives for a European site. The Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC does not have Site-specific Conservation Objectives and therefore in accordance with the NPWS recommended approach, specific conservation objectives for the sites Qualifying Interests have been taken from a site holding that Qualifying Interest and for which “Site Specific Conservation Objectives” exist; in this case Kenmare River SAC (for Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) and River Barrow and River Nore SAC (for Desmoulin’s Whorl Snail and Petrifying Springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)). These qualifying interests have been assigned a series of attributes and targets for their relevant SAC.

The Conservation Objectives were distilled to three common themes that could then be used as assessment criteria as to assess each objective, policy and proposed settlement areas. Each of the three criteria was quite general in nature which allows an easier assessment but also resulted in a very light “trigger” for the potential for adverse effects on integrity of European Sites to be identified.

Three assessment criteria have been used to identify potential effects on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC arising from the implementation of the Draft Revised LAP. These are:

- 1. Are there hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality and changes in the underlying hydrological regime?** The Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC is designated for two whorl snails and the freshwater habitat “Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)”. These species and the habitat type is dependent on having an available supply of freshwater and therefore, any activities that could directly or indirectly affect water quality or supply, such as developments located adjacent to or within the SAC boundary, could potentially affect the integrity of this European site through habitat fragmentation, changes in species composition and habitat alterations.
- 2. Will there be a risk of direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites?** For example, any new development occurring on undeveloped lands within or in close proximity to European sites.
- 3. Will there be a risk of direct or indirect disturbance to the qualifying habitats and/or species?** Indirect disturbance could include visitor activities along river walkways or noise disturbance due to construction.

All policies and objectives were assessed for potential adverse effects on integrity of European Sites. In cases where potential for adverse effects on integrity were identified, either the objective was removed, or the text was revised to reinforce the need to carry out AA at lower, site-specific levels in the planning hierarchy. The LAP authors were aware that LAP policies/objectives that could give rise to adverse effects on integrity of European Sites could not be included and therefore in practice there were few policies and objectives that required revision.

Zoning Maps: All zoning maps were reviewed to analyse any map-based proposals that had geographic specificity that could be assessed as posing adverse effects on integrity of European Sites.

Key Development Areas (KDAs), the Confey Urban Design Framework and the Collinstown Design Principles: Each of the proposed KDAs, Urban Design Framework and Design Principles were taken in turn and analysed for their potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC.

The adverse effects of implementing the proposed developments on the criteria (and hence on the Conservation Objectives) was then predicted based upon the scientific information available. Impacts arising during project construction and operation stages and impacts both direct and indirect were considered at this stage.

5 Overview of Receiving Environment

5.1 Introduction

Leixlip is located in the north-east corner of County Kildare, as illustrated in Figure 3. The town is in close proximity to the border of County Dublin and is located approximately 14.5km from Dublin City Centre.

Leixlip Town Centre is focused along Main Street which extends in a linear manner between these two bridges running parallel to the River Liffey to the south. Much of the town centre dates back to the mid-eighteenth century and retains its original character.

The towns close proximity and easy access to Dublin have resulted in large scale residential, commercial and industrial development in the area, and the rapid expansion of the same. However, the physical constraints of the M4 motorway to the south, the railway and Royal Canal to the north and west and St. Catherine's Park to the east have constrained further development in Leixlip.

Leixlip has a well-developed road and rail infrastructure and a strong industry base and is in close proximity to Dublin City as well as a number of towns such as Naas, Newbridge, Maynooth and Athy.

5.2 Water

5.2.1 Surface water

Three prominent water bodies are located in Leixlip; the River Rye, The Royal Canal and the River Liffey. The River Rye flows under the Royal Canal, which is carried in the Leixlip aqueduct almost 100 feet (30m) above and descends into the centre of Leixlip. The Rye then flows under the Rye Bridge to its confluence with the Liffey near the existing Boat House in Leixlip demesne.

The study area is located in the Liffey and Dublin Bay Catchment, in Hydrometric Area 09. Leixlip is located on the River Liffey in the 'Liffey_SC_090' Sub catchment.

The River Rye or Ryewater is a tributary of the River Liffey. It rises in County Meath, flowing south-east for 19 miles.

The Rye runs north of Kilcock and Maynooth, where it meets the River Lyreen and flows on through the estate of Carton House Estate. The river then flows behind Intel Ireland where Intel have been monitoring the water quality since 1989. The Rye then flows under the Royal Canal, which is carried in the Leixlip aqueduct almost 100 feet (30m) above, and descends into the heart of Leixlip. The Rye then flows under the Rye Bridge to the confluence with the Liffey near the existing Boat House in Leixlip demesne.

The River Liffey rises in the Wicklow Mountains, about 32km southwest of Dublin, and flows in a generally north-westerly direction from its source to the Lackan Reservoir. The river then runs westward in the Kildare lowland and gradually turns north-westward to Newbridge and northeast to Celbridge and Leixlip. It then flows eastward through the city of Dublin, in which it is extensively canalized and bordered with quays. It drains to Dublin Bay, an arm of the Irish Sea, after a course of 50 miles (80 km).

The River Liffey is the receiving water referred to and is “at risk of not achieving good status”. Water quality in 2010 was given as Q3 <1km upstream of discharge point (SW001) and Q3-4 2.5km downstream of the same discharge point (Q3=POOR, Q3-4=moderate pollution status). The River Rye lies upstream of the discharge point while the European sites in Dublin Bay lie 20km downstream. It is important to note that development proposals are dependent on connections to the wastewater network.

Based on water quality, ecology and morphology the EPA has determined that the River Rye which flows through the study area is of ‘poor’ status.

It was also classed as “at risk” of not achieving “good status” by 2015 under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) risk score system in 2010.

There are no ‘Nutrient Sensitive’ rivers identified in the plan area. Nutrient Sensitive Waters comprise nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).

5.2.2 Wastewater Treatment

Leixlip forms part of the Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme (LLVRSS) which also serves Celbridge, Maynooth, Kilcock and Straffan. The Leixlip Waste Water Treatment Plant (WwTP) has a capacity of 150,000 population equivalent (PE). Irish Water indicates that this will provide capacity to cater for the needs of the Lower Liffey Valley catchment in the short to medium term however it is advised that there is limited capacity at the treatment works and new connections will be on a first come/first served basis.

Irish Water currently has two projects underway that will divert flows from the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Works and therefore more capacity will become available. The first project will divert wastewater flows to the 9C sewer and on to Ringsend Waste Water Treatment Works and the second project will ultimately divert these flows to the Greater Dublin Drainage Project (GDD). The earliest these diversions will take place is late 2022.

With regard to the sewer network, Irish Water is currently undertaking studies to prepare a Drainage Area Plan (DAP) and model for the Leixlip area. The report and model will identify the main issues in the area and propose remedies. The estimated date for completion of the study is the end of 2020. This report will be subject to the AA process.

Irish Water have confirmed that foul sewers are located immediately adjacent to or in close proximity to the majority of the sites identified for significant residential development within the LAP with the exception of a small number of sites whereby trunk sewers traverse the lands. Way leaves around the existing pipes will need to be considered in such instances.

Irish Water have advised that there is a new 750mm diameter foul sewer constructed recently in the north of the LAP area which may facilitate the future development of lands at Confey. The delivery of the identified new neighbourhood at Confey in accordance with the Urban Design Framework for these lands will require cooperation with Irish Water.

As part of the plan process, a Sustainable Planning and Infrastructural Assessment of lands within the LAP area has been carried out in order to inform the zoning of lands. This process has informed the tiered approach to zoning in line with the requirements of the National Planning Framework. Kildare County Council have engaged with Irish Water regarding the serviceability of lands within the study area which will form part of the infrastructural assessment of the plan.

5.2.3 Geology and Groundwater

The town is located within the Liffey and Dublin Bay River catchment and holds a variety of habitats which are dependant to some degree on having an available supply of freshwater. According to the GSI's Online Map Viewer, the underlying bedrock of the town is given as 'Dinantian Upper Impure Limestone' while some areas of exposed bedrock is present at the surface also. The groundwater vulnerability of the area ranges from 'Moderate' to 'Extreme' with some 'Rock at or near the surface or Karst' also being exposed. The groundwater body (Dublin) is expected to achieve good status under the Water Framework Directive's monitoring requirements. The aquifer in the area is described as a 'locally important aquifer- bedrock which is moderately productive only in local zones'.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a development at the Intel site holds relatively recent information relating to the hydrogeology of the area (AWN Consulting, 2014⁸). According to this report the groundwater at the Intel site appears to flow in a north/north-easterly direction towards the River Rye which forms a discharge boundary to the north of the site. The deeper aquifers may be controlled by discharge to the River Liffey and the coast at Dublin Bay. An unusual feature of the groundwater regime in the wider environment is the formation of warm springs that occur in a syncline in the Lucan-Celbridge area, including the Leixlip Spa area at Louisa Bridge. A complex groundwater system is present here comprising of:

1. A deeper, older, warmer groundwater system which discharges to the Leixlip Spa well at Louisa Bridge. The groundwater is highly mineralized and iron rich. This system is thought to be the main source of groundwater at the well;

⁸ AWN Consulting Ltd. (2011). Flood Risk Assessment of Proposed Ryebrook Substation & Pump Station/ Effluent Balance Tank at Intel (Ireland) Ltd., Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

2. A more recent, shallow groundwater system that flows through conduits in the karstified limestone bedrock and discharges near the filtering pond at the Spa well. Groundwater from the shallow system discharges near rock faces and there is understood to be lateral flow towards the River Rye;
3. Deeper older groundwater that flows through a younger groundwater system and mixes with it.

Furthermore, karstic caves are known from along the Rye River in the townland of Blakestown to the northwest and karst has also been recorded by GSI in the townland of St. Catherine's to the southeast (AWN Consulting, 2014).

The entire study area is underlain by a bedrock aquifer which is classified by the GSI as a 'Locally Important Aquifer.' This represents bedrock which is 'Moderately Productive only in Local Zones.'

Groundwater quality in the plan area is of 'good status' and groundwater vulnerability is generally classed as being of 'high' vulnerability.

An unusual feature of the groundwater regime in the wider environment is the formation of warm springs that occur in a syncline in the Lucan-Celbridge area, including the Leixlip Spa area at Louisa Bridge. A complex groundwater system is present here comprising of:

- A deeper, older, warmer groundwater system which discharges to the Leixlip Spa well at Louisa Bridge. The groundwater is highly mineralized and iron rich. This system is thought to be the main source of groundwater at the well; and
- A more recent, shallow groundwater system that flows through conduits in the karstified limestone bedrock and discharges near the filtering pond at the Spa well. Groundwater from the shallow system discharges near rock faces and there is understood to be lateral flow towards the River Rye; and

Deeper older groundwater that flows through a younger groundwater system and mixes with it.

5.2.4 Water Supply

Leixlip Town is connected to the North Regional Water Supply scheme which is serviced by the Ballygoran Reservoir. The upgraded Irish Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Leixlip provides the water supply for the town. The Leixlip WTP is the second largest in the country and supplies 30% of the region's water.

The Ballygoran drinking water supply which serves Leixlip was not included on the Remedial Action list for Q3 of 2018⁹.

⁹ The Remedial Action List (RAL) of problematic drinking water supplies is released by the EPA on a quarterly basis.

5.3 Habitats and Species

The dominant environments within Leixlip are improved grassland (for agriculture) and urban, built land. For this reason, it is important to ensure that local biodiversity areas, which form an important part of the county's Green Infrastructure and support connectivity within the network, are maintained, and given the opportunity to increase their distribution within the town.

The habitats of ecological importance present within Leixlip were noted as:

- **Woodland and Scrub Habitats:** There are significant areas of woodland particularly along linear corridors such as the Rye Water, The Liffey and St. Catherine's Park. The woodlands provide some of the main areas of bio-diverse habitat and significant vegetation connectivity across the highly urbanised setting.
- **Hedgerow and Treeline Habitats:** Hedgerows form part of an extensive wildlife network across Leixlip and contribute to the maintenance of habitat links across the town.
- **Grassland and Associated Habitats:** Dry calcareous and neutral grasslands are located within the Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC and provide habitats that are of National Importance.

Wet grassland was identified within narrow stretches alongside the Royal Canal pNHA and within a field adjacent to the former Hewlett Packard site. Extensive areas of grassland within the farmlands of Collinstown and Confey, in St. Catherine's Park, Leixlip Manor, Leixlip Castle Demesne, Barnhall and the surroundings of the commercial grounds of Intel and the former Hewlett Packard all provide excellent habitats which are interlinked and support widespread habitat connectivity.

- **Watercourses – Rivers, Canals and Associated Habitats:** There are a number of habitats associated with the Rye Water, the River Liffey and the Royal Canal pNHA (as well as other small streams in the area such as the Oranstown and Rathleek Streams).
- **Calcareous Springs:** The Calcareous spring habitat within the Louisa Bridge area (part of the Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC) supports a mosaic of habitats and a high biodiversity of flora and fauna species (such as the Annex I Whorl Snails which are also Qualifying Interests for the SAC). The tufa springs are Annex I habitats under the EC Habitats Directive and are a qualifying feature for the SAC. For this reason, this habitat qualifies as being of European Importance. Other habitats in Leixlip included cultivated and built land. Arable crop fields can be found in the north Leixlip and Confey areas, with a small patch also noted in east Leixlip.

Buildings and artificial surfaces are present across the town and, for the most part, were noted to support little or no ecologically-valuable flora.

5.4 Invasive Species

According to the National Biodiversity Data Centre, there are records of Curly leaved waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*) located within the northern section of the study area on both the Royal Canal and Rye Water.

The invasive species Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Variegated yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *Argentatum*) were both noted along the Rye Water embankment walk in the study area, and there are also records of Japanese Knotweed near Station Road.

Other records of invasive species located within the study area include the Canadian Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), American Mink (*Neovison vison*), Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and Jenkin's Spire Snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*).

5.4.1 Designated Sites

There is only one Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) which lies within the LAP boundary; the Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC. This site extends along the River Rye, a tributary of the river Liffey and is designated due to the presence of the Annex I priority habitat Petrifying Springs [7220] as well as the Annex II mollusc species Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*) and Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*). These mollusc species, both of which are rare in Ireland and Europe, are known to exist in marsh vegetation near Louisa Bridge although the Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail has not been identified at Louisa Bridge since 1997 (Moorkens and Killeen, 2011).

The Site Synopsis for this European site (NPWS, 2013) makes note of a number of rare and threatened plant and animal species which are known to occur here. In addition, the Rye Water is also a spawning ground for Trout and Salmon and the rare White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) has also been recorded at Leixlip. Both Salmon and White-clawed Crayfish are listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Kingfisher an Annex I species on the E.U. Birds Directive has also been seen in the environs of Leixlip town.

Figure 4 shows the locations of European Sites within 15km of the Leixlip LAP boundary. The rationale for referring to this distance is outlined in Section 1.

Spatial boundary data for the European site network used was the most up-to-date available, updated and accessed in March 2019. As previously stated, the only European site deemed to be within the zone of influence of the LAP is the Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC.

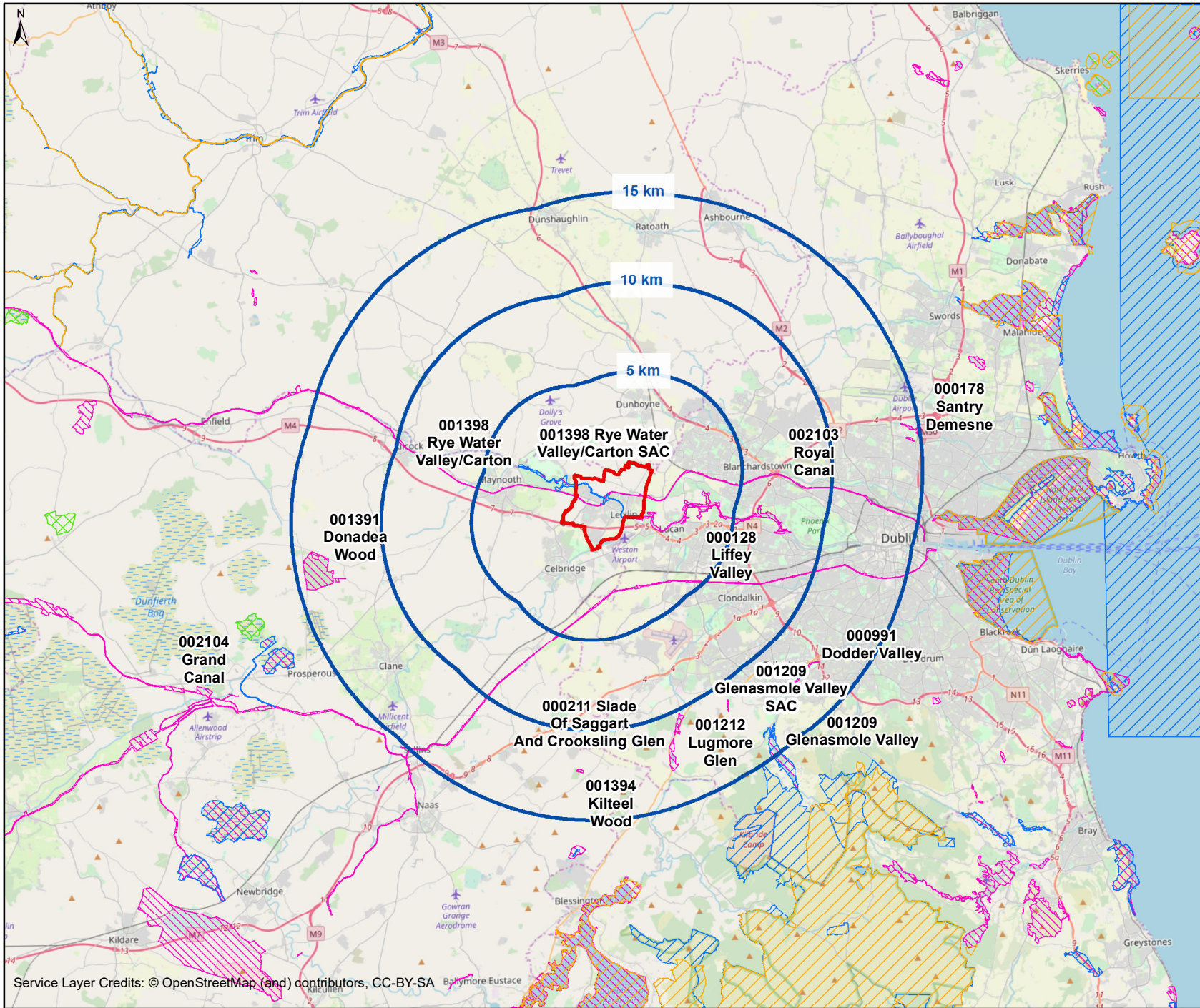
In addition to examining European sites, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) have been recorded. NHAs, pNHAs and other designated sites such as Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Ramsar sites do not form part of the European network, however they often provide an important supporting role to the network, particularly when it comes to mobile faunal species which often require a network of suitable habitat outside of Natura 2000 site boundaries.

Three pNHAs are located within the zone of influence of the LAP: Rye Water Valley/Carton pNHA, Royal Canal pNHA and Liffey Valley pNHA. Only the former site is pertinent to the assessment as it covers the same area as the SAC.

A further eight pNHAs are identified as being within 15km of the study area, as outlined in **Table 5**.

Table 5: NHA's and pNHA's within 15km of the Study Area

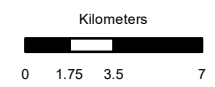
Site Name	Site Code
Royal Canal	002103
Liffey Valley	000128
Donadea Wood	000178
North Dublin Bay	000206
Slade Of Saggart and Crooksling	000211
Dodder Valley	000991
Glenasmole Valley	001209
Lugmore Glen	001212
Kilteel Wood	001394
Rye Water Valley/Carton	001398
Grand Canal	002104



- Legend**
- LAMP Study Area
 - Buffers
 - Special Protection Areas
 - Special Areas of Conservation
 - National Heritage Areas
 - Proposed National Heritage Areas

Associated datasets and digital information objects connected to this resource are available at the National Parks and Wildlife Services Map Viewer <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>

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Client
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Job Title
Natura Impact Report

Leixlip LAMP Natura Impact Report – Natura 2000 sites

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6 Assessment of the draft Revised Leixlip Local Area Plan

6.1 Structure of Plan

The LAP contains 12 chapters covering the aspects of future development in the area including:

1. Introduction;
2. Leixlip in Context;
3. Vision for Leixlip;
4. Core Strategy;
5. Urban Centre & Retailing;
6. Enterprise, Economic Development & Tourism;
7. Housing & Community;
8. Movement & Transport;
9. Infrastructure & Environmental Services;
10. Built Heritage & Archaeology;
11. Natural Heritage, Green Infrastructure & Strategic Open Spaces;
12. Key Development Areas, Confey Urban Design Framework and Collinstown Design Principles;
13. Implementation.

Each chapter consists of Objectives, Policies and supporting text that adds background to the Objectives and Policies. This AA has focused on the impact of development assuming that they have complied with the objectives.

If correctly prepared at the early stages of plan-preparation, the objectives should not only avoid posing any adverse effects on integrity of European Sites but should also provide protective objectives that express intentions to protect European sites from adverse effects. Therefore, some of the Objectives may contain caveats or conditions that must be met to demonstrate compliance whilst others will be purely focused at protection of European sites.

6.2 Assessment Results

Appendix A lists all the Policies and Objectives of the Draft Revised Plan and summarises the potential for significant effects on European Sites. Although there are overarching policies and objectives within the Draft Revised LAP which seek to protect the Natura 2000 network, those elements of the plan, included in the plan as policies, objectives or zonings, which were identified having the potential for significant effects have been further considered at Stage 2 AA.

This further consideration of those elements of the plan which have the potential for significant adverse effects will highlight those particular aspects and any mitigation necessary to avoid effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.

Elements of the plan therefore which have been identified as having the revised as part of the AA process during their drafting to ensure that they adequately addressed the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites. In some cases, the implementation of the objective is open to interpretation at the project-level and the nature of the adverse effect arising is dependent on the location of the proposal.

The result of the revisions made to the LAP after the iterative assessment was that all of the elements in the Leixlip Local Area Plan are not regarded to give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites.

6.3 Mitigation Measures

This section discusses how the potential for adverse effects on European sites arising from various LAP elements are mitigated against. Each potentially significant LAP element is listed in **Table 6**. Mitigation in the form of proposed policies and objectives are within the Draft Revised LAP including NH1, NHO1.1, NHO1.2, NHO1.3, NHO1.4, NHO1.5, NHO1.6 and GIO1.5. Notes are provided in relation to each potentially significant LAP element. These notes highlight the potentially significant issues and refers specifically to the requirement for Appropriate Assessment for development stated within the Natural Heritage Objectives.

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Table 6: Mitigation Measures

Aspect of the Plan	Policy/Objective/Zoning Change	Policy/Objective Wording	Notes
Confey Master Plan	CSO1.3, HC1.2	<p>CSO1.3 To promote and support the provisions set out in the Confey Master Plan.</p> <p>HC1.2 To facilitate the future development of a new neighbourhood at Confey in accordance with the objectives set out in section 12.8</p>	<p>Within the area of the Confey Master Plan there is a hydrological connection between the Rathleek Stream and River Rye and potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through disturbance. Rathleek Stream, which runs along the boundary of the Confey Master Plan area is hydrologically connected to the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC. Therefore, any proposals for development with potential for significant effects on Rathleek Stream should be screened for Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. If the Council considers that a development would be likely to have a significant effect on Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC it will only be approved if it can be ascertained, by means of an Appropriate Assessment, that the integrity of the site will not be adversely affected.</p>
Arthur Guinness Square and strengthen the connection between Main Street and River Liffey.	UCR3.5, Public Realm Objective 1: Arthur Guinness Square, OS1.1	<p>UCR3.5 To develop a central hub/node at Arthur Guinness Square and strengthen the connection between Main Street and River Liffey.</p> <p>It is proposed to better engage the town centre with the River Liffey by developing a central hub/node at Arthur Guinness Square. By promoting a multi-use environment at this location, it can offer a zone for pop-up venues and gatherings whilst still operating as a car-park. As the river walkway and Arthur Guinness Square is somewhat disjointed from the Main Street, the design proposal for Arthur Guinness Square seeks to encourage and strengthen this important pedestrian link.</p>	<p>Arthur Guinness Square is located in proximity to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC <50m and potential for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through construction and operation phases.</p> <p>Any development at this location should be cognisant of this and should be screened for Appropriate Assessment and particular note should be taken of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP which seek to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of all Natura 2000 sites including Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC.</p>

Aspect of the Plan	Policy/Objective/Zoning Change	Policy/Objective Wording	Notes
		<p>OS1.1 To explore the feasibility of, develop and/or improve linkages and connections between the network of open spaces in Leixlip, without compromising the biodiversity of the location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Along the northern bank of the Rye from Distillery Lane to Woodside Estate and Confey Community College; (ii) Along the River Liffey, from Leixlip Town Centre through Leixlip Castle, to the Salmon Leap Canoe Club; and (iii) Between Síleacháin Valley and St. Catherine’s Park. 	
<p>Riverside walk along the northern bank of the River Liffey from William Roantree Park to Liffey Bridge. And Potential for development at riverside woodland adjacent Rye River Mall and at the riverside amenity</p>	<p>UCR3.6, Public Realm Objective 2: Riverside Boardwalk, BH1.10, UCR3.8, UCR3.9</p>	<p>UCR3.6 To facilitate the extension, where appropriate, of the riverside walk along the northern bank of the River Liffey from William Roantree Park to Liffey Bridge.</p> <p>Public Realm Objective 2: Riverside Boardwalk</p> <p>The setting of Leixlip Town Centre brings a high scenic quality, made particularly attractive by the confluence of the Liffey and the Rye and the Leixlip Boat House which is a focal point behind Arthur Guinness Square.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to extend the riverside walk along the northern bank of the River Liffey from William Roantree Park to the Liffey Bridge opening up the river to both Arthur Guinness Square and William Roantree Park.</p>	<p>Riverside walkways and development are in proximity to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC <50m and potential exists for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through construction works. Any development at this location should be cognisant of this and should be screened for Appropriate Assessment and particular note should be taken of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP which seek to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of all Natura 2000 sites including Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC.</p>

Aspect of the Plan	Policy/Objective/Zoning Change	Policy/Objective Wording	Notes
William Roantree Park		<p>The practicalities of linking Liffey Bridge to the riverside walkway can be further explored to ensure a circuitous pedestrian link which will offer a strong amenity to the town centre.</p> <p>A sensitively designed boardwalk along the river edge would provide greater visual connection to the river whilst offering screening to the man-made concrete feature present along the river bank. The river walkway should be well lit, but with sensitive design to minimise impact on habitats and protected species and shall allow access for all.</p> <p>BH1.10 To promote the restoration of the Boat House on the River Liffey where it meets the River Rye and to promote the area along the Liffey as a recreational amenity.</p> <p>UCR3.8 To encourage incidental play at suitable locations along the river walkway; opportunities may be possible within the riverside woodland adjacent Rye River Mall and at the riverside amenity William Roantree Park.</p> <p>UCR3.9 To investigate options to connect the Rye River Walkway to Main Street, including the possibility of re-opening closed archways off Main Street.</p>	
Greenways and Heritage Trails	EDT3.2, EDT3.3, HC4.2, MT1.5,	EDT3.2 To support and facilitate the development of an integrated network of Greenways and Heritage Trails, including blueways/water trails, along suitable corridors along the River Liffey, River Rye, Royal Canal and to Castletown/Celbridge.	The development of greenways and Heritage Trails have the potential for adverse impacts on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC however this will be avoided by implementation of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP.

Aspect of the Plan	Policy/Objective/Zoning Change	Policy/Objective Wording	Notes
		<p>EDT3.3 To support the future development of the Royal Canal Greenway in a manner which supports the future development of the Euro Velo Route 2 Pan-European walking and cycling route, linking Galway to Moscow.</p> <p>HC4.2 To support and facilitate extra capacity at the existing cemetery at Confey in accordance with the Urban Design Framework for the new Neighbourhood at Confey and facilitate the development of a new cemetery within the Agricultural lands north of Confey.</p> <p>MT1.5 To facilitate the development of new pedestrian/cycle links across the canal and railway that enhance walking and cycling options and connect the new neighbourhood at Confey and the Royal Canal Greenway to existing residential areas, public spaces and facilities within Leixlip.</p>	
<p>Royal Canal towpath development</p>	<p>MT1.11, OS1.4, OS1.6</p>	<p>MT1.11 To improve access, security and safety along the Royal Canal towpath, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved pedestrian access from Cope Bridge to the towpath; and • Improved car-parking facilities adjacent to Royal Canal entry points at Cope Bridge and Louisa Bridge. <p>OS1.4 To investigate the potential to include new play facilities within open green space adjacent to the Canal Walk/Leixlip Spa.</p> <p>OS1.6 To cooperate with key stakeholders in the development (where appropriate) of the Rye River, Royal Canal and other areas within Leixlip for recreational purposes:</p>	<p>The development of the Royal Canal towpath has the potential for adverse impacts on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC however this will be avoided by implementation of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP.</p>

Aspect of the Plan	Policy/Objective/Zoning Change	Policy/Objective Wording	Notes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESB regarding the recreational potential of the reservoir at Backweston. 	
Upgrading of the Dublin – Sligo rail line	MT2.3	MT2.3 To support and facilitate the delivery of electrification and upgrading of the Dublin – Sligo rail line from Connolly Station to Maynooth, including the upgrading of Cope Bridge.	The development of the Upgrading of the Dublin – Sligo rail line has the potential for adverse impacts on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC however this will be avoided by implementation of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP.
Road improvement schemes implementation	MT3.2	<p>MT3.2 To support the implementation of the following road improvement schemes, subject to the availability of funding and environmental and conservation requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The realignment of the R148 (Maynooth Road) at Collinstown in line with the approved Part 8. (ii) The replacement/upgrading of Cope Bridge in accordance with the Dart expansion programme. (iii) The improvement of the junction of Main Street and Mill Lane. 	The implementation of road improvement schemes has the potential for adverse impacts on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC however this will be avoided by implementation of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP.
Surface water infrastructure improvement works	I2.1	I2.1 To carry out surface water infrastructure improvement works as required.	The potential adverse impacts on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC arising from works associated with surface water infrastructure will be avoided by implementation of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP.

Aspect of the Plan	Policy/Objective/Zoning Change	Policy/Objective Wording	Notes
Rezoning of land at Louisa Bridge	-		The potential adverse impacts on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC arising from works associated with the rezoning of land at Louisa Bridge will be avoided by implementation of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP.
Expansion of the land currently zoned for Community and Educational use between the River Rye and Captains Hill	-		The potential adverse impacts on the integrity of Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC arising from works associated with the expansion of the land currently zoned for Community and Educational use between the River Rye and Captains Hill will be avoided by implementation of the Natural Heritage Objectives in this LAP.

6.4 Interaction with Other Plans

The E.C. Habitats Directive and the Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 require that the effects on European sites be assessed from the plan or project in question and also in the presence of other plans and projects that could affect the same European sites.

The analyses carried out during the preparation of this NIR has identified the plans that could act in combination with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP to pose adverse effects on integrity of European Sites. This section identifies if these Plans have undergone an Appropriate Assessment themselves as it is assumed that if a Plan has been adopted following an AA then it should not be capable of posing adverse effects on integrity of European Sites.

The cumulative/in-combination impact assessment focused on the other Development Plans that had the highest potential to affect the same European sites that could be affected by the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP. Other higher-level plans that could promote infrastructure are integrated within the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP itself and have been assessed as such.

Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2031

The Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2031 has undergone AA in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive, the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015, and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, S.I. No. 477 of 2011 (as amended).

A Natura Impact Report has been prepared in support of the AA process having regard for the legislative requirements of EU and national law. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022)

The RPGs have undergone an AA and it recommended specific conditions to protect European sites (Section 4.6 of HDA). These were incorporated into the RPGs where appropriate. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016

This Strategy does not seem to have undergone Appropriate Assessment. The Strategy sits under the Regional Planning guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area which was subject to AA, which placed emphasis on the protection of European sites. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Draft Transport Strategy for The Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035

This Strategy has undergone an AA and mitigatory measures have been recommended and incorporated into the text. Mitigation measures include those specifically to protect biodiversity including European sites, protection of riparian zone and waterbodies and watercourses and soil protection and contamination. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Eastern and South Eastern River Basin Management Plans (2009-2015)

Both Plans underwent an AA. Safeguards (described as ‘mitigation measures’ in Appendix I of the AA Screening) are in place for each qualifying interest of the European sites. An example of a common safeguard is the creation of buffer strips around water bodies to prevent pollutant loss. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023

The Plan has undergone an AA. It found that any provisions in the Plan which may have potentially led to adverse impacts on European site have been mitigated for by the inclusion of a number of policies and objectives which specifically address the protection of European sites and reinforce statutory requirements to consider these in future plans and projects. **Appendix B** details these protective policies and objectives. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Kildare County Heritage Plan 2005-2009

This Plan does not seem to have undergone an AA. However, the aim of the County Kildare Heritage Plan is “to identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county”.

A number of actions within the Heritage Plan aim to raise public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the County’s Heritage and promote best practice e.g. Action 2.12 “Inform general public, particularly estate agents, auctioneers, farmers and public bodies of protected sites (NHA, SAC, SPA), Protected Structures (RPS) and monuments and archaeological sites (record of Monuments and Places) and make them aware of the level of protection these sites and structures have under national and international legislation”. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Kildare County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014

While this Plan does not seem to have undergone an AA it should be noted that it sits under the Kildare County Development Plan which has undergone AA and has placed emphasis on the protection of European sites. Also, the nature of the Biodiversity Plan is to conserve biodiversity including European sites that make up the NATURA 2000 network. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Various Local Area Plans in proximity to Leixlip

All Local Area Plans in proximity to Leixlip have been subject to Stage 1 AA Screening with each AA Screening concluding that the plans would not have a significant effect on European sites. No in-combination effects with the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

6.5 Responsibilities for Implementing Mitigation Policies

The responsibility for implementing the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP lies solely with the Planning Authority through the Planning consent process. Applicants (including the Local Authority) who intend to develop within the Leixlip LAP area are obliged to ensure that their application is consistent with the Objectives and requirements within the Plan. The statutory requirement for the Planning Authority to carry out AA Screening for all planning applications is not affected by any of the statements in this NIR. All applications must be tested for their potential for likely significant effects. However, such effects are not likely to occur if the Objectives in the Draft Revised Leixlip LAP and the requirements are adhered to as outlined, where appropriate.

Applicants must provide information to allow the Planning Authority to screen the application and decide if full AA is required.

6.6 Monitoring the Implementation of Policies

Whilst there is no legal requirement to monitor the outputs of the AA process, there is an obligation to monitor the implementation of the Draft Revised LAP through the E.C. SEA Directive as implemented in Ireland. Contingency measures may have to be applied if there is evidence that Objectives cannot be implemented successfully. The European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 will also apply in the event of any environmental damage to habitats and species both within and outside of the European sites.

7 Conclusion

This report for AA Screening and Natura Impact Report has been prepared to inform the AA of the Draft Revised LAP.

Any risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of impacts in the first place and mitigate impacts where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Draft Revised LAP will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is considered that the Draft LAP will not have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects acting in the same area.

Appendix A

Assessment of Policies and Objectives

A1

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
Strategic Objectives			
S1 To accommodate housing growth in Leixlip in accordance with the Kildare County Development Plan Core Strategy.	No	No	No
S2 To protect and enhance, including through appropriate regeneration the quality, ambience and vitality of the traditional heart of Leixlip Town Centre in order to create a pleasant and attractive environment for local shopping, business, tourism, recreation and living needs alongside the enhancement and expansion of the neighbourhood centre offering in a manner capable of accommodating the projected future population.	No	No	No
S3 To promote, support and enable sustainable economic development and employment generation in Leixlip consistent with its role in the hierarchy of employment set out in the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and optimising its strategic location along a key public transport corridor as identified in the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan. S4 To deliver new residential development within Leixlip to support existing community infrastructure, recreation and amenity facilities	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
and provide new facilities in tandem with opportunities for significant new housing			
S5 To promote and facilitate a sustainable transport system for Leixlip that prioritises walking, cycling and public transport and provides an appropriate level of road infrastructure, road capacity and traffic management to support future development.	No	No	No
S6 To phase significant future growth in line with the capacity and delivery of supporting physical infrastructure.	No	No	No
S7 To protect, conserve and manage the unique built heritage of the town and to encourage sensitive sustainable development so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations.	No	No	No
S8 To protect, enhance, create and connect natural heritage, high quality amenity areas and other green spaces throughout Leixlip for both biodiversity and recreational use.	No	No	No
S9 To ensure that best practice urban design principles are applied to all new development, based on the principle that well planned and integrated development enhances the sustainability, attractiveness and quality of an area.	No	No	No
S10 To phase new development to ensure that it occurs in an orderly and efficient manner in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
Core Strategy			
CS 1 It is the policy of the Council to support the sustainable long-term growth of Leixlip in accordance with the core strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and provisions of the National Planning Framework, 2018 and the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.	No	No	No
CS1.1 To support and facilitate compact growth through the sustainable intensification and consolidation of the town centre and established residential areas.	No	No	No
CS1.2 To focus new residential development on appropriately zoned lands at Confey, Key Development Areas and appropriate infill sites in a phased manner alongside appropriate physical and social infrastructure.	No	No	No
CS1.3 To support and facilitate development in accordance with the objectives set out in Section 12.8 of this Local Area Plan.	Yes, potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC due to hydrological connection between the Rathleek Stream and River Rye. This connection provides potential for impacts on water quality and alterations to the underlying hydrology which supports the tufa springs.	No	Yes, potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through disturbance. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5.

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	<p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>		<p>Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>CS1.4 To promote and support the development of an enterprise and employment campus at Collinstown, Leixlip in accordance with the Design Guidance and Principles for these lands.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>CS1.5 To support and facilitate development on zoned land based on the policies and objectives of the <i>Kildare Development Plan 2017 – 2023</i>.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
Urban Centre and Retailing			
UCR1 It is the policy of the Council to protect the visual character, cultural heritage, ambience and vitality of the traditional heart of Leixlip Town Centre so that it meets the retailing and service needs of the area, in addition to offering a pleasant and attractive environment for shopping, business, tourism, recreation and living.	No	No	No
UCR1.1 To promote the town centre as a priority location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development and to promote new development that consolidates the existing urban core.	No	No	No
UCR1.2 To improve the quality, ambience, vitality and vibrancy of the town centre, including: (i) Promoting an appropriate mix of day and night time uses. (ii) Facilitating development that will ensure that the town centre remains a dynamic and attractive place.	No	No	No
UCR1.3 To encourage and facilitate the full use of buildings and sites and in particular the use of upper floors and back lands, with due cognisance to quality of urban design, integration and linkage.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
UCR1.4 To improve the accessibility of the town centre with particular emphasis on creating an environment that is accessible and safe for pedestrians and cyclists.	No	No	No
UCR2 It is the policy of the Council to support the retail function of Leixlip through a combination of redevelopment of appropriate infill and opportunity sites in the town centre, expansion opportunities at existing neighbourhood centres and in conjunction with the development of new neighbourhood centres at Confey and Collinstown.	No	No	No
UCR2.1 To ensure the type, quantum and location of future retail floorspace provision in Leixlip is consistent with the requirements and recommendations of the County Development Plan, relevant regional policy frameworks and national planning guidelines.	No	No	No
UCR2.2 To support and facilitate the development of retail, retail services and niche retailing in the town centre area, including new/infill development and redevelopment of an appropriate scale.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
UCR2.3 To support and facilitate appropriate levels of expansion to the established retail Neighbourhood centres.	No	No	No
UCR2.4 To support the development of new local retail facilities in conjunction with the development of a new residential area at Confey north of the railway line in accordance with design principles set out in the Confey Urban Design Framework.	No	No	No
UCR2.5 To support the development of a new local neighbourhood centre within the Collinstown Business Campus. The provision of this proposed neighbourhood centre will only be permitted once c. 30% of the overall campus has been developed and occupied. The provision of such services shall be required once 50% of the overall site has been developed.	No	No	No
UCR2.6 To protect the primacy of the town centre as the core retail area in Leixlip, through the application of a sequential approach to retail development, in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG (2012).	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
UCR2.7 To encourage and facilitate the reuse and regeneration of derelict land and buildings for retail and other town centre uses, with due cognisance of the character, heritage and design requirements for the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).	No	No	No
UCR2.8 To support the development of retail-led tourism associated with the natural and built heritage assets of Leixlip.	No	No	No
TCR 1 To facilitate and progress the regeneration of the town centre through ‘Active Land Management’ measures set out under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 and the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended)	No	No	No
TCR 2 To progress the regeneration of suitable town centre lands in a co-ordinated manner which respects and enhances existing uses along the main street through the identification of key regeneration sites.	No	No	No
REG1.1 To facilitate the redevelopment of North Main Street Backlands in a co-ordinated manner which facilitates a mix of residential/retail and commercial uses. The development of the site shall be subject to an agreed action plan with the planning authority for the entire site and will be carried out in a phased manner.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
REG1.2 To support the provision of an entrance and egress onto the Main Street via this new street shall be subject to agreement with the Planning and Transportation Section of Kildare County Council and shall include improvement measures along the R148 and at the R148 Junction at Mill Lane.	No	No	No
REG1.3 The new street design shall provide pedestrian and cycle permeability through the site connecting to the main street to the south, to the west at Captains Hill and north towards St. Mary's Park.	No	No	No
REG1.4 The design of new buildings and land uses within this regeneration site shall be sympathetic to the existing adjoining properties while also being orientated in a manner which provides passive surveillance of the proposed new street and pedestrian/cycle connections through the site.	No	No	No
REG1.5 The overall development shall provide for adequate parking provision for the various uses proposed within the site in accordance with the Car Parking Standards of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The site shall also provide for sufficient lands for a new public town centre car park.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
UCR3 It is the policy of the Council to actively encourage, support and facilitate environmental and public realm improvements in Leixlip to address environmental quality, urban design, safety, identity and traffic impact.	No	No	No
UCR3.1 To ensure that all new development in the town centre contributes positively to and enhances the streetscape and public realm in Leixlip.	No	No	No
UCR3.2 To actively engage with the community, developers and other agencies to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of the public realm in Leixlip.	No	No	No
UCR3.3 To reduce the use of line-marking and signage on Main Street.	No	No	No
UCR3.4 To develop a central hub/node at Arthur Guinness Square and strengthen the connection between Main Street and River Liffey.	<p>The Rye River is located to the west of the River Liffey and their confluence is <50m upstream of Arthur Guinness Square.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating</p>	<p>Whilst there may be potential impacts to River Liffey pNHA through habitat loss and disturbance, this pNHA does not directly support the SAC as it is downstream and less likely to allow the movement of QI species upstream.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC through construction works.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	<p>policies into account there are no adverse impacts</p>		<p>adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this objective.</p>
<p>UCR3.5 To facilitate the extension, where appropriate, of the riverside walk along the northern bank of the River Liffey from William Roantree Park to Liffey Bridge.</p>	<p>The Rye River is located to the west of the River Liffey and their confluence is <50m upstream of Arthur Guinness Square.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts</p>	<p>Whilst there may be potential impacts to River Liffey pNHA through habitat loss and disturbance, this pNHA does not directly support the SAC as it is downstream and less likely to allow the movement of QI species upstream.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>UCR3.6 To facilitate the redevelopment of Ralph’s Square and strengthen the connection between Main Street and the River Liffey.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Whilst there may be potential impacts to River Liffey pNHA through habitat loss and disturbance, this pNHA does not directly support the SAC as it is downstream and less likely to allow the movement of QI species upstream.</p>	<p>No</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p>UCR3.7 To encourage incidental play at suitable locations along the river Liffey walkway; opportunities may be possible within the riverside woodland adjacent Rye River Mall and at the riverside amenity William Roantree Park.</p>	<p>Without mitigation future proposals may pose a threat to the underlying hydrological conditions for which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5.</p> <p>Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Potential impacts to the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through habitat loss if not correctly designed.</p> <p>Potential impacts to the River Liffey pNHA which acts as a support to the wider ecological network including European sites.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Yes, potential impact to the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through disturbance.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5.</p> <p>Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p>UCR3.8 To investigate options to connect the Rye River Walkway to Main Street, including the possibility of re-opening closed archways off Main Street.</p>	<p>Without mitigation future proposals may pose a threat to the underlying hydrological conditions for which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through habitat loss.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through increased disturbance.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>Public Realm Objective 1: Arthur Guinness Square</p> <p>It is proposed to improve the connection between the River Liffey by developing a central hub/node at Arthur Guinness Square. By promoting a multi-use environment at this location, it can offer a zone for pop-up venues and gatherings whilst still operating as a car-park. As the river walkway and Arthur</p>	<p>Without mitigation future proposals may pose a threat to the underlying hydrological conditions for which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy</p>	<p>Potential impacts to the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through habitat loss if not correctly designed.</p> <p>Potential impacts to the River Liffey pNHA which acts as a support to the wider ecological network including European sites.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided</p>	<p>Yes, potential impact to the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through disturbance.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p>Guinness Square is somewhat disjointed from the Main Street, the design proposal for Arthur Guinness Square seeks to encourage and strengthen this important pedestrian link.</p>	<p>NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>account there are no adverse impacts through habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>Public Realm Objective 2: Riverside Boardwalk The setting of Leixlip Town Centre brings a high scenic quality, made particularly attractive by the confluence of the Liffey and the Rye and the Leixlip Boat House which is a focal point behind Arthur Guinness Square. There is an opportunity to extend the riverside walk along the northern bank of the River Liffey from William Roantree Park to the Liffey Bridge opening up the river to both Arthur Guinness Square and William Roantree Park. The practicalities of linking Liffey Bridge to the riverside walkway can be further explored to ensure a circuitous pedestrian link which will offer a strong amenity to the town centre.</p>	<p>Without mitigation future proposals may pose a threat to the underlying hydrological conditions for which the tufa springs depend. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC</p>	<p>Potential impacts to the Rye Water Valley/ Carlton SAC through habitat loss if not correctly designed. Potential impacts to the River Liffey pNHA which acts as a support to the wider ecological network including European sites. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Yes, potential impact to the Rye Water Valley/ Carlton SAC through disturbance. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
through the implementation of this policy.			
<p>Public Realm Objective 3: Ralphs Square Ralphs Square is a small square opposite Captains Hill which has the potential to link the main street to the Riverside. While the area is too small to form a square of civic proportions it does have the potential to create a very attractive space due to its narrow entrance and the small scale of the surrounding development.</p> <p>There are a number of existing commercial uses located along the square which attract vehicular traffic reducing the potential to create a pedestrian centre. In addition to the south of the square which opens onto the River Liffey walkway, there are a number of derelict properties. The regeneration of this area has the potential to attract enterprises which stimulate pedestrian movements through this space connecting the Main Street to the Riverside walk.</p>	No	<p>Whilst there may be potential impacts to River Liffey pNHA through habitat loss and disturbance, this pNHA does not directly support the SAC as it is downstream and less likely to allow the movement of QI species upstream</p>	No
<p>Public Realm Objective 4: Main Street A range of streetscape improvements, combined with investment in the upgrade and regeneration of existing properties and commercial premises extending to appropriate infill developments, will significantly enhance Main Street.</p>	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism			
EDT1 It is the policy of the Council to support the development of Leixlip as an enterprise and employment hub forming part of north-east Kildare employment cluster.	No	No	No
EDT1.1 To promote enterprise and employment development at Collinstown, focusing on the high tech, bio tech, research and development, ICT and manufacturing sectors.	No	No	No
EDT1.2 To promote the provision of incubator enterprise units suitable for SMEs and start-up companies at Collinstown to offer opportunities associated with clustering and networking.	No	No	No
EDT1.3 To facilitate the expansion of industries in Leixlip, taking full account of the obligations of the European Directives and the sensitivities of the receiving environment including ensuring that proposals for development that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network will only be approved if it can be ascertained, by means of an Appropriate Assessment or other ecological assessment, that the integrity of these sites will not be adversely affected.	No (Mitigation regarding protection of European sites is included in policy wording)	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
EDT1.4 To comply with the SEVESO III Directive to reduce the risk of accidents at SEVESO sites in Leixlip and the surrounding areas.	No	No	No
<p>EDT1.5 To have regard to the following in assessing applications for developments (including extensions) in the vicinity of the Intel SEVESO site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Major Accidents Directive (Seveso III– Directive(2012/18/EU); 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; and d. The advice of the Health and Safety Authority. 	<p>Without mitigation future proposals may pose a threat to the underlying hydrological conditions for which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policies EDT1.3 and NHO1.2. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	No lands zoned within SAC.	<p>Yes, potential impacts to the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through disturbance.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policies EDT1.3 and NHO1.2. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
EDT2 It is the policy of the Council, where commercial and industrial enterprises exist as non-conforming but long-established uses, to support their continued operation and reasonable expansion, save where such a use	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p>would impact negatively on the economic and social wellbeing of the area and inhibit development that is in conformance with the land use zoning objective.</p>			
<p>EDT2.1 To support the continued operation and reasonable expansion of existing non-conforming uses, provided they do not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result in loss of amenity to adjoining properties • Cause adverse impact on the environment • Cause adverse impact on the visual amenity or character of the area, or • Inhibit the development of adjoining land in conformance with its land use zoning objective. 	No	No	No
<p>EDT3 It is the policy of the Council to support and facilitate existing amenities and the development of sustainable tourism infrastructure, attractions, activities and facilities in Leixlip.</p>	No	No	No
<p>EDT3.1 To identify opportunities to improve the tourist product in Leixlip, including an information/tourist office, and to co-operate with the appropriate statutory agencies, private tourism sector and community groups.</p>	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p>EDT3.2 To support and facilitate the development of an integrated network of Greenways and Heritage Trails, including Blueways/water trails where appropriate, along suitable corridors along the River Liffey, River Rye, Royal Canal and to Castletown/Celbridge.</p>	<p>Unlikely to affect hydrology/hydrogeology. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and River Liffey pNHA through habitat loss. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5.</p> <p>Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and River Liffey pNHA through disturbance. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>EDT3.3 To support the future development of the Royal Canal Greenway as part of the Euro Velo Route 2 Pan-European walking and cycling route.</p>	<p>Unlikely to affect hydrology/hydrogeology. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or</p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and River Liffey pNHA through habitat loss. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water</p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and River Liffey pNHA through disturbance. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	<p>disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>EDT3.4 To encourage the development of tourism activities such as waterways activities, agri-tourism, green/ecotourism, niche retailing, food markets, local and other craft type activities so as to diversify the tourism product in Leixlip.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>EDT3.5 To facilitate the provision of standardised signage and interpretation for tourism facilities and tourist attractions throughout the town.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>EDT3.6 To support the development of new tourist facilities or upgrading / extension of existing tourist facilities.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>EDT3.7 To work with Waterways Ireland and the ESB in supporting the development of angling and canoeing/kayaking infrastructure and facilities for tourism in proximity to appropriate water courses or water bodies, subject to an appropriate scale of development having regard to the pertaining environmental conditions and sensitivities, scenic amenity and availability of services.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts on Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and River Liffey pNHA through disturbance. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into</p>

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			account there are no adverse impacts through disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.
EDT3.8 To support development of linkages between the historical demesne lands within and around the town to promote amenity linkage.	No	No	No
EDT3.9 To support the development of a heritage trail through the town, linking the town centre to The Wonderful Barn, Castletown House and other historical demesne lands within and around the town	No	No	No
EDT3.10 To promote The Wonderful Barn as an integrated tourism and amenity destination with complementary commercial uses to be informed by a detailed conservation and management plan.	No	No	No
EDT3.11 To support and encourage further appropriate development associated with the Arthur’s Way heritage trail.	No	No	No
EDT3.12 To support and encourage further appropriate development of tourism and recreational facilities at Leixlip Manor Hotel and Gardens.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
EDT3.13 To support the preparation of an integrated tourism and amenity destination on The Wonderful Barn site, that accommodates a range of day and evening time uses.	No	No	No
Housing and Community			
HC1 It is the policy of the Council to ensure that sufficient land continues to be available at appropriate locations to satisfy the Core Strategy growth allocation for Leixlip and that each household has access to good quality housing that is appropriate to its circumstance.	No	No	No
HC1.1 To promote and facilitate the phased development of identified Key Development Areas in accordance with the guidance set out in Section 12.	No	No	No
HC1.2 To facilitate the future development of a new neighbourhood at Confey in accordance with the objectives as set out in Section 12.8.	<p>Potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC due to hydrological connection between the Royal Canal and the River Rye.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts</p>	<p>No. No zoned land overlaps with the SAC in this area.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through construction works.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.		changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.
HC1.3 To secure the provision of social infrastructure, community, and recreational facilities in tandem with residential development, in accordance with the findings of the Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) and the phasing/infrastructure delivery schedule of this LAP.	No	No	No
HC1.4 To encourage the appropriate redevelopment/regeneration of brownfield and infill sites for residential uses within the LAP area.	No	No	No
HC1.5 To manage the provision of one-off housing on lands zoned as ‘I: Agricultural’. Limited one-off housing will be permitted in this zone subject to compliance with the rural housing policy of the CDP.	No	No	No
HC2 It is the policy of the Council to ensure that all new residential development provides for a sustainable mix of housing types, sizes and tenures and that new development complements the existing residential mix.	No	No	No

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HC2.1 To ensure that a good mix of housing types and sizes is provided in all new residential areas including each Key Development Area (KDA) and appropriate infill/brownfield locations to meet the needs of the population of Leixlip, including housing designed for older people and people with disabilities.	No	No	No
HC2.2 Require that residential schemes in close proximity to heavily trafficked roads within/adjoining Leixlip are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance, follow a good acoustic design process and clearly demonstrate that significant adverse noise impacts will be avoided.	No	No	No
HC2.3 To seek to provide Traveller Specific Accommodation at appropriate locations close to key services and public transport facilities in accordance with the Traveller Needs Assessment and Traveller Accommodation Plan due for review in 2019.	No	No	No
HC3 It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and secure the provision of social infrastructure to support existing and new communities within the LAP area, in a manner which provides flexibility to respond to varied and changing community needs.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
HC3.1 To support and facilitate improvements to existing educational, childcare and healthcare facilities within the Leixlip LAP area.	No	No	No
HC3.2 To require the provision of childcare spaces per dwelling on a pro-rata basis in the Key Development Areas, in accordance with the phasing requirements set out in Section 13 of the LAP and the Urban Design Framework for the new residential neighbourhood at Confey.	No	No	No
HC3.3 To support and facilitate the provision of children's play facilities in Leixlip, including playgrounds and a skate park, for children of all ages having regard to children with special needs	No	No	No
HC4 It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and support a broad range of community, cultural and recreational facilities to serve the needs of the residents Leixlip.	No	No	No
HC4.1 To support and facilitate the provision of multi-functional community facilities to meet the needs of the population of Leixlip.	No	No	No

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<p>HC4.2 To support and facilitate limited additional capacity at the existing cemetery at Confey in accordance with the Urban Design Framework for the new Neighbourhood at Confey and facilitate the development of a new cemetery within lands zoned for Agricultural use north of Confey.</p>	<p>Potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC due to hydrological connection between the Royal Canal and the River Rye.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>No. No zoned land overlaps with the SAC in this area.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through construction works.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>HC4.3 To support and promote the development of cultural, arts and performance spaces in Leixlip.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

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Movement and Transport			
MT1 It is the policy of the Council to promote enhanced permeability for pedestrians and cyclists within the urban environment in order to improve access to the town centre, local schools, recreational facilities, shops, public transport services and other amenities. This includes providing improved connectivity across the River Rye, Royal Canal and railway line, and enhanced links with Maynooth, Celbridge and Dublin.	No	No	No
MT1.1 To ensure all footpaths in the town provide adequate access for persons with a disability or who have impaired mobility.	No	No	No
MT1.2 To support cycling as a more convenient and safe method of transport through the development of new or improved cycle facilities in Leixlip.	No	No	No
MT1.3 To work with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to implement the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan proposals for Leixlip, including the North Kildare Cycleway (Dublin – Galway) subject to detailed engineering design and the mitigation measures presented in the Strategic Environmental	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
Assessment (SEA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanying the NTA Plan¹⁰.			
<p>MT1.4 To improve, maintain and enhance the following routes for use by both pedestrians and cyclists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Captains Hill (R149); (ii) Accommodation Road; (iii) Old Hill; (iv) Dublin/Lucan Road from Main Street to the county border (R148); (v) Silleacháin Lane; (vi) Distillery Lane; (vii) Rye Valley to the Glen; and (viii) Mill Lane to St Catherine’s Park. <p>These options will be explored in further detail and subject to ecological analysis and assessment in order to safeguard the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC.</p>	No	No	No

¹⁰ See page 37 of AA NIS for the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan available at https://www.nationaltransport.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Appropriate_Assessment_Natura_Impact_Statement11.pdf

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p>MT1.5 To facilitate the development of new pedestrian/cycle links across the canal and railway that enhance walking and cycling options and connect the new neighbourhood at Confey and the Royal Canal Greenway to existing residential areas, public spaces and facilities within Leixlip.</p>	<p>Potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC due to hydrological connection between the Royal Canal and the River Rye.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>MT1.6 To provide a footbridge over the Rye Water with associated paths to connect Confey Community College to nearby housing estates.</p>	<p>No (Mitigation relating to implementation of AA process is included in policy wording)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

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MT1.7 To provide appropriate new pedestrian linkages to improve access to the Louisa Bridge Station and to the Intel campus, including the provision of a new footbridge to provide direct access to the Royal Canal greenway and nearby amenities.	No	No	No
MT1.8 To improve access to the town centre from nearby housing estates with the provision of new paths and cycle ways, supporting measures to improve safety at crossing points on Main Street and nearby junctions.	No	No	No
MT1.9 To provide adequate, secure and dry bicycle parking facilities at appropriate locations: (i) In the town centre; and (ii) Near heritage, community and amenity destinations.	No	No	No
MT1.10 To facilitate the development of a new pedestrian and cycle link between Mill Lane, Main Street and Captain's Hill in accordance with the development objectives for the identified regeneration site detailed in Section 5 of this plan.	No	No	No
MT1.11 To support delivery of a pedestrian and cycle overpass of the M4 to link The Wonderful Barn at Leixlip to Castletown Demesne in Celbridge in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).	No	No	No

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<p>MT1.12 To improve access, security and safety along the Royal Canal towpath, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Improved pedestrian access from Cope Bridge to the towpath; (ii) Improved car-parking facilities adjacent to Royal Canal entry points at Cope Bridge and Louisa Bridge; and (iii) The integration of the towpath with the new development at Confey. 	<p>Louisa Bridge car park is partially within the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC however <i>Vertigo angustior</i> has not been recorded since 1997 at Louisa Bridge. The area may still hold a relict population or provide suitable habitat along the banks of the canal. Petrifying Springs could also be hydrologically linked to this location. Although surface run off from the site could enter the SAC this area is currently used as a car park and therefore new uses are unlikely to be introduced.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this location would be subject mitigation in the form of objective NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye</p>	<p>Potential for impacts on Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through habitat loss particularly around the Louisa Bridge area.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>No</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.			
MT1.13 To improve permeability within the plan area and increase access to key public transport nodes ensuring ease of accessibility to/from existing residential and commercial areas.	No	No	No
MT2 It is the policy of the Council to promote the sustainable development of Leixlip by supporting and guiding the relevant national agencies in delivering improvements to the public transport network and to public transport services.	No	No	No
MT2.1 To focus people-intensive land uses around existing and planned public transport nodes and improve access to services.	No	No	No
MT2.2 To support and facilitate the delivery of electrification and upgrading of the Dublin – Sligo rail line from Connolly Station to Maynooth, including the upgrading of Cope Bridge.	<p>Potential impacts on the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC alterations to the underlying hydrology on which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore,</p>	No	<p>Yes, potential for increased disturbance during construction.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through</p>

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	<p>taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>		<p>changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>MT2.3 To support the provision of new or upgraded public transport infrastructure in Leixlip, including bus infrastructure, new or upgraded bus lanes, stops and lay-bys and parking areas.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>MT2.4 To engage with the NTA, Dublin Bus, Irish Rail, Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport in Leixlip including the recommendations contained in the Leixlip Strategic Transportation Assessment, the improvement of bus services to the designated new development areas, park and ride facilities and the provision of bus priority measures to ensure the improved movement of bus services through the town centre and the provision of bus turn facilities proximate to Confey Station and the planned new neighbourhood at Confey.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
MT2.5 To provide for improved access to Confey railway station in consultation with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Irish Rail supporting the sustainable development of the Confey area	No	No	No
MT2.6 To liaise with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Irish Rail to consider the provision of a new railway station at Collinstown.	No	No	No
MT3 It is the policy of the Council to maintain, improve and extend the local road network in and around Leixlip to ensure a high standard of connectivity and safety for all road users.	No	No	No
MT3.1 To maintain and improve, as required, the local road network to ensure a high standard of road quality and safety.	No	No	No
<p>MT3.2 To support the implementation of the following road improvement schemes, subject to the availability of funding and environmental and conservation requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The improvement of the bridge at Confey Railway Station to provide two traffic lanes, segregated cycle tracks and footways; (ii) The realignment of the R148 (Maynooth Road) at Collinstown in line with the approved Part 8; 	<p>Potential impacts on the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC alterations to the underlying hydrology on which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3, and GIO1.5. Therefore,</p>	<p>In the absence of geographic specificity, potential impacts may occur through habitat loss and fragmentation.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3, and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or</p>	<p>In the absence of geographic specificity, potential for impacts through increased disturbance during construction.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3, and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into</p>

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<p>(iii) The improvement of the L1015 and L1014 west of Confey;</p> <p>(iv) The improvement of the junction of Main Street and Mill Lane; and</p> <p>(v) Capacity enhancements of the M4 mainline and M4 / R449 junction as provided for in the NTAs Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 and the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>	<p>taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>MT3.3 To implement the recommendations of the Leixlip Strategic Transport Assessment including road improvement measures required to provide access to and facilitate the development of a new neighbourhood at Confey and improved accessibility over the canal and railway line to facilitate permeability and connectivity.</p>	<p>Potential impacts on the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC alterations to the underlying hydrology on which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3, and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the</p>	<p>In the absence of geographic specificity, potential impacts may occur through habitat loss and fragmentation.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3, and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>In the absence of geographic specificity, potential for impacts through increased disturbance during construction.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3, and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>

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implementation of this policy.			
<p>MT3.4 To support the development of a North East Kildare Strategic Land Use and Transportation Study in accordance with objective MT2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 including investigations for potential connections to the north and south east of the Leixlip Plan area with adjoining Counties.</p>	No	No	No
<p>MT3.5 To require the following road improvements for the new neighbourhood at Confey in accordance with the phasing programme for the delivery of this new neighbourhood (as set out in Appendix A – Confey Urban Design Framework):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The realignment and improvement of the R149 (Confey Road) between the L1014 (Kellystown Lane) and the county border with Fingal; and (ii) The upgrading of the L1014 (Kellystown Lane) or an alternative north-south connection west of the R149. 	<p>Potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC due to hydrological connections.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>No. No zoned land overlaps with the SAC in this area.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through construction works.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>

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MT3.6 To facilitate the improvement of the intersection between R149 (Captains Hill) and R148 (Main St.) and the intersection between R404 (Celbridge Road) and R148 (Main Street).	No	No	No
MT3.7 To secure improved access to The Wonderful Barn and the Guinness lands from the R404 (Celbridge Road) as part of the future development of these lands.	No	No	No
MT3.8 To ensure that any significant new development takes place in proximity to public transport routes and can be adequately served by the road network.	No	No	No
MT3.9 To provide traffic calming measures throughout the town of Leixlip, where necessary as funding allows and ensure that all new developments are designed to incorporate appropriate traffic calming measures.	No	No	No
MT3.10 To implement the recommendations of the Kildare Noise Action Plan to reduce, where necessary, the harmful effects of traffic noise, through appropriate mitigation measures in accordance with CDP objective RS03.	No	No	No
MT3.11 To ensure that all significant development proposals for KDAs and lands at Collinstown and Confey are subject to Traffic Impact Assessments (TIA), to be carried out in accordance with the Traffic and Transport	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
Assessment Guidelines, NRA 2014 to assess the individual and cumulative impact of the planned development in the area on the strategic road network.			
MT3.12 To investigate the feasibility of a new link road from the Celbridge Road (R404) to the south of the M4 Leixlip/Celbridge Interchange in consultation with TII, NTA and other stakeholders.	No	No	No
MT3.13 To complete the through public road to connect the Celbridge Road (At Former HP Site) to M4 Interchange Junction 6 prior to the commencement of Celbridge Road East KDA.	No	No	No
MT4 It is the policy of the Council to manage the provision of parking to provide for the needs of residents, business and visitors to Leixlip Town Centre.	No	No	No
MT4.1 To have regard to the parking standards in the Kildare County Development Plan and relevant Section 28 Guidelines in considering applications for planning permission in Leixlip.	No	No	No
MT4.2 To facilitate the delivery of off-street car parking at suitable locations, including the provision of a public car park within the regeneration site identified north of Main Street as detailed in Section 5 of this LAP.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
MT4.3 To continue to manage public parking areas within the town centre and encompass new public parking areas to ensure that the limited parking provision supports the business and services provided in the town centre and that inappropriate parking in residential areas is minimised.	No	No	No
Infrastructure and Environmental Services			
I1 It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and wastewater infrastructure in Leixlip, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.	No	No	No
I1.1 To work in conjunction with Irish Water to promote the ongoing upgrade and expansion of water supply and wastewater services to meet the future needs of Leixlip.	No	No	No
I1.2 To maximise the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water services in the planning of new development.	No (mitigation regarding protecting the quality of surface waters e.g. Rye River, included in policy wording).	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
I1.3 To seek to ensure that adequate water services will be available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission for development.	No (mitigation regarding protecting the quality of surface waters e.g. Rye River, included in policy wording)	No	No
I1.4 To seek to ensure that development proposals comply with the standards and requirements of Irish Water in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure	No	No	No
I2 It is the policy of the Council to maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in Leixlip and to protect surface and ground water quality in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.	No	No	No
I2.1 To carry out surface water infrastructure improvement works as required.	<p>Yes, potential for impacts on water quality on Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and underlying hydrological conditions on which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in</p>	<p>Yes, potential for impacts through habitat loss during works.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for impacts through increased disturbance during works.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2.</p> <p>Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	hydrology, habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.		Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.
I2.2 To incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) as part of all plans and development proposals in Leixlip. Proposals for KDAs and Masterplan areas should address the potential for SUDS at a local and district level to control surface water outfall and protect water quality.	No	No	No
I2.3 To maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in Leixlip in accordance with the Eastern River Basin District River Basin Management Plan and in conjunction with the EPA.	No	No	No
I2.4 To require applicants to demonstrate that proposals will not negatively impact on the status of a waterbody, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plans.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
I2.5 To protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchments.	No	No	No
I3 It is the policy of the Council to manage flood risk in Leixlip in conjunction with the OPW and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).			
I3.1 To manage flood risk in Leixlip in accordance with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).	No	No	No
I3.2 To ensure development proposals within the areas outlined on Flood Risk Map are the subject of Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, appropriate to the nature and scale of the development being proposed.	No	No	No
I3.3 To support and co-operate with the OPW in delivering the Eastern CFRAM Programme applicable to Leixlip.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
I4 It is the policy of the Council to promote and facilitate the development and renewal of energy and communications networks in Leixlip, while protecting the amenities of the town.	No	No	No
I4.1 To support the statutory providers of national grid infrastructure by safeguarding existing infrastructure and strategic corridors from encroachment by development that might compromise the operation, maintenance and provision of energy networks.	No	No	No
I4.2 To support and facilitate the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in Leixlip, subject to safety and amenity requirements.	No	No	No
I4.3 To seek the undergrounding of all electricity, telephone and television cables in the town.	No	No	No
I4.4 To discourage a proliferation of above ground utility boxes in the town and to seek screening measures in conjunction with the provision of such structures.	No	No	No
I4.5 To support the ESB in identifying a suitable alternative site for the relocation of the existing telecommunications mast at Mill Lane.	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
I4.6 To promote and encourage the use of renewable energy technologies in existing and proposed building stock within the LAP area subject to consideration of environmental, conservation and visual requirements.	No	No	No
I5 It is the policy of the Council to protect environmental quality in Leixlip through the implementation of European, national and regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.	No	No	No
I5.1 To adequately maintain recycling facilities and to secure the provision of additional facilities, as required, including in conjunction with development.	No	No	No
I5.2 To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole through promoting the preservation of best ambient air quality with sustainable development.	No	No	No
I5.3 To support the take-up and use of ultra-low emissions vehicles and encourage, through the development management process the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, where appropriate.	No	No	No

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Built Heritage and Archaeology			
BH1 It is the policy of the Council to preserve and enhance the buildings identified on the Record of Protected Structures and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of such structures, including its historic curtilage, both directly and indirectly.	No	No	No
BH1.1 To ensure the protection of all structures, (or parts of structures) and the immediate surroundings including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures contained in the Record of Protected Structures (refer to Table 10.1 and the Built Heritage and Archaeology Map in Appendix A).	No	No	No
BH1.2 To acknowledge and promote awareness of the origins, historical development and cultural heritage of the town, to support high quality developments that relate to local heritage and to ensure that new development respects and is responsive to the cultural heritage of Leixlip.	No	No	No
BH1.3 To protect the landscape character, values, sensitivities, focal points and views in the Leixlip Plan Area, including those identified in the Kildare County Development Plan. This will include, inter alia, the following:	No	No	No

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p>a) the requirement of a Visual Impact Assessment for developments with potential to impact on areas of significant landscape character, value or sensitivity, including both urban and natural features, significant townscapes and historic buildings, as appropriate; and</p> <p>b) Prohibit development that will block or interfere with a significant focal point or view. Where it is considered that a development may impact on focal points or views, have regard to the significance of any such impact and any appropriate mitigation measures that should be incorporated.</p>			
<p>BH1.4 To support the implementation of the conservation plan for the restoration and management of Leixlip Spa in association with key stakeholders.</p>	No	No	No
<p>BH1.5 To complete a Conservation Study for The Wonderful Barn and its curtilage to inform potential feasibility studies and public consultation for appropriate use, and to support the implementation of the conservation plan for the restoration and management of The Wonderful Barn and associated lands in association with key stakeholders.</p>	No	No	No

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<p>BH1.6 To promote The Wonderful Barn as an integrated tourism attraction including the restoration of the main features of the complex and its historical landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The re-arrangement of the existing access way; (ii) The integration of car parking facilities; (iii) The consolidation and eventual restoration of the historic buildings; (iv) The reinstatement of the walled garden and rear courtyard; and (v) The insertion of complementary commercial uses to ensure a sustainable future for the project. The feasibility of a Discovery Park including play facilities and a picnic area will be investigated. 	No	No	No
<p>BH1.7 To seek the protection of burial grounds within Leixlip in co-operation with agencies such as the Office of Public Works and the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoCHG) as appropriate.</p>	No	No	No
<p>BH1.8 To promote the restoration of the Boat House on the River Liffey where it meets the River Rye and to promote the area along the Liffey as a recreational amenity.</p>	Potential impacts on the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and alterations to the underlying hydrology on which the tufa springs depend.	No	Potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through disturbance. However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy

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	<p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>		<p>NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>BH2 It is the policy of the Council to preserve and enhance the historic character and visual setting of the Leixlip Architectural Conservation Area and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of the area.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>BH2.1 To ensure that new development, including infill development, extensions and renovation works within or adjacent to the ACA preserve or enhance the special character and visual setting of the ACA including vistas, streetscapes, building line, fenestration patterns and architectural features.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

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BH2.2 To have regard to the Kildare Shopfront Guidelines (2013) in the consideration of any proposals within the ACA providing that they contribute to the established pattern, scale, materials and proportions of the buildings within the ACA. Modern design that makes a positive contribution to this ACA will also be considered.	No	No	No
BH2.3 To support the retention, repair and re-use of materials which characterise the vernacular architecture of the ACA including stone, slate, timber windows and doors, and decorative render.	No	No	No
BH2.4 To reduce and prevent visual and urban clutter within the ACA including, where appropriate, traffic management structures, utility structures and all signage	No	No	No
BH2.5 To prepare a character statement appraisal and area specific policy objectives for the Leixlip ACA.	No	No	No
BH3 It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the archaeological heritage of the LAP area and avoid impacts on sites, monument features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.	No	No	No

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BH3.1 To prioritise the protection/ the preservation in situ or upon agreement preservation by record of items of archaeological interest as listed in Table 10.2 and shown on the Built Heritage and Archaeology Map from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.	No	No	No
BH3.2 To protect the historic core of Leixlip town and retain where possible the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins	No	No	No
BH3.3 To ensure that development proposals contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites associated with the River Liffey and associated features.	No	No	No
Natural Heritage			
NH1 It is the policy of the Council to support the protection of species and habitats that are designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992 as well as areas of high local biodiversity value and to ensure developments with potential to impact the integrity of the	No	No	No

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Natura 2000 network will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.			
NH1.1 To protect, conserve and manage the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC and contribute to the protection of the ecological, visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the Royal Canal pNHA and Liffey Valley pNHA.	No	No	No
NH1.2 To ensure screening for Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is carried out in respect of any plan or project, including Masterplans.	No (Mitigation regarding protection of European sites is included in policy wording)	No	No
NH1.3 To ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to the Royal Canal (pNHA) and Liffey Valley (pNHA) is located and designed to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA.	No	No	No
NH1.4 To ensure all planning applications for planning consent within or adjacent to the Royal Canal (pNHA) and Liffey Valley (pNHA) are accompanied by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) prepared by a suitably qualified professional.	No	No	No
NH1.5 To identify, protect, conserve and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats would	No	No	No

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<p>include woodland, river, grassland areas and field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). Such features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish and contribute to compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>			
<p>NH1.6 To protect and conserve the integrity of soils that supports the rich biodiversity and ecological networks in Leixlip.</p>	No	No	No
<p>Green Infrastructure</p>			
<p>GI 1 It is the policy of the Council to protect, enhance and further develop the Green Infrastructure network in Leixlip to provide a shared space for amenity, recreation and biodiversity.</p>	No	No	No
<p>GI1.1 To protect identified key Green Infrastructure and ‘Stepping Stone’ habitats (according to their value) and enhance where possible. Site specific ecology surveys should be carried out where appropriate to inform proposed development and assess and mitigate potential impacts. The need for site specific ecological surveys will be determined on a case by case basis as part of the planning consent process.</p>	No	No	No

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GI1.2 To seek to ensure key trees, woodlands and high value hedgerows identified in the Leixlip Habitat Survey, and the linkages they provide to larger areas of green infrastructure and the wider countryside, are retained and integrated into the design of new developments where appropriate.	No	No	No
GI1.3 To provide for Eco-ducts as part of any new pedestrian and cycle links across the River Rye, Royal Canal and railway, thereby facilitating the free movement of people and species through the LAP area.	No	No	No
GI1.4 To maintain a green infrastructure protection zone of not less than 10 metres from the top bank of water courses in Leixlip with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.	No	No	No
GI1.5 To incorporate items of historical or heritage importance within the Green Infrastructure, as amenity features, where practical.	No	No	No

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<p>GI1.6 To seek to preserve, protect and enhance trees (including woodlands) of special amenity, nature conservation or landscape value within the plan area including at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Catherine’s Park; • The Black Avenue; • Leixlip Castle Demesne; • Newtown House, Captain’s Hill; • In grounds of Leixlip House, adjoining public open space at Rye River Estate; • Both sides of the aqueduct embankment; • Silleacháin Valley, between fire station and Glendale Meadows; • East side of laneway to Leixlip Gate; • Marshfield House, Mill Lane; • Open space adjacent to Rye water at Rye River Estate; • Along north bank of Canal, Collinstown; • Between River Forest and Ryevale Lawns; • Trees along Main Street; and • Ryevale House and adjoining public open space at Ryevale Lawns. 	No	No	No
<p>GI1.7 To seek to protect trees with a particular local amenity or conservation value.</p>	No	No	No

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GI1.8 To promote appropriate tree planting within public open spaces along transport networks and in the public realm	No	No	No
<p>GI1.9(A) To seek to protect, preserve and develop St. Catherine’s Park as a public amenity.</p> <p>(B) To protect the amenity of St. Catherine’s Park as a dedicated public open space area and to provide for increased connectivity from Leixlip Main street to the existing car park through the provision of a new linear parkland access with dedicated off-road pedestrian and cycle access points. (Refer to Black Avenue KDA).</p>	No	No	No
Open Space			
OS1 It is the policy of the Council to provide for a hierarchy of high quality multi-functional public open spaces within Leixlip, and to preserve and protect such spaces through the appropriate zoning of lands.	No	No	No
<p>OS1.1 To explore the feasibility of, develop and/or improve linkages and connections between the network of open spaces in Leixlip, without compromising the biodiversity of the location:</p> <p>(i) Along the northern bank of the Rye from Distillery Lane to Woodside Estate and Confey Community College;</p>	<p>Potential impacts on the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and alterations to the underlying hydrology on which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to</p>	<p>Potential impacts to the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through habitat loss if not correctly designed.</p> <p>Potential impacts to the River Liffey pNHA which acts as a support to the wider ecological network including European sites.</p>	<p>Potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through disturbance.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5.</p>

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<p>(ii) Along the River Liffey, from Leixlip Town Centre through Leixlip Castle, to the Salmon Leap Canoe Club; and</p> <p>(iii) Between Silleacháin Valley and St. Catherine’s Park.</p>	<p>this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through habitat loss or disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>OS1.2 To continue to facilitate and promote community-managed garden/allotments.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>OS1.3 To encourage the development of amenity lands at Lough na Mona to cater for active recreation for residents of Leixlip.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>OS1.4 To cooperate with key stakeholders in the development (where appropriate) of the Rye River, Royal Canal, Liffey corridor and other areas within Leixlip for recreational purposes:</p> <p>(i) ESB regarding the recreational potential of the reservoir at Backweston; and</p> <p>(ii) Waterways Ireland regarding the Royal Canal.</p>	<p>Potential impacts on the Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC and alterations to the underlying hydrology on which the tufa springs depend.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5.</p>	<p>Potential impacts on Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through habitat loss (loss of possible tufa springs whose location is not yet known).</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through habitat loss on the Rye Water</p>	<p>Potential impacts to Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC through disturbance.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in policy NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through</p>

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	<p>Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>disturbance on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>
<p>OS1.5 To facilitate and promote the provision of a public park at The Wonderful Barn.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>OS1.6 To maintain and protect the greenbelt between Leixlip, Celbridge and Maynooth.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Confey</p>			
<p>CON1 It is the policy of the Council to ensure that lands located at Confey are developed in a sustainable manner and in accordance with the details set out in the Confey Urban Design Framework recognising the areas strategic location within the Dublin Metropolitan Area.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>CON 1.2 To ensure no development is permitted until a detailed Masterplan has been prepared for the Urban Design Framework lands. Individual applications for smaller sections of the Framework lands will not be considered until such time as an agreement in</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

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writing has been received from the Planning Department of Kildare County Council.			
CON 1.3 To require that the Masterplan prepared for the Confey Lands is accompanied by a statement of compliance which demonstrates how proposals for future development are consistent with the overall design principles, concept and character area details set out in section 2 of the Urban Design Framework	No	No	No
CON 1.4 To ensure the development of the Framework lands and Masterplan are consistent with the phasing/sequencing schedule set out in section 3 of the Confey Urban Design Framework.	No	No	No
Zonings			
Area previously zoned for Open Space and Amenity located to the east of the town north of Black Avenue adjoining Leixlip Manor Hotel and St. Catherine’s Park. rezoned as The Black Avenue KDA. This KDA measures approximately 15.1ha, provides for 10ha of Residential Zoned lands alongside a new Parklands space adjoining Black Avenue and a linear parklands space leading to St. Catherine’s Park.	No	No	No

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A reduction in the area of land zoned for development ‘subject to masterplan’ at Confey. Remaining lands now zoned for development subject to proposed ‘Confey Urban Design Framework’.	No	No	No
The land that has been excluded from development at Confey has been rezoned for Agricultural use under the Draft Revised LAP.	No	No	No
Change in boundary of the Leixlip Gate KDA in order to take into account an area of Existing Residential development.	No	No	No
Exclusion of Easton (off Green Lane) KDA and rezoning of land to represent Existing Residential use.	No	No	No
Expansion of currently zoned Neighbourhood Centre near Collinstown. This will involve the rezoning of small area of ‘Open Space and Amenity’ to ‘Neighbourhood Centre’ land use.	Unlikely to have hydrological impact on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC due to scale and proximity with R148 road being between the zoning and the river.	No	No
Area of land currently zoned to represent Existing Residential development rezoned to facilitate ‘Transport and Utilities’ use near Louisa Bridge	This location is partially within the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC however <i>Vertigo angustior</i> has not been recorded since 1997 at Louisa Bridge. The area may still hold a relict population or provide	This location is partially within the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC however <i>Vertigo angustior</i> has not been recorded since 1997 at Louisa Bridge. The area may still hold a relict population or provide suitable habitat along the banks of the canal. Any development at this location has the	This location is partially within the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC however <i>Vertigo angustior</i> has not been recorded since 1997 at Louisa Bridge. The area may still hold a relict population or provide suitable habitat along

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	<p>suitable habitat along the banks of the canal. Petrifying Springs could also be hydrologically linked to this location. Although surface run off from the site could enter the SAC this area is currently used as a car park and therefore new uses are unlikely to be introduced.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this location would be subject mitigation in the form of objective NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>potential to impact directly on habitat area which vertigo species could use.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this location would be subject mitigation in the form of objective NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>the banks of the canal. Petrifying Springs could also be hydrologically linked to this location. Although surface run off from the site could enter the SAC this area is currently used as a car park and therefore new uses are unlikely to be introduced.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this location would be subject mitigation in the form of objective NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p>Minor expansion of the land currently zoned for Community and Educational use between the River Rye and Captains Hill. This will involve the rezoning of a small area of ‘Open Space and Amenity’ to ‘Community and Educational’ land use.</p>	<p>This location is just on the boundary of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. Surface and ground water could be linked between Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC and this location Petrifying Springs could also be hydrologically linked to this location. Although surface run off from the site could enter the SAC this area is currently used as a nursing home with associated car park and therefore new uses are unlikely to be introduced.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this location would be subject mitigation in the form of objective NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the</p>	<p>This location is just on the boundary of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. No direct habitat loss or loss of ecological network supporting the site is considered likely.</p> <p>However, any proposed development at this location would be subject mitigation in the form of objective NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>	<p>This location is just on the boundary of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. Direct or indirect disturbance to Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC is considered likely.</p> <p>However, any proposed development at this location would be subject mitigation in the form of objective NHO1.2, NHO1.4, NHO1.3 and GIO1.5. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology, or water quality on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC through the implementation of this policy.</p>

Policy/Objective/Summary of Zoning Change	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
implementation of this policy.			
Minor expansion of the land currently zoned as Existing Residential development between the River Rye and Captains Hill. This will involve the rezoning of a small area of ‘Open Space and Amenity’ to ‘Existing Residential’ land use.	No	No	No
Area of land currently zoned for Agricultural use east of the Confey development lands rezoned for Open Space and Amenity use.	No	No	No
Large area of land currently zoned for Agricultural use to the south of Leixlip town, north of the M4 motorway forming part of Leixlip Castle demesne rezoned as the Celbridge Road East Key Development Area. This KDA is measures approximately 12.8ha and provides for 10ha of Residential Zoned lands alongside a new Community Park and Amenity Walk covering an area of c. 12.8ha.	No. Distance of 180m considered sufficient to avoid significant hydrological connections.	No	No
Overall reduction in the Leixlip LAP plan boundary to the north. This represents the de-zoning of land currently zoned for Agricultural use, to un-zoned or ‘greenfield’ land.	No	No	No

Appendix B

Protective Policies and
Objectives contained within the
Kildare County Development
Plan 2017-2023

B1

Location (Chapter)	Ref	Aim/ Policy/ Objective	Text
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure		Aim	To contribute towards the protection of, conserve and manage natural heritage including sites designated at national and EU level and protected species and habitats outside of designated sites and to develop a Green Infrastructure network in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH3	Policy	To require 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 (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 4	Policy	To support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and to protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.

Location (Chapter)	Ref	Aim/ Policy/ Objective	Text
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 5	Policy	To prevent development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site located within and immediately adjacent to the County and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 6	Policy	To ensure an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to determine the likelihood of the plan or project having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects and to ensure that projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 7	Policy	To contribute towards the protection of the ecological, visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the County's Natural Heritage Areas and associated habitats.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 8	Policy	To ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to a Natural Heritage Area (NHA), Ramsar Sites and Nature Reserves is designed and sited to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, ecological, geological and landscape value of the site particularly plant and animal species listed under the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats and Birds Directive including their habitats.

Location (Chapter)	Ref	Aim/ Policy/ Objective	Text
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 9	Policy	To ensure the impact of development within or adjacent to national designated sites Natural Heritage Areas, Ramsar Sites and Nature Reserves is assessed by requiring the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) prepared by a suitably qualified professional which should accompany planning applications and council developments.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 10	Policy	To restrict development within a proposed Natural Heritage Area to development that is directly related to the area's amenity potential subject to the protection and enhancement of natural heritage and visual amenities including biodiversity and landscapes
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 11	Policy	To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NH 12	Policy	To ensure that, where evidence of species that are protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992 exist, appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment. In the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Regulations a derogation licence, issued by DAHG may be required.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	GI 5	Policy	To encourage, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.

Location (Chapter)	Ref	Aim/ Policy/ Objective	Text
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	GI 17	Policy	To require the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment where deemed necessary by the planning authority (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment in relation to Natura 2000 sites) including bat and otter surveys for developments along river, stream and canal corridors.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	GI 27	Policy	To strengthen ecological links between urban areas, Natura 2000 sites, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, parks and open spaces and the wider regional Green Infrastructure network.
Chapter 7: Infrastructure	WS13	Policy	To have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, in all proposed projects or plans.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NHO6	Objective	To request the National Parks and Wildlife Service to prioritise the preparation of Management Plans for Natura 2000 Sites which are located within the county.
Chapter 13: Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure	NHO9	Objective	To contribute towards the protection of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the life time of the plan from inappropriate development.
Chapter 8: Energy and Communications	WE2	Policy	To encourage the development of wind energy in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner and in accordance with Government policy and the Kildare Wind Energy Strategy.
Chapter 10: Rural Development	EI5	Policy	To ensure that development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). • Special Protection Areas (SPAs). • Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). • Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna.

Location (Chapter)	Ref	Aim/ Policy/ Objective	Text
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of significant archaeological potential. • The vicinity of a recorded monument. • Sensitive landscape areas as identified at Chapter 14 of the Development Plan. • Scenic views and prospects. • Protected Structures. <p>Established rights of way and walking routes.</p>
Chapter 10: Rural Development	EI7	Policy	To require submission of an Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive where any quarry/sand and gravel extraction is likely to have an impact on a Natura 2000 site (see Chapter 14).
Chapter 14: Landscape, Recreation and Amenity	WC4	Policy	To co-operate with the DECLG/DAHG in the protection and conservation of both the Royal and Grand Canals and the River Barrow, designated as a pNHA and cSAC respectively and in the sections of the River Liffey designated as a pNHA.
Chapter 14: Landscape, Recreation and Amenity	PF2	Policy	To co-operate with the DECLG/DAHG and other statutory bodies in the protection and conservation of the Fen, a designated cSAC and the immediate environs of the Fen.