

Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Client:	Kildare County Council					
Project Title:	Maynooth LAP Appropriate Assessment Screening					
Document Title:	Screening for Appropriate Assessment					
Document No:	MDE1048Rp0018A01					
This Document Comprises:	DCS	TOC	Text	List of Tables	List of Figures	No. of Appendices
	1	1	18	1	1	-


Rev.	Status	Author(s)	Reviewed By	Approved By	Office of Origin	Issue Date
A01	Draft for Client	B. Deegan	Emma Oliveira	Emma Oliveira	West Pier	Dec 2012
F01	Final	B. Deegan	Emma Oliveira	Emma Oliveira	West Pier	Dec 2012
						

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This report comprises information in support of screening for an Appropriate Assessment in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Planning and Development Act 2010; and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) of the Local Area Plan (LAP) for Maynooth 2013-2019.

1.2 MAYNOOTH LOCAL AREA PLAN

The Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. It sets out an overall strategy for the proper Planning and sustainable development of Maynooth in the context of the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022. It is also informed by Ministerial Guidelines published pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended together with EU requirements regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.

The Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) sets out the overall strategy for the proper Planning and sustainable development of County Kildare over the period 2011-2017. The Plan has a critical role to play in ensuring that the needs of future population growth are planned for. The Plan aims to direct population growth into the main urban centres with significant growth focussed upon the metropolitan towns of Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Kilcock. It also promotes significant new economic development within defined economic clusters like the metropolitan towns mentioned above. The Plan also emphasises the need to protect the built heritage, unique landscape, natural heritage and biodiversity of the county for their intrinsic value and as a resource for the tourist economy of the future.

The designation of Maynooth as a Large Growth Town II in the RPGs is reinforced in the county settlement strategy. Large Growth Towns II are designated to act as important self sustaining regional economic drivers, accommodating significant investment in transport, housing, economic and commercial activity with high quality transport links to Dublin and other large towns. The CDP recognises that Maynooth should take advantage of the presence of NUI Maynooth and the close proximity of the Intel and Hewlett Packard campuses. Therefore it is envisaged that the town would be promoted as being strategically located in the 'Knowledge Valley' where the focus would be on the development of hi tech / bio tech sectors, research and development, ICT and manufacturing.

1.3 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as "The Habitats Directive", provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC) as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

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 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.

Article 6(4) states:

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] 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 Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

1.4 STAGES OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Both EU and national guidance exists in relation to Member States fulfilling their requirements under the EU Habitats Directive, with particular reference to Article 6(3) and 6(4) of that Directive. The methodology followed in relation to this AA screening has had regard to the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. <http://www.npws.ie>
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, referred to as MN2000, European Commission 2000; <http://ec.europa.eu>
- 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, referred to as the "EC Article 6 Guidance Document (EC2000); <http://ec.europa.eu>
- 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 commission. <http://ec.europa.eu>

In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and following the EC2000 and MN2000 Guidelines, this AA has been structured as a stage by stage approach as follows:

1) Screening stage

- Description of the Plan;
- Identification of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected;
- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result;
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified above on site integrity;

- Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects;
and
- Screening conclusion.

2 SCREENING

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The overarching policies and objectives of the County Development Plan will also apply to development within the Local Area Plan boundary. Specific policies and objectives are identified in order to facilitate land use in a manner that will promote the proper planning and sustainable development of the town. Key issues include housing provision, economic development, town centre development, movement and transport, infrastructure provision, community and cultural developments together with natural and built heritage.

The strategy for the future development of Maynooth is based on the principles established in the Maynooth Development Plan 2002, the framework provided by the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017. This Plan establishes the framework to guide the development of Maynooth for the next 6 years. The forthcoming Strategic Land Use and Transportation study of North East Kildare will address the development framework for the Kildare metropolitan area up to 2030 and will inform the future development of Maynooth beyond the period of this Plan.

It is envisaged that Maynooth will continue to grow over the short to medium term to achieve a critical mass which will support competitiveness, sustainability and create opportunities for economies of scale. Its development will be complemented with a range of employment, recreational, cultural, retail and educational facilities appropriate for a town of its size. It is envisaged that the National University of Ireland Maynooth will continue to grow and develop its facilities while also creating the environment required to develop further research based employment opportunities in the town.

The strategic direction for the future development of Maynooth will focus on:

1) Economic Development

The consolidation and enhancement of Maynooth's role as a primary economic growth town. This includes the zoning of lands on the Kilcock Road adjacent to NUI Maynooth for Research and Technology based employment generating uses and related educational uses. The existence of the University will allow for spin off industries and enterprises to be developed based on the knowledge economy. The lands are in a good position to take advantage of its excellent location adjacent to the University, the town centre and new and existing residential areas. Maynooth also has a lot to offer a new workforce including vibrant retail, cultural and amenity resources.

2) Planning for Residential Expansion

The Plan ensures the supply of suitably zoned serviced land to accommodate the future growth of Maynooth in line with its designation in the Regional Planning Guidelines. The majority of areas designated for residential growth are near the town centre, at the Canal Harbour and the new residential zoning between the Moyglare Road and the Dunboyne Road. The latter is bisected by a green lung of amenity lands and the Lyreen River. These lands have the advantage of being in close proximity to the town centre, educational facilities and amenity facilities.

3) Canal Harbour

The Plan also provides for the expansion of the town centre in a sustainable manner by utilising backland areas, in particular the Harbour Area which is located along the Royal Canal and to the east of the University. Through an urban design framework the Plan aims to develop in an integrated manner the Harbour Area within the town in order to provide a sustainable urban expansion area,

increasing permeability and strengthening the linkage between the town core and the train station, through well designed urban development.

4) Education

The Plan aims to facilitate the appropriate development of educational facilities at NUI Maynooth and promote the development of spin off research and development based enterprises in the town. The expansion of educational activities in the university is vital for the continued development of the town in tandem with the ancillary employment opportunities it generates. An educational campus on the Moyglare Road has been identified which is suitable for state of the art primary and secondary school facilities. There is one post primary school and four primary schools in Maynooth.

5) Transportation

The improvement of sustainable transport infrastructure is required to facilitate the development of high-density employment areas, expanded educational facilities and to serve existing retail areas and the towns inhabitants. Upgrades in transportation include expanded rail services including additional car parking, improved bus frequencies and bus facilities and the completion of a ring road around Maynooth. The enhancement of the linkages between Maynooth and the nearby towns in the metropolitan area and the movement into and out of Maynooth from these towns and the remainder of the Greater Dublin Area will ensure the sustainable development of the town. The development of new vehicular, pedestrian and cycling routes and the enhancement and maintenance of existing routes will ensure safe and convenient circulation around the town.

6) Heritage

The Plan also seeks to protect and enhance the unique architectural and archaeological heritage of the town including the St Patrick's College complex the Main Street and Carton Avenue. The retention of vernacular buildings on the Main Street and its side streets will ensure the character of the town remains intact. Maynooth can realise its potential as a heritage town and associated tourist destination by referencing its heritage associated with significant periods of Irish history.

2.2 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AT THE LAP LANDS

2.2.1 Water Quality

Maynooth is situated in the Ryewater Water Management Unit of the Eastern River Basin District and within the Lyreen Lower waterbody of this Water Management Unit. The overall status of surface water in this waterbody is "Moderate" and the objective is to reach "Good Status" by 2021. Kildare County Council and the Environmental Protection Agency carry out water quality monitoring in the waterbody for the purpose of the Water Framework Directive. The overall status of groundwater in the area is "Good" and the objective is to "Protect" this status in the future.

Kildare County Council is actively involved in the protection of all waters primarily by enforcement of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 as amended by the Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Act, 1990. It also has duties under a wide range of existing legislation that contribute to the protection of all waters, and the Water Framework Directive encompasses all of this legislation. River Basin Management Plans required under this Directive have been adopted which identify the specific environmental objectives to be achieved by the end of 2015 or later, and the programme of measures that will be taken to achieve them.

The Lyreen River discharges to the Rye Water. The Rye Water Valley / Carton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site code 001398) is close to the Maynooth town boundary and the Council is committed to protecting and enhancing this river. This site is located between Leixlip and Maynooth. It

extends along the Rye Water, a tributary of the River Liffey. The main importance of the site lies in the presence of several rare and threatened Plant and animal species, and of a rare habitat, thermal, mineral petrifying springs. The woods found in Carton Estate and their birdlife are of additional interest. Any proposed development which has the potential to impact on a Natura 2000 Site will be screened for Appropriate Assessment. In all such cases the developer shall consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoAHG).

In addition, the Council is committed to ensuring that the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures, which will include appropriate programming of any 'instream works' to reflect the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

2.2.2 Water Supply

Maynooth is supplied by the North-East Regional Water Supply Scheme with water from the Fingal County Council treatment Plant in Leixlip. In order to reduce reliance on the River Liffey and to secure water supply in the region a number of regional upgrades are proposed. These include:

- a) The Castlewarden - Ballygoran pipeline and reservoir scheme. This contract is due for completion in 2014 and will ensure additional options and security of supply for the north Kildare region.
- b) The Fingal County Council, Leixlip Plant Water Treatment Plant upgrade ensuring greater production capacity for the area.

The level of growth in Maynooth will be managed in line with the ability of local services to cater for future growth. No development shall be permitted to proceed if the local services are insufficient to cater for the development. All proposed development within and adjoining the Maynooth area will be screened for Appropriate Assessment of its potential to impact on the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

2.2.3 Wastewater Facilities

The continued improvement of wastewater drainage infrastructure within Maynooth is essential for the development of the town as a Large Growth Town II. Deficiencies in wastewater treatment services act as a barrier to economic development and population growth. Maynooth is served by the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant which also serves the towns of Kilcock, Celbridge, Leixlip and Straffan. The upgrade of the Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme is approaching completion and will improve the network capacities in Maynooth. In addition the upgrade of the Leixlip WWTP from 80,000 PE to 150,000 PE is due for completion by 2015 and this will provide extra capacity in the region.

The level of growth in Maynooth will be managed in line with the ability of local services to cater for future growth. No development shall be permitted to proceed if the local services are insufficient to cater for the development. All proposed development within and adjoining the Maynooth area will be screened for Appropriate Assessment of its potential to impact on the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

2.2.4 Flood Protection and Groundwater Protection

The overall status of groundwater in the area is "Good" and the objective is to "Protect" this status in the future. The Council is committed to protecting groundwater in the area and it is a policy of the Council to ensure that all new development proposals have regard to the requirements of the Kildare Groundwater Protection Scheme 1999 (as amended).

Adequate stormwater drainage and retention facilities are necessary to accommodate increased surface water run off resulting from current and future developments. The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments can contribute to surface water retention and help to reduce and prevent flooding by mimicking the natural drainage of a site to minimise the effect of a development on flooding and pollution of waterways. The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing surface waters and groundwater around Maynooth, and have specific policies which include: to ensure that new developments incorporate appropriate SuDS facilities, designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDS) for treating and controlling the discharge of surface water from developments; to ensure that all new development proposals have regard to the requirements of the Kildare Groundwater Protection Scheme 1999 (as amended) and Environmental Protection Agency/ Department of the Environment guidelines applicable at the time; to ensure the implementation of the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration; and to create Buffer Zones between all watercourses and new development including the River Lyreen and the Meadowbrook River. The extent of these buffer zones shall be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist and following a Flood Risk Assessment. Any hard landscaping proposals shall be located outside of any buffer zone areas. The Buffer Zone extents will depend on accessibility of the watercourse but in any case shall not be less than 10m in the case of the Lyreen and Meadowbrook Rivers and not less than 5m in the case of other watercourses.

2.3 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES

This section of the screening process describes the Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the LAP area. A 15km buffer zone has been chosen as a precautionary measure, to ensure that all potentially affected Natura 2000 sites are included in the screening process. This is in line with, *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities*, produced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

There are no SPAs within 15km of the LAP area, but there are three SACs as shown in **Table 2.1**. **Figure 2.1** shows their location in relation to the Maynooth LAP area.

The integrity of a Natura 2000 site (referred to in Article 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive) is determined based on the conservation status of the qualifying features of the SAC. The qualifying features for each site have been obtained through a review of the Conservation Objectives available from the NPWS.

Table 2.1: SACs within 15km of the draft Maynooth LAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species
001398	Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC	Petrifying springs and tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220];	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail [1014]; and Desmoulin's Whorl Snail [1016].
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Alkaline fens [7230].	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail [1016]; and Marsh Fritillary [1065].
000391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110]; Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]; and Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150].	-

2.4 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

2.4.1 Direct, Indirect or Secondary Impacts

As shown in **Tables 2.1** there are three SACs within 15km of the LAP lands. The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the conservation status of these SACs and have specific policies relating to their protection and maintenance, as appropriate.

All three SACs are water dependent ecosystems, and therefore, any changes to the groundwater regime or surface water quality as a result of the LAP could have adverse effects on the habitats and species for which the Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC, Ballynafagh Lake SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC are designated. Again, the Council have specific policies relating to the protection and maintenance of both the groundwater regime and surface water quality as a result of the LAP and is committed to protecting and enhancing these natural resources.

It is a policy of the Council to ensure that the EU Water Framework Directive is implemented. Further, it is a policy of the Council to ensure that the specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures are implemented. In addition, the Council is committed to ensuring that the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures, which will include appropriate programming of any 'instream works' to reflect the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The Rye Water forms part of the Rye Water Valley / Carton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site code 001398), and the Council is committed to protecting and enhancing this river. Any development proposal within the vicinity of or potentially having an effect on a designated site (e.g. the Lyreen River, which discharges to the Rye Water) will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment screening under the Habitats Directive in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Such policies and measures would ensure that the developments within this LAP will not impact on the Lyreen River or the Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC to which it discharges.

Ballynafagh Lake SAC is located approximately 13.2km to the southwest of the LAP boundary. There is no connecting surface waters between the LAP boundary and Ballynafagh Lake SAC. Therefore, any potential development within the LAP lands is unlikely to impact on the integrity of Ballynafagh Lake SAC or the habitats for which it is designated.

Ballynafagh Bog SAC is located approximately 13.0km to the southwest of the LAP boundary. Given the elevation of Ballynafagh Bog SAC in the surrounding landscape relative to Maynooth, it is anticipated that the groundwater within the LAP boundary drains towards the east and is not connected to the groundwater of Ballynafagh Bog SAC. The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing groundwater around Maynooth, and have specific policies to ensure the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. Therefore, any potential development within the LAP lands is unlikely to impact on the integrity of Ballynafagh Bog SAC or the habitats for which it is designated.

2.4.2 Cumulative and in Combination Impacts

This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination or cumulative effects/impacts of the proposed LAP with other such Plans and projects on the three Natura 2000 sites. Other Plans and projects specific to the relevant Natura 2000 site are the following:

- Maynooth Environs LAP 2009 (Meath County Council);

- Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017;
- Greater Dublin Area Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;
- National Spatial Strategy;
- Eastern RBD Management Plan;
- Water Services Investment Programme;
- IPPC Programme;
- Local Authority Discharge;
- Groundwater Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Surface Water Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study; and
- Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans.

No other pathway has been identified by which any of the Plans and projects identified could have a significant 'in combination' effect on any of the Natura 2000 sites identified. In fact, the in combination effect of the above water related Plans and programmes would have positive effects on water quality resulting in positive indirect impacts on the Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC, Ballynafagh Lake SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC.

2.4.3 Likely Changes to the Site

The likely changes that could arise from the implementation of the LAP have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the identified Natura 2000 site. It has been determined that no Natura 2000 site will be potentially impacted as a result of the LAP. **Table 2.2** shows the Likely Changes to Natura 2000 Sites as a result of the STP.

Table 2.2: Likely Changes to Natura 2000 Sites

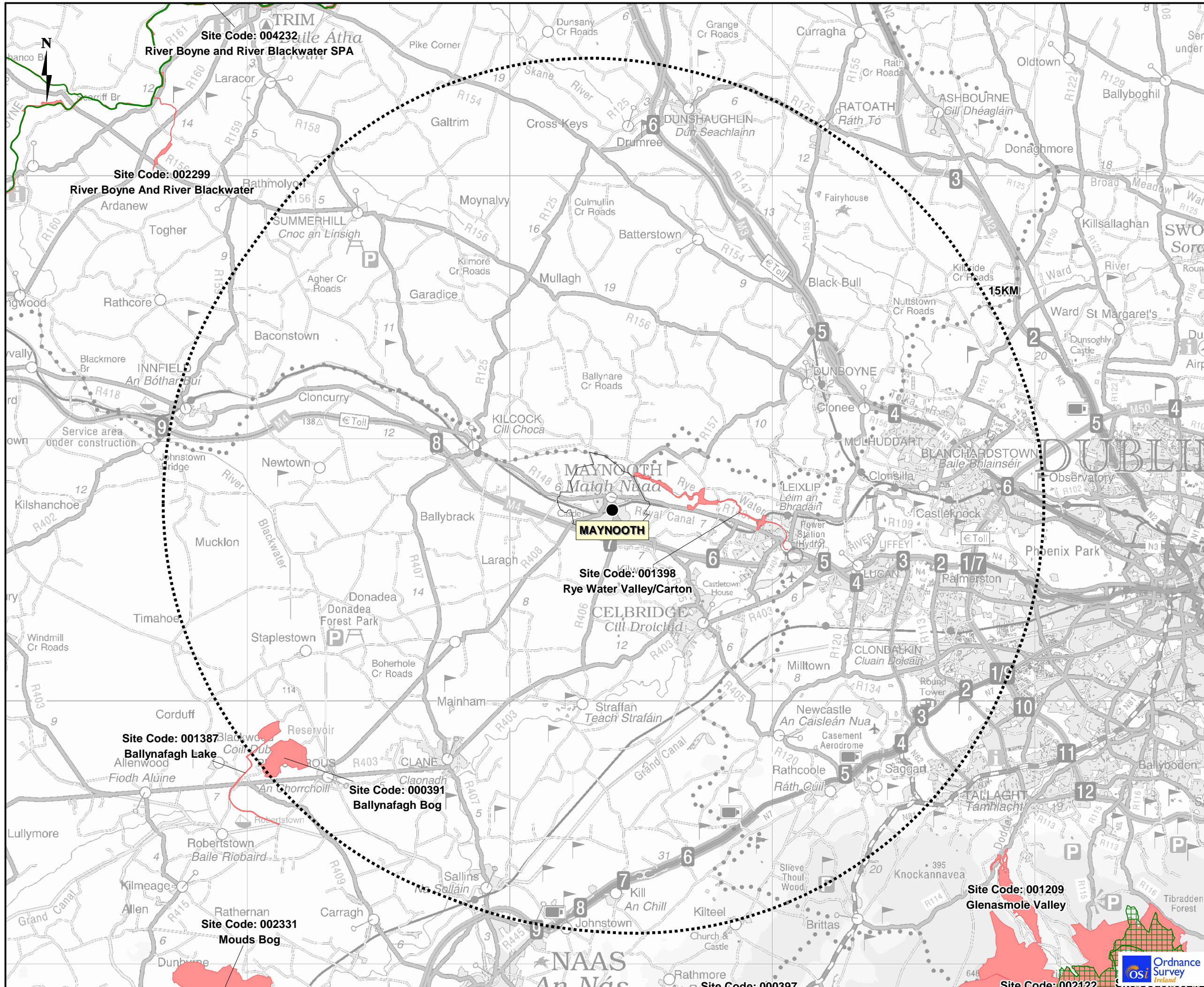
Site Name	Reduction of Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Habitat or Species Fragmentation	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.)	Climate Change
Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC	None	None	None	None	None	N/A
Ballynafagh Lake SAC	None	None	None	None	None	N/A
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	None	N/A	None	None	None	N/A

2.4.4 Elements of the Plan Where the Impacts are Likely to be Significant

The development of these lands could potentially yield additional residential units within Maynooth, which may cause additional load on waste water treatment systems, water supply, surface water run off, etc. However, the level of growth in Maynooth will be managed in line with the ability of local services to cater for future growth. No development shall be permitted to proceed if the local services

are not sufficient to cater for the development. Therefore, it is envisaged that no elements of the LAP are likely to cause significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

In addition, the Council will have regard to its responsibilities in relation to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, and any development proposal within the vicinity of or potentially having an effect on the designated site will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).



Legend

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SACs)
- Maynooth
- Buffer (15km)

Data Source:
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) was downloaded from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) website. Data was last updated 17/08/2011.

Rivers data was downloaded from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Client
Kildare County Council

Project
Appropriate Assessment of Maynooth Small Town Plan

Title
Natura 2000 Designated Areas

Figure **2.1**

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Issue Details	
Drawn by: NON	Project No. MDE1048
Checked by: BD	File Ref. MDE1048Mi0023D01
Approved by: BD	Drawing No. Mi0023
Scale: 1:135,000 @ A3	Rev. D01
Date: 07/12/2012	

Notes
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3 SCREENING CONCLUSION AND STATEMENT

The likely impacts that will arise from the LAP have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. No Natura 2000 site within 15km of the LAP area will be adversely affected. A Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix has been completed and is presented in Section 4 of this Screening Statement.

On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 sites, it is concluded that the proposed LAP will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

4 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT MATRIX

Name of project or Plan	draft Maynooth Local Area Plan
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC.
Description of the project or Plan	<p>The overarching policies and objectives of the County Development Plan will also apply to development within the Local Area Plan boundary. Specific policies and objectives are identified in order to facilitate land use in a manner that will promote the proper planning and sustainable development of the town. Key issues include housing provision, economic development, town centre development, movement and transport, infrastructure provision, community and cultural developments together with natural and built heritage.</p> <p>The strategy for the future development of Maynooth is based on the principles established in the Maynooth Development Plan 2002, the framework provided by the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017. This Plan establishes the framework to guide the development of Maynooth for the next 6 years. The forthcoming Strategic Land Use and Transportation study of North East Kildare will address the development framework for the Kildare metropolitan area up to 2030 and will inform the future development of Maynooth beyond the period of this Plan.</p> <p>It is envisaged that Maynooth will continue to grow over the short to medium term to achieve a critical mass which will support competitiveness, sustainability and create opportunities for economies of scale. Its development will be complemented with a range of employment, recreational, cultural, retail and educational facilities appropriate for a town of its size. It is envisaged that the National University of Ireland Maynooth will continue to grow and develop its facilities while also creating the environment required to develop further research based employment opportunities in the town.</p> <p>The strategic direction for the future development of Maynooth will focus on:</p> <p>Economic Development</p> <p>The consolidation and enhancement of Maynooth's role as a primary economic growth town. This includes the zoning of lands on the Kilcock Road adjacent to NUI Maynooth for Research and Technology based employment generating uses and related educational uses. The existence of the University will allow for spin off industries and enterprises to be developed based on the knowledge economy. The lands are</p>

	<p>in a good position to take advantage of its excellent location adjacent to the University, the town centre and new and existing residential areas. Maynooth also has a lot to offer a new workforce including vibrant retail, cultural and amenity resources.</p> <p>Planning for Residential Expansion</p> <p>The Plan ensures the supply of suitably zoned serviced land to accommodate the future growth of Maynooth in line with its designation in the Regional Planning Guidelines. The majority of areas designated for residential growth are near the town centre, at the Canal Harbour and the new residential zoning between the Moyglare Road and the Dunboyne Road. The latter is bisected by a green lung of amenity lands and the Lyreen River. These lands have the advantage of being in close proximity to the town centre, educational facilities and amenity facilities.</p> <p>Canal Harbour</p> <p>The Plan also provides for the expansion of the town centre in a sustainable manner by utilising backland areas, in particular the Harbour Area which is located along the Royal Canal and to the east of the University. Through an urban design framework the Plan aims to develop in an integrated manner the Harbour Area within the town in order to provide a sustainable urban expansion area, increasing permeability and strengthening the linkage between the town core and the train station, through well designed urban development.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>The Plan aims to facilitate the appropriate development of educational facilities at NUI Maynooth and promote the development of spin off research and development based enterprises in the town. The expansion of educational activities in the university is vital for the continued development of the town in tandem with the ancillary employment opportunities it generates. An educational campus on the Moyglare Road has been identified which is suitable for state of the art primary and secondary school facilities. There is one post primary school and four primary schools in Maynooth.</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>The improvement of sustainable transport infrastructure is required to facilitate the development of high-density employment areas, expanded educational facilities and to serve existing retail areas and the towns inhabitants. Upgrades in transportation include expanded rail services including additional car parking, improved bus frequencies and bus facilities and the completion of a ring road around Maynooth.</p>
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	<p>The enhancement of the linkages between Maynooth and the nearby towns in the metropolitan area and the movement into and out of Maynooth from these towns and the remainder of the Greater Dublin Area will ensure the sustainable development of the town. The development of new vehicular, pedestrian and cycling routes and the enhancement and maintenance of existing routes will ensure safe and convenient circulation around the town.</p> <p>Heritage</p> <p>The Plan also seeks to protect and enhance the unique architectural and archaeological heritage of the town including the St Patrick's College complex the Main Street and Carton Avenue. The retention of vernacular buildings on the Main Street and its side streets will ensure the character of the town remains intact. Maynooth can realise its potential as a heritage town and associated tourist destination by referencing its heritage associated with significant periods of Irish history.</p>
Is the project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?	No
Are there other projects or Plans that together with the project or Plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?	No
The Assessment of Significance of Effects	
Describe how the project or Plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.	The proposed development is not likely to affect Natura 2000 sites.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant.	<p>As shown in Tables 2.1 there are three SACs within 15km of the LAP lands. The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the conservation status of these SACs and have specific policies relating to their protection and maintenance, as appropriate.</p> <p>All three SACs are water dependent ecosystems, and therefore, any changes to the groundwater regime or surface water quality as a result of the LAP could have adverse effects on the habitats and species for which the Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC, Ballynafagh Lake SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC are designated. Again, the Council have specific policies relating to the protection and maintenance of both the groundwater regime and surface water quality as a result of the LAP and is committed to protecting and enhancing these natural resources.</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to ensure that the EU Water Framework Directive is implemented. Further, it is a policy of the Council to ensure that the specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies set out in the Eastern</p>

	<p>River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures are implemented. In addition, the Council is committed to ensuring that the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures, which will include appropriate programming of any 'instream works' to reflect the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>The Rye Water forms part of the Rye Water Valley / Carton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site code 001398), and the Council is committed to protecting and enhancing this river. Any development proposal within the vicinity of or potentially having an effect on a designated site (e.g. the Lyreen River, which discharges to the Rye Water) will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment screening under the Habitats Directive in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).</p> <p>Such policies and measures would ensure that the developments within this LAP will not impact on the Lyreen River or the Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC to which it discharges.</p> <p>Ballynafagh Lake SAC is located approximately 13.2km to the southwest of the LAP boundary. There is no connecting surface waters between the LAP boundary and Ballynafagh Lake SAC. Therefore, any potential development within the LAP lands is unlikely to impact on the integrity of Ballynafagh Lake SAC or the habitats for which it is designated.</p> <p>Ballynafagh Bog SAC is located approximately 13.0km to the southwest of the LAP boundary. Given the elevation of Ballynafagh Bog SAC in the surrounding landscape relative to Maynooth, it is anticipated that the groundwater within the LAP boundary drains towards the east and is not connected to the groundwater of Ballynafagh Bog SAC. The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing groundwater around Maynooth, and have specific policies to ensure the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. Therefore, any potential development within the LAP lands is unlikely to impact on the integrity of Ballynafagh Bog SAC or the habitats for which it is designated.</p>
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address.	N/A
Response to consultation.	N/A
Data Collected to Carry Out the Assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	RPS
Sources of data	NPWS database Information from Kildare Water Services
Level of assessment completed	Desktop

Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?	Kildare County Council Planning Department
Overall Conclusion	Stage 1 Screening indicates that the proposed LAP will not have a significant negative impact on the Natura 2000 network. Therefore, a Stage 2 'Appropriate Assessment' under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC is not required.