

Kildare County Council

**Proposed Amendment No.1 to
Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 -
2019**

Report for Screening for Appropriate
Assessment

Ref/1

Issue | 14 June 2018

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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Appendix A

Map of Designated Sites

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Finding of No Significant Effects Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This report contains information required for the competent authority to undertake screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for the Proposed Amendment No.1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 (LAP), herein referred to as the 'Report' and the Proposed Amendment No.1 herein referred to as 'Amendment No.1'.

This screening report has been prepared by Arup on behalf of Kildare County Council without the inclusion or consideration of potential mitigation measures. This screening report is published alongside the Amendment No. 1.

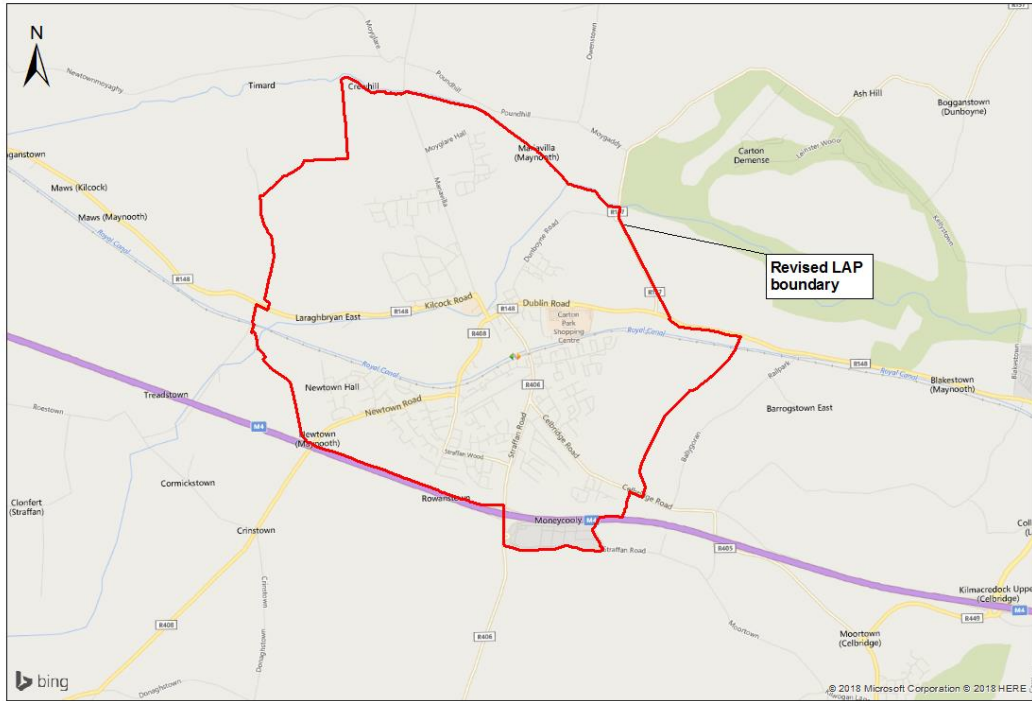
The aims of this screening report are to:

- Provide information on, and assess the potential for the Amendment No.1 to significantly impact on Natura 2000 sites (also known as European Sites);
- Determine whether the Amendment No.1 is directly connected with, or necessary to, the conservation management of any Natura 2000 sites; and
- Determine whether the Amendment No.1, alone or in combination with other projects, is likely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in view of their conservation objectives.

Figure 1 shows the location of the Maynooth LAP boundary.

Amendment No. 1 refers to proposed amendments to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 (LAP) arising from the adoption of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP).

Figure 1: Location and extent of the boundary of the Proposed Amendment No.1 to Maynooth LAP 2013-2019.



2 Methodology

2.1 Introduction

Kildare County Council provided Arup with a draft written statement of the Amendment No.1 to prepare this Report. The results of the AA Screening of the Amendment No.1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019 are provided in Section 5 of this report.

2.2 Guidance Documents

The Report has been prepared with regard to the following guidance 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 NPW 1/10 & 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 Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000;
- 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).

2.3 Data Sources

This Report is based on the following data sources available on the Natura 2000 network of sites and on the existing ecological environment:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 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 Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/;
- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 from www.housing.gov.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);
- National Biodiversity Data Centre - Biodiversity Maps at www.biodiversityireland.ie;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 Natura Impact Statement (2017);
- Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019;
- Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 Screening for Appropriate Assessment (2012); and
- Ecological reports and EIA reports for proposed developments within LAP lands.

2.4 Layout of the Report

This Report contains information required for Kildare County Council, as the competent authority, to undertake screening for AA for the Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth LAP 2013-2019.

The screening information is presented in this report as follows:

- Legislative Background, refer to **Section 2.5**;
- Overview of the Amendment No. 1, refer to **Section 3**;
- Ecological Overview and Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites (European sites) within the zone of influence of the Amendment No. 1, refer to **Section 4**;
- Assessment of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 Sites, refer to **Section 4.5**; and
- Conclusion, refer to **Section 5**.

2.5 Legislative Background

According to the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), Member States are required to establish a Natura 2000 network of sites of highest biodiversity importance for rare and threatened habitats and species across the EU. In Ireland, the Natura 2000 network of sites includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

SACs are selected for the conservation of Annex I habitats (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance) and Annex II species (other than birds). SPAs are selected for the conservation of Annex I birds and all migratory birds and their habitats. The Annex habitats and species, for which each site is selected, are the *qualifying interests* (QI) of the site. *Conservation objectives* for the site are defined for these qualifying interests.

A key requirement of the Directives is that the effects of any plan or project, alone, or in combination with, other plans or projects, on the Natura 2000 site network, should be assessed before any decision is made to allow that plan or project to proceed. This process is known as Appropriate Assessment (AA). The obligation to undertake an Appropriate Assessment derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and both involve a number of steps and tests that need to be applied in sequential order.

Article 6(3) is concerned with the strict protection of sites, while Article 6(4) is the procedure for allowing derogation from this strict protection in certain restricted circumstances.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the 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 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 social or economic nature, the Member State 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.

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 beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

The competent authority is required to carry out Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, as follows:

- **Stage 1 - Screening for Appropriate Assessment** – to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the project or plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site.
- **Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment** – This is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project or plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. The appropriate assessment must include a final determination by the competent authority as to whether or not a proposed project or plan would adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. In order to reach a final determination, the competent authority must undertake examination, analysis and evaluation, followed by findings, conclusions and a final determination. The appropriate assessment must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions, and may not have lacunae or gaps.
- **Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions**- the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.
- **Stage 4 - Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain** - an assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

2.6 Consultation

The Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 and this Report for the Amendment No.1 will be placed on public display and will be referred to Government Departments and other statutory consultees for consideration during the consultation process.

A copy of Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019, together with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, the Report for Appropriate Assessment Screening and the Infrastructural Assessment may be inspected from **Monday 18th June 2018** at the following locations:

- Kildare County Council Offices, Aras Chill Dara, Naas, Co. Kildare (during office hours);

- Maynooth Branch Library, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (during opening hours);
- Maynooth Municipal District Office, Leinster Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (during opening hours);
- On the Kildare County Council's website:
www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/LocalAreaPlans/

Written submissions or observations with respect to Proposed Amendment No. 1 may be made to Kildare County Council on or before 5pm on **30th of July 2018** in one of the followings ways:

- In writing to Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare
- or
- Online, through the submission form facility available on Kildare County Council's website at:
<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/LocalAreaPlans/MaynoothLAP2013-2019/>

Any such written submissions or observations made before the stated closing date and time and to the specified postal and email address will be taken into consideration before the making of the amendment. Written submissions or observations should include your name and a contact address and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc. which you represent.

3 Overview of the Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019

3.1 Background

The Maynooth LAP 2013 - 2019 was adopted in August 2013 and had been prepared to align with the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) adopted at that time (CDP 2011 - 2017). The CDP 2011 - 2017 set a housing unit target for Maynooth LAP of 2,364 residential units.

During the lifetime of the Maynooth LAP, the CDP was updated for the 2017-2023 period, and with it the Core Strategy which incorporated preliminary population and household figures from Census 2016 (CSO July 2016). This CDP was adopted in February 2017. The Core Strategy of CDP 2017-2023, in line with the Regional Planning Guidelines projected Maynooth to accommodate 10.9% of the residential unit growth for the county over the lifetime of the CDP. This represents an increase in the housing unit target for Maynooth since the last CDP (2011 - 2017) to 3,542 residential housing units. The current LAP 2013 - 2019 makes for the provision of 2,364 units and therefore ceases to be aligned with the current CDP 2017 - 2023 and Maynooth LAP and is being amended for this reason.

The LAP must be consistent with the CDP. A key aim of the Amendment No. 1 is to align the Maynooth LAP with the 'Core Strategy' of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 (CDP) and facilitate the increased housing unit target. The amendments summarised in Section 3.2 below have been proposed to achieve this aim.

3.2 Summary of the Amendment No. 1

In accordance with Section 18(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Kildare County Council is proposing an Amendment to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019. The LAP will be aligned with the CDP through the Amendment No.1 by making the following amendments:

- (i) Amend the Local Area Plan boundary to the east of the town on Map No.'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6;
- (ii) Amend zoning on Map No. 6:
 - a. to the east of the Local Area Plan from 'H4 Office' to 'C New Residential' (2.9ha);
 - b. to the south east of the Local Area Plan from 'I Agricultural' to 'C New Residential' (29.6ha);
 - c. to the south east of the Local Area Plan from 'I Agricultural' to 'B Existing Residential and Infill'; and
 - d. for the additional lands within the revised Local Area Plan boundary to be zoned as 'I Agricultural' (13ha).

- (iii) Insert section 7.1.4: ‘Key Development Area: Railpark’ relating to the future strategy for the development of these lands;
- (iv) Amend/Add Roads Objectives:
 - a. TRO 2(c) to provide for an alternative junction point on the Leixlip Road;
 - b. TRO 3(j) to allow for potential re-alignment of part of Leixlip Road;
 - c. TRO 8 which relates to the provision of Vulnerable Road User permeability.
- (v) Amend Pedestrian and Cycle Networks objective PCO 4;
- (vi) Amend Map No. 1 (Roads Objectives Map);
- (vii) Amend Table 17: Land Use Zoning Matrix to permit ‘childcare / crèche / playschool’ uses to be ‘Open for Consideration’ in land zoned as ‘F: Open Space & Amenity’; and
- (viii) A number of consequential changes arising to provide for these proposed amendments.

The provision of additional land zoned as New Residential aims to increase the housing unit target and align the LAP with the CDP 2017-2023. **Figure 2** shows the amended LAP boundary as per amendment (i) and the new specific objective inserted as per (ii)(c).

Figure 3 compares the Maynooth LAP 2013 - 2019 and the Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth LAP 2013 - 2019.

Figure 2: The amended LAP boundary and lands where a new zoning objective (I – Agriculture) is proposed under the Amendment No. 1.

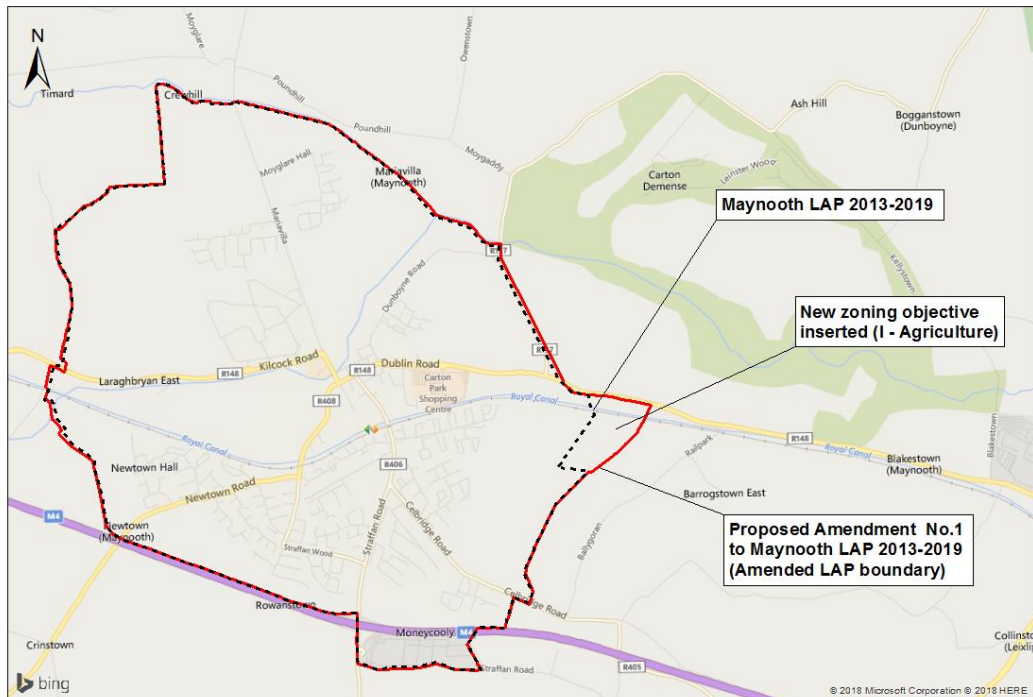
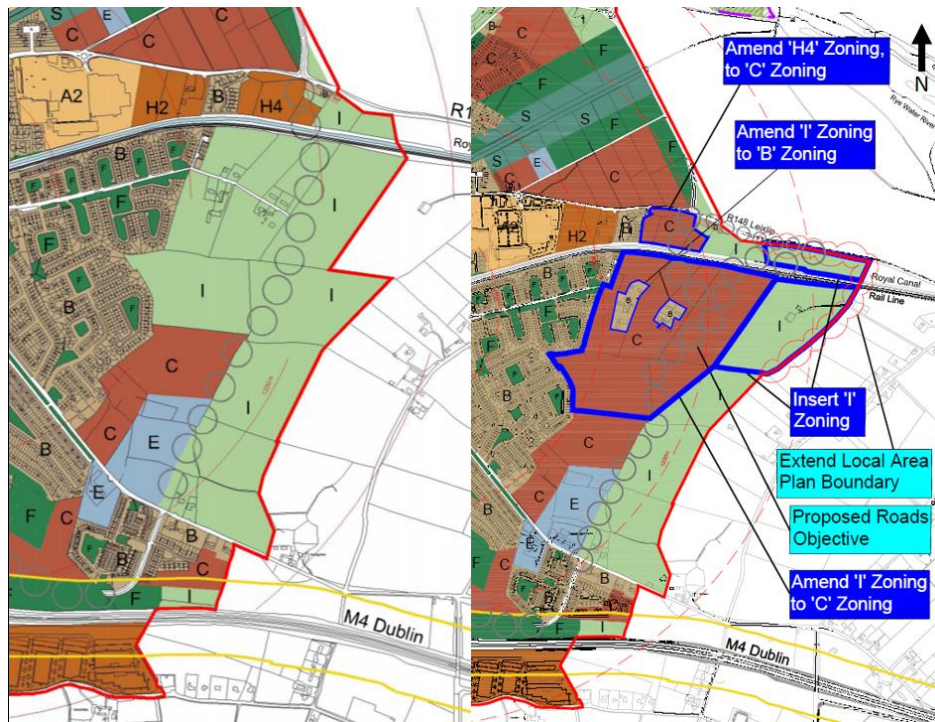


Figure 3: The existing Maynooth LAP 2013-2019 (LEFT) and the Proposed Amendment No.1 to Maynooth LAP 2013-2019 (RIGHT | Source Kildare County Council.

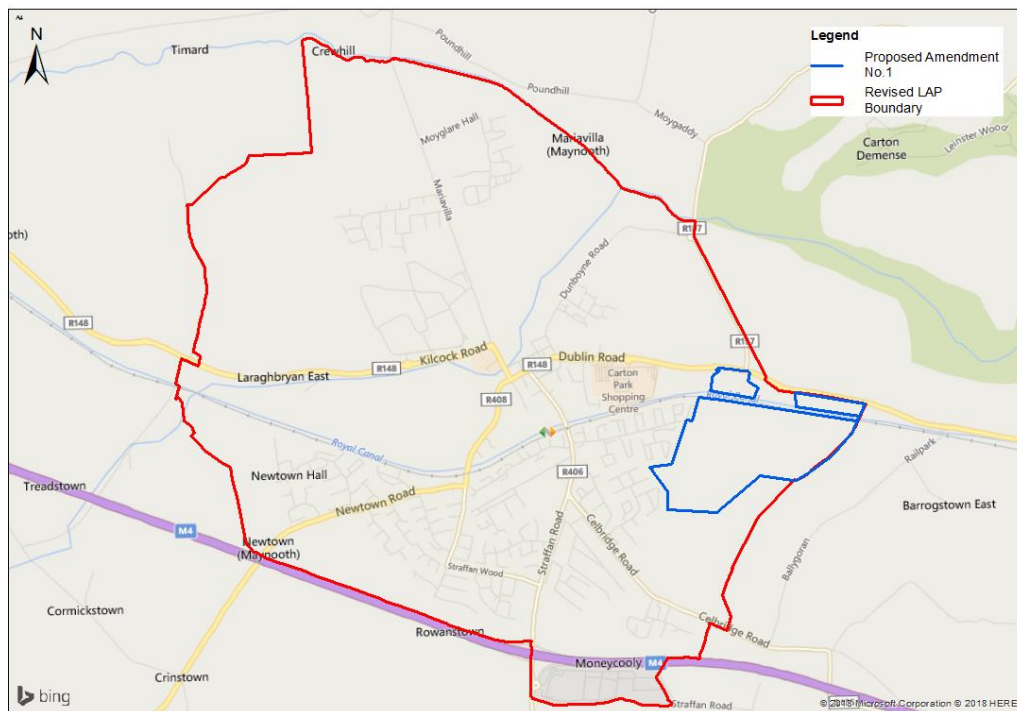


4 Ecological Overview

4.1 Site Baseline

The Amendment No.1 area refers to lands in the south east of the Maynooth LAP boundary. Refer to **Figure 4** below which shows the area of lands (in blue) included in the Proposed Amendment No. 1. These are the areas of land where zoning amendments are being proposed and additional lands are being included in the LAP boundary (boundary amendment) as discussed in Section 3.1.

Figure 4: Land zonings affected (in blue) by the proposed amendments to the LAP zoning.



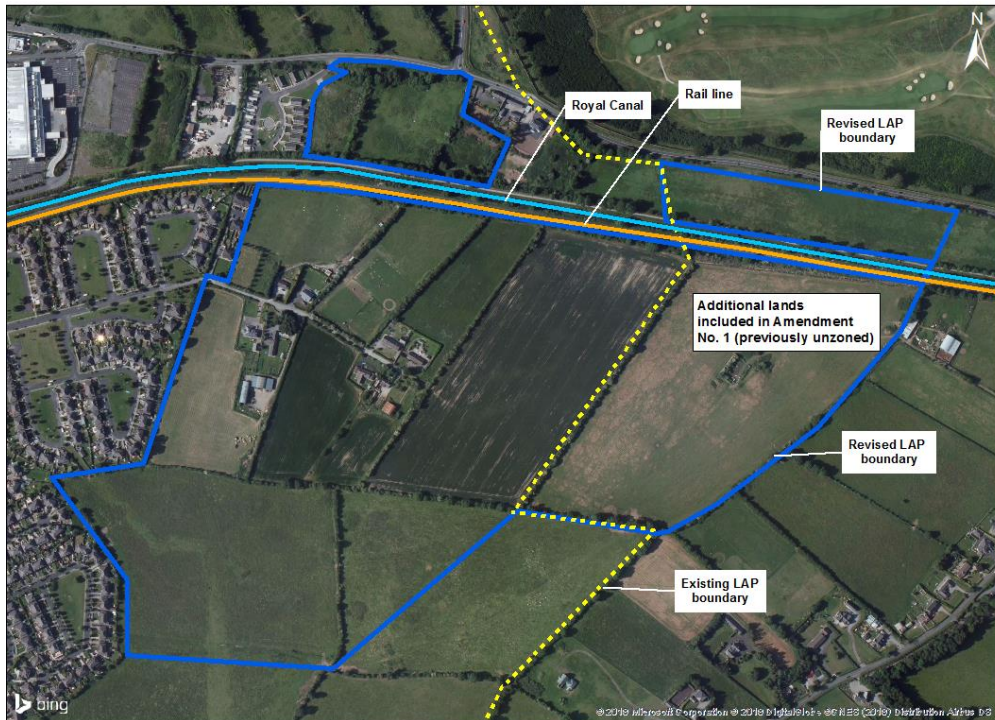
4.1.1 Existing Land Use

A desk study of the site baseline was completed. Aerial imagery (Bing Maps) was used to establish the current land use.

The lands that are affected by Amendment No.1 are east of the Maynooth town centre and are mostly greenfield areas with limited housing units (less than 10 units) and some sheds or out houses connected to residential houses, refer to **Figure 5**. The previously unzoned lands that are being included under the Amendment No.1 also appear to be greenfield land, used for agriculture.

To the west of these lands is residential development and north is the Dublin-Sligo rail line and the Royal Canal. East and south the LAP boundary is boarded by agricultural land.

Figure 5: Aerial image of lands affected by the Proposed Amendment No. 1 | Not to scale.



4.1.2 Water Quality

The Royal Canal flows through Maynooth town connecting the River Shannon in Longford to the River Liffey in the North Wall Quays in Dublin city. The water quality of the Royal Canal is classed as having Good Ecological Potential¹ under the Water Framework Directive. Water quality in the Royal Canal is seen a Good overall. When the biological, physico-chemical and hydromorphological quality elements were combined, 90% of the water bodies in the Grand and Royal Canals achieved Good Ecological Potential in 2012 – 2015.

The River Lyreen flows into Maynooth from the south and discharges to the River Rye Water north of the town near the Carton Estate. The River Rye Water at the Carton Estate is part of the Rye Water Valley/Carton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code 001398). The SAC site is important for several rare plant and animal species and a mineral petrifying springs form which tufa formations have developed.

The overall status of groundwater in the area is “Good” and it is policy of the Council to ensure the implementation of the groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.

In order to minimise groundwater risk, it is policy under the Maynooth LAP (Policy WW 2) ensure the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible and that all new developments utilise and connect

¹ Environmental Protection Agency (2017) Water Quality in Ireland 2012-2015

to the existing wastewater infrastructure. 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.

4.1.3 Water Supply

The majority of the water supplied in County Kildare comes from the Dublin City Waterworks at Ballymore Eustace and this water is delivered by the Poulaphouca Regional Scheme to the Maynooth LAP area. Increased development will require sufficient water supply capacity of local networks and adequate infrastructure to meet demand. The Council will ensure that this demand may be met by only facilitating as much development as can be provided for based on the water supply.

4.1.4 Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The wastewater treatment plant at Leixlip treats wastewater from Maynooth. The Leixlip plant is under the Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme and also receives waste water from Kilcock, Celbridge, Leixlip and Straffan. The plant was upgraded in 2016 and capacity was increased from 80,000 PE to 150,000 PE.

It is council policy (WW 2) under the Maynooth LAP to ensure a change over from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases, where it is feasible. All new developments will utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure. However, future developments in the area will only be permitted where there is adequate capacity.

4.1.5 Flood Protection and Groundwater Protection

Kildare County Council is part of the Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (ECFRAM) Study. Maynooth is described as a relatively urbanised catchment containing the Greater Dublin Area and the surrounding commuter belt. Maynooth is categorised as having a fluvial flood risk.

The existing Maynooth LAP 2013 - 2017 addresses flood risk through a number of policies and objectives and these will apply with the implementation of the Amendment No. 1. For example, it is policy that new developments incorporate appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) facilities to treat and control discharge of surface water from developments. The LAP has identified specific areas within the town that will be subject to site-specific flood risk assessment. The lands affected by the Amendment No.1 are not subject to such assessment.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been carried out as part of this SEA. The findings of the SFRA demonstrate that the risk of fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding was deemed to be low. The most likely source of flooding is due to pluvial flooding but this is deemed to be low risk as all development will be required to be built in accordance with SuDS (sustainable drainage systems) principles and in compliance with the surface water and drainage policies of the Maynooth LAP and Kildare County Development Plan.

4.2 Zone of Influence

The zone of influence comprises the area within which the proposed development may potentially affect the conservation objectives or qualifying interests (QI) of a Natura 2000 site.

There is no recommended zone of influence, and guidance from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recommends that the distance should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects (cumulative).

In ecological and environmental impact assessment, for an impact to occur there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. construction works at a proposed development site), a 'receptor' (e.g. a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or other ecologically sensitive feature), a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse which connects the proposed development site to the SAC).

Consideration is therefore given to the source-pathway-receptor linkage and associated risks between the proposed development and Natura 2000 sites. For a significant effect to occur there needs to be a risk associated with pollutant linkages whereby a source (i.e. contaminant or pollutant arising from construction activities) affects a particular receptor (i.e. Natura 2000 site) through a particular pathway (e.g. a watercourse which connects the proposed development with the Natura 2000 site).

The identification of risk does not automatically mean that an effect will occur, nor that it will be significant. The identification of these risks means that there is a possibility of environmental or ecological damage occurring. The level and significance of the effect depends upon the nature of the consequence, likelihood of the risk and characteristics of the receptor. The precautionary principle is applied for the purposes of screening to ensure that consideration and pre-emptive action is undertaken where there is a lack of scientific evidence.

4.3 Natura 2000 Sites

4.3.1 Introduction

Natura 2000 sites (also referred to as European sites) are only at risk from significant effects where a source-pathway-receptor link exists between a proposed development and a Natura 2000 site(s). This can take the form of a direct impact (e.g. where the proposed development and/or associated construction works are located within the boundary of the Natura 2000 site(s)) or an indirect impact where impacts outside of the Natura 2000 site(s) affect ecological receptors within (e.g. impacts to water quality which can affect riparian habitats at a distance from the impact source).

As a general rule of thumb, it is often considered appropriate to examine all Natura 2000 sites within 15km as a starting point. In some instances, where there

are hydrological connections, a whole river catchment or a marine area or a groundwater aquifer may need to be included.

It should be noted that the boundaries of Natura sites are subject to change. Up to date information, data and maps of Irish Natura 2000 sites, including those identified above was obtained from the Maps and Data Section on the NPWS website at <http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData>.

4.3.2 Natura 2000 Sites in Dublin Bay beyond 15km

For the Proposed Amendment No.1, the affected lands are adjacent to the Royal Canal (north and south). The Royal Canal is a proposed Natural Heritage Area (Site Code 002103) and flows through Maynooth and eastwards through Blanchardstown and discharges into the River Liffey and into Dublin Bay at the North Wall Quays.

The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code 004024), North Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code 000206), South Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code 000210), North Bull Island SPA (Site Code 004006), Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (Site Code 003000) and Howth Head SAC (Site Code 000202) are all located in Dublin Bay. Therefore, there is a theoretical hydrological link between the lands which are subject to Amendment No. 1 at Royal Canal in Maynooth and these downstream Natura 2000 sites in Dublin Bay. However, it was concluded that none of these Natura 2000 sites are within the Zone of Influence of Amendment No.1 for the following reasons:

- None of the lands affected by Amendment No. 1 contain suitable habitat for mobile qualifying interest (QI) species of the above Natura 2000 sites
- All of the above Natura 2000 sites are approximately 30km² downstream of the lands which are subject to Amendment No. 1
- It is policy of the Maynooth LAP to ensure no surface water will be permitted to discharge to the Royal Canal or its feeders and it is unlikely that the Royal Canal will be a pathway for potential significant impacts to downstream Natura 2000 sites.
- The Natura 2000 sites downstream are not sensitive to sediment loading and are all located in estuarine/ tidal areas in Dublin Bay which are subject to large diurnal tidal flows carrying substantial volumes of sediment. Any habitats or species in these areas are well used to varying levels of salinity, flows and suspended solids.

² Approximate length of canal channel/estuary to the Natura 2000 site boundary.

4.3.3 Other Natura 2000 sites of relevance beyond 15km

Ballynafagh Lake SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC are located approximately 15.3km south-west of the lands which are subject to Amendment No. 1 at Royal Canal in Maynooth. The qualifying interest species and habitats for these sites are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Ballynafagh Lake SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC

Site Code	Site name and distance from lands affected by Proposed Amendment (see Figure 5)	Qualifying Interests	
		Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC 15.29km	Alkaline fens [7230].	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail [1016]; and Marsh Fritillary [1065].
000391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC 15.3km	Active raised bogs [7110]; Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]; and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150].	-

However, it was concluded that neither of these Natura 2000 sites are within the Zone of Influence of Amendment No.1 for the following reasons:

- There are no connecting surface waters between the boundary of the lands subject to Amendment No. 1 and Ballynafagh Lake SAC or Ballynafagh Bog SAC
- None of the lands affected by Amendment No. 1 contain suitable habitat for mobile qualifying interest (QI) species of the Ballynafagh Lake SAC
- Given the elevation of Ballynafagh Bog SAC in the surrounding landscape relative to Maynooth, it is anticipated that the groundwater within the lands subject to Amendment No. 1 drains towards the east and is not connected to the groundwater of Ballynafagh Bog SAC.

4.3.4 Other Natura 2000 within 15km

The only Natura 2000 site that falls within 15km of the lands subject to Amendment No. 1 is the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. The closest distance between the boundary of this SAC and the lands subject to Amendment No. 1 is approximately 800m. Given the distance, it was considered that this Natura 2000 site may be within the Zone of Influence of Amendment No. 1 and was therefore examined further. The qualifying interest species and habitats for this Natura 2000 site is presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC

Site Code	Site name and distance from lands affected by Proposed Amendment (see Figure 5)	Qualifying Interests	
		Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species
001398	Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC 0.8km (boundary)	Petrifying springs and tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail [1014]; Desmoulin's Whorl Snail [1016].

Figure 1 in **Appendix A** shows the SAC sites which are located within or are adjoining the plan area. There are no SPAs located within or which adjoin the plan area.

4.4 Reasons for Designation, Site Sensitivities and Threats

4.4.1 Introduction

In order to identify whether the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC Natura 2000 sites could potentially be affected or not, it was necessary to describe this SAC in the context of why it has been designated (its “Qualifying Interests”) and the environmental and ecological conditions that maintain the condition of these features. The Qualifying Interests and threats to the sites were extracted from the NPWS website database and Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2007).

The key output of this stage was the identification of the types of threats to the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. The threats were then related to the consequences of implementing the Proposed Amendment No. 1 to see if there is a risk of any likely significant effects on this Natura 2000 site.

4.4.2 Reasons for Designation

The features of interest (qualifying interest (QI)) are as presented in **Table 2** above. The objective of this SAC is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.

The ecological interests³ of this site are as follows:

³ Source: (NPWS, 2009) Site Synopsis for the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [002103] (11/10/2013)

- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], and Annex I habitat is found at Louisa Bridge. These are a QI habitat for the SAC and are dependent on the mineral rich groundwater.
- The Annex II species Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior*) [1014] and Desmoulin’s Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*) [1016] occur in the marshy habitats near Louisa Bridge. These are QI species for the SAC and are dependent on specific marsh habitat.
- A number of protected faunal species occur here: White Clawed Crayfish (*Austroptamobius pallipes*), an Annex II species, has been found near Leixlip; Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) an Annex I species protected under the Birds Directive and Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Trout are also known to spawn here.
- The rare and legally protected Hairy St. John's wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) (Flora Protection Order 1987) is known to occur here.
- Green Figwort (*Scrophularia umbrosa*), listed in the Red Data Book also occurs here.

Louisa Bridge is located at the eastern end of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC, close to Leixlip. It is approximately 3.8km east of the lands subject to Amendment No. 1. Collinstown Industrial Park, the suburbs of Leixlip town, a rail line and the Royal Canal are all located between the lands subject to Amendment No.1 and Louisa Bridge.

4.4.3 Threats and Pressures

The threats to and pressures on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC were obtained from relevant NPWS materials and are presented in **Table 3** below. Generic threats and pressures specific to qualifying interests are also presented below. Those in bold would be regarded to be the potential consequences of implementing/amending a land-use plan.

Table 3 Threats and Pressures

Site Specific Threats/Pressures on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (001398)	
Threats/Pressures	Grazing Fertilisation Continuous Urbanisation Modifying structures of inland watercourses Dispersed habitation Sylviculture and forestry Roads and Motorways Removal of hedges and copses or scrub
Source: (NPWS, undated) Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form for the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (002103)	

Specific Threats/Pressures Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014]	
Threats/Pressures	Intensive Grazing Abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing Camping and caravans Modification of hydrographic functioning, general Paths, tracks, cycling tracks Car parks and parking areas Stock feeding Intensive sheep grazing
Source: (NPWS, 2013) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Species Assessments; Volume	
Specific Threats/Pressures Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	
Threats/Pressures	Abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh Species composition change (succession) Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, polls, marshes or pits Dredging/ removal of limnic sediments Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general
Source: (NPWS, 2013) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland: Species Assessments; Volume	

4.4.4 Over-arching policies and objectives contained within the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2017

The following “protective” policies and objectives were extracted from the Maynooth Local Area Plan (2017-2023). These objectives set out to protect ecological networks and resources through the planning hierarchy to help to prevent any adverse effects on European sites (and their supporting networks) which may arise as a result of implementing the proposed Amendment No.1 to the LAP.

Section 7.3 Water and Drainage

‘The Lyreen River Discharges to the Rye Water. The Rye Water Valley/Cartron 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. 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 [...].

“WS2: To ensure that all new developments in Maynooth utilise and connect to existing water infrastructure

WS 4: To ensure that the EU Water Framework Directive is implemented....”.

“Section 7.10.6 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

NH 2: To ensure that any development proposal within the vicinity of or having an effect on a designated site, or adjacent to/within an SAC will provide sufficient detail illustrating how it will limit any possible impact upon the designated site and will include proposals for appropriate amelioration. Any proposed development which has the potential to impact on a Natura 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 [.....].

The following “protective” policies and objectives were extracted from the Maynooth Local Area Plan (2017-2023). These objectives set out to protect groundwater resources from any adverse effects which may arise as a result of implementing the proposed Amendment No.1 to the LAP (or other future developments).

Section 7.6.3 Surface Water Drainage

“SW 1: 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 (GSDSDS) for treating and controlling the discharge of surface water from developments.

SW 2: 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.

SW 3: To ensure the implementation of the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.”

4.5 Likely Significant Effects from the Proposed Amendment No.1 on Natura 2000 Sites

This Section documents the final stage of the screening process.

Amendment No.1 includes three revisions to the Local Area Plan, each of which are screened for potential significant impact on the Natura 2000 listed in **Table 1**.

Amendment No.1 will facilitate the construction of a significant number of housing units in lands in the north-eastern section of Maynooth LAP through the re-zoning of lands to New Residential. The Amendment No. 1 also facilitates additional, previously unzoned lands being included into the LAP boundary. These previously unzoned lands will be zoned for Agriculture. Refer to **Figure 2**.

As discussed in Section 4.3 above, the only Natura 2000 within the Zone of Influence is the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. As detailed in Section 4.4.4

above, the Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the conservation status of these SACs. The LAP has specific policies relating to their protection and maintenance, as appropriate (refer to Section 7.3 and 7.10.6 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019). The revisions proposed as part of the Amendment No.1 were therefore, screened under the assumption that these protective policies would be implemented fully as required by the LAP.

There is a potential risk that Amendment No.1 may significantly impact the environment. A significant increase in residential housing units within the Maynooth LAP boundary may place more demands on the potable water supply, wastewater treatment capacity and waste (including municipal solid waste). However, existing LAP policies will ensure that future development will only be permitted where local services have sufficient capacity. There will not be any direct or indirect impacts on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC as a result of the Proposed Amendment No.1.

The Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (site code 001398) and QI, petrifying springs and tufa formations, are dependent on the mineral rich groundwater. There is a risk that surface water run-off could potentially alter the local groundwater chemistry of which the petrifying springs and tufa formation depend. It is unlikely that impacts on groundwater quality or quantity would arise on the petrifying springs given the distance between Louisa Bridge and the lands subject to Amendment No. 1 as it is approximately 3.8km from the lands subject to Amendment No. 1 and, Collinstown Industrial Park, the suburbs of Leixlip town, a rail line and the Royal Canal are all located between the lands subject to Amendment No.1 and Louisa Bridge.

The proposed Railpark residential development and the proposed road objective, TRO 3(j), may potentially result in a significant impact on the environment for example surface water run-off from the road. However, it is policy (WW2) of Maynooth LAP that all new developments will utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure. Therefore it is unlikely that there will be any emissions to the ground as a result of such development. Furthermore, any proposed development within the vicinity of or that would potentially have an effect on the designated site would be subject to an Appropriate Assessment screening under the Habitats Directive as a minimum. There will not be any direct or indirect impacts on the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC as a result.

The proposed amendments will be published in parallel with existing policies of the Maynooth LAP that ensure the protection of groundwater; it is policy of Maynooth Local Area Plan that all new developments manage surface water appropriately (policies SW 1, SW 2, SW3); all new development proposals will have regard to the requirements of the Kildare Groundwater Protection Scheme 1999, as amended, (policy SW 2); and to ensure the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration (policy SW 3). Kildare County Council are committed to protecting and enhancing the nearest Natura 2000 site, Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC under the existing Maynooth LAP 2013-2019 (Objective NH 2).

By inserting Agriculture zoning to previously unzoned lands, there is a potential that the lands may be managed more intensively. However, on examination of

aerial photographs of the additional lands it appears these lands are currently being managed for agriculture and a change in land use will be limited under the proposed zoning objective.

The results of the screening exercise of the Proposed Amendment No. 1 for potential effects on Natura 2000 sites, are presented in **Table 4**. The main Proposed Amendment No.1 to Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019⁴ report should be referred to for full details of each Proposed Amendment.

⁴ Kildare County Council
<http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/LocalAreaPlans/MaynoothLAP2013-2019/>

Table 2: Appropriate Assessment Screening of Proposed Amendment No. 1.

	Proposed Amendment No 1.	Risk of Significant Effect (including combination and cumulative effects)
i)	Amend Local Area Plan boundary to the east of the town on Map No.'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.	This amendment only facilitates the amendment of the LAP boundary and has no impacts on the environment associated with it, refer to Amendment (ii)c. This amendment will not result in any significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.
ii)	<p>Amend zoning on Map No. 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to the east of the Local Area Plan from 'H4: Office' to 'C: New Residential' (2.9ha); b. to the south east of the Local Area Plan from 'I: Agricultural' to 'C: New Residential' (29.6ha); c. to the south east of the Local Area Plan from 'I Agricultural ' to 'B Existing Residential and Infill'; and d. for the additional lands within the revised LAP boundary to be zoned as 'I: Agricultural' (13ha). 	<p>The change of zoning objective will not result in a risk of significant effects on the environment given the similar nature of developments that both zoning objectives permit. Residential development is not envisaged to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site. Kildare County Council are committed to protecting and enhancing the nearest Natura 2000 site Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC under the existing Maynooth LAP 2013-2019 (Objective NH 2). All future development will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>This amendment to the zoning will result in greenfield land being developed however it is considered that proposed residential development will not give rise to likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site. All future development will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive. (a. & b.)</p> <p>The amendment of lands from Agriculture to B: Existing Residential & Infill is in keeping with the current land use and future land use is unlikely to change significantly under this zoning objective. (c)</p> <p>The inserted zoning of Agriculture to these lands is in keeping with the existing land use. It is not considered likely that this amendment will give rise to likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.(d)</p>
iii)	Insert section 7.1.4: 'Key Development Area: Railpark' relating to the future strategy for the development of these lands).	These strategies relate directly to design of the proposed development at Railpark and do impact the environment. No significant effect on the Natura 2000 sites will result from this strategy.

	Proposed Amendment No 1.	Risk of Significant Effect (including combination and cumulative effects)
iv)	<p>Amend / Add Roads Objectives:</p> <p>TRO 2: To facilitate the future construction of the following roads and in the interim protect their routes from development:</p> <p>TRO 2(c) to provide for an alternative junction point on the Leixlip Road (in relation to the future construction of a road between the Celbridge Road (B) and the Leixlip Road (E) or (E)(i));</p> <p>TRO 3(j) to allow for potential re-alignment of part of Leixlip Road (in relation to the future construction of a road between the Celbridge Road (B) and the Leixlip Road (E) or (E)(i));</p> <p>TRO 8 which relates to the provision of Vulnerable Road User permeability.</p>	<p>TRO 2(c) was included and assessed in the existing Maynooth LAP 2019-2013. The purpose of the Proposed Amendment No.1 for TRO 2(c) is to provide the proposed road between the Celbridge Road and Leixlip Road (the MERR), two alignment options for where it may link to the Leixlip Road when constructed. Therefore, while there are now two options for the alignment of the proposed MERR to link to the Leixlip Road, the inclusion of the road remains as per the existing Maynooth LAP and therefore the impact of the proposed amendment to TRO 2(c) will not be significant.</p> <p>TRO 3(j) may potentially result in a significant impact on the environment in general. The design of such works is unknown however, it is not envisioned that such development would give rise to any significant effects on any Natura 2000 site including the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC given the distance, likely nature and extent of the construction works, and the policies and objectives of the Council to protect Natura 2000 sites and groundwater. All future development will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>No significant effect on the Natura 2000 sites will result from TRO 8. This is a strategy rather than proposal for any specific development and does not relate to the design of road related infrastructure.</p>
v)	Amend Pedestrian and Cycle Networks objective PCO 4;	This will not result in any impacts on the environment therefore there is no risk of any significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.

	Proposed Amendment No 1.	Risk of Significant Effect (including combination and cumulative effects)
vi)	Amend Map No. 1 (Roads Objectives Map);	This will not result in any impacts on the environment therefore there is no risk of any significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.
vii)	Amend Table 17: Land Use Zoning Matrix to permit 'childcare / crèche / playschool' uses to be 'Open for Consideration' in land zoned as 'F: Open Space & Amenity'	This will not result in any impacts on the environment therefore there is no risk of any significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.
viii)	A number of consequential changes arising to provide for these proposed amendments.	This relates to the supporting text and information that will be added/updated in order to facilitate the inclusion proposed amendments (i) to (vi) above, and provide context for the Proposed Amendment No.1. As supporting text, this aspect of the Proposed Amendment No. 1 is not applicable to screening for AA and has no bearing on Natura 2000 sites.

4.6 In-Combination/Cumulative Effects with Other Plans and Projects

Other plans and projects are considered below. It is considered extremely unlikely that significant in-combination or cumulative effects arising from interaction with other plans or projects could arise as each plan or project has either been subject to the Appropriate Assessment process or provides for biodiversity protection i.e. Kildare County Heritage Plan 2005 - 2011 and the Kildare County Biodiversity Plan 2009 - 2014. Each Stage 2 AA or Stage 1 AA Screening concluded that significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from the plan or project in question were considered extremely unlikely.

Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023

This Plan has undergone an AA and a Natura Impact Report has been published. The NIR concludes that:

“It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of all European [Natura 2000] sites have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and will reliably mitigate these effects where these cannot be avoided.

In addition, any lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to relevant stages of Appropriate Assessment when further details of design and location are known. Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is considered that the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 is not foreseen to have any likely significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European [Natura 2000] Site.”

Kildare County Heritage Plan 2005 - 2011

This Plan has not undergone 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”.

No adverse in-combination impacts with the Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Kildare County Biodiversity Plan 2009 - 2014

While this Plan has not undergone AA, it should be noted that it sits under the Kildare CDP, which has undergone AA and has placed emphasis on the protection of Natura 2000 sites. The nature of the Biodiversity Plan is to conserve biodiversity including Natura 2000 sites that make up the Natura 2000 network. No in-combination impacts with the Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening was carried out and a Determination was made in 2017 by Kildare County Council regarding the Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023. The determination stated that:

In light of best scientific knowledge, it has been determined that the Celbridge LAP will not have a significant effect upon the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the Plan, having regard to their conservation objectives, either alone or in-combination with other plans, programmes or projects. It is therefore determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.”

The decision has taken into account the context of the Local Area Plan and the findings of the AA Screening Report.

Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2013

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was prepared and a determination was made in 2017 by Kildare County Council regarding the Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023. The determination stated that:

In conclusion, in accordance with Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), taking into account all matters relevant to the subject to the full and proper implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the NIR (including protective Policies identified within the Plan itself) it has been determined that the proposed Plan is not likely to have any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site within, or adjacent to the Plan area.

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

The RPGs have undergone an AA and it recommended specific conditions to protect Natura 2000 (Section 4.6 of HDA). These were incorporated into the RPGs where appropriate. No in-combination impacts with the Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan are predicted as a result of implementation.

Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008 - 2016

No publicly available data suggests that this Strategy has 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 Natura 2000. No in-combination impacts with the Proposed Amendment No. 1 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan are predicted as a result of implementation.

Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 - 2035

This Strategy has undergone an AA and migratory measures have been recommended and incorporated into the text. Mitigation measures include those specifically to protect biodiversity including Natura 2000, protection of riparian zone and water bodies and watercourses and soil protection and contamination. No in-combination impacts with the Proposed Amendment No. 1 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan are predicted as a result of implementation.

River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2018 - 2021)

A Natura Impact Statement was prepared River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2018 - 2021). The NIS conclusion stated that:

It is the conclusion of this Natura Impact Statement that the RBMP will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site with the implementation of measures presented within this NIS.

5 Conclusion

The likely impacts that will arise from the Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019 alone and in combination with other plans and programmes have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites. It is considered that significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 sites arising from the implementation of the LAP are unlikely.

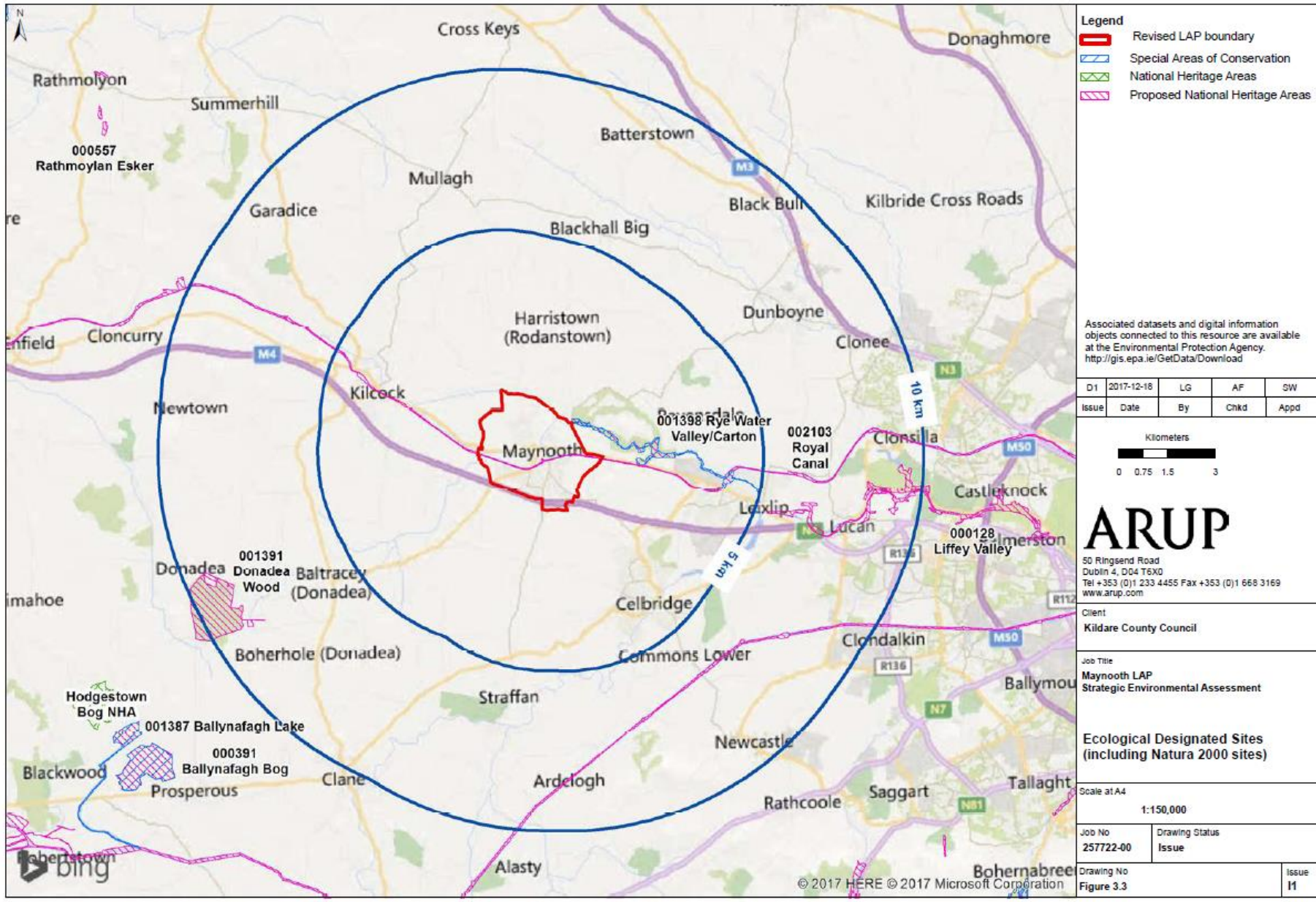
On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 Sites, it is concluded that the Proposed Amendment No 1 to Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019 will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Refer to **Appendix B** *Finding of No Significant Effects Report*.

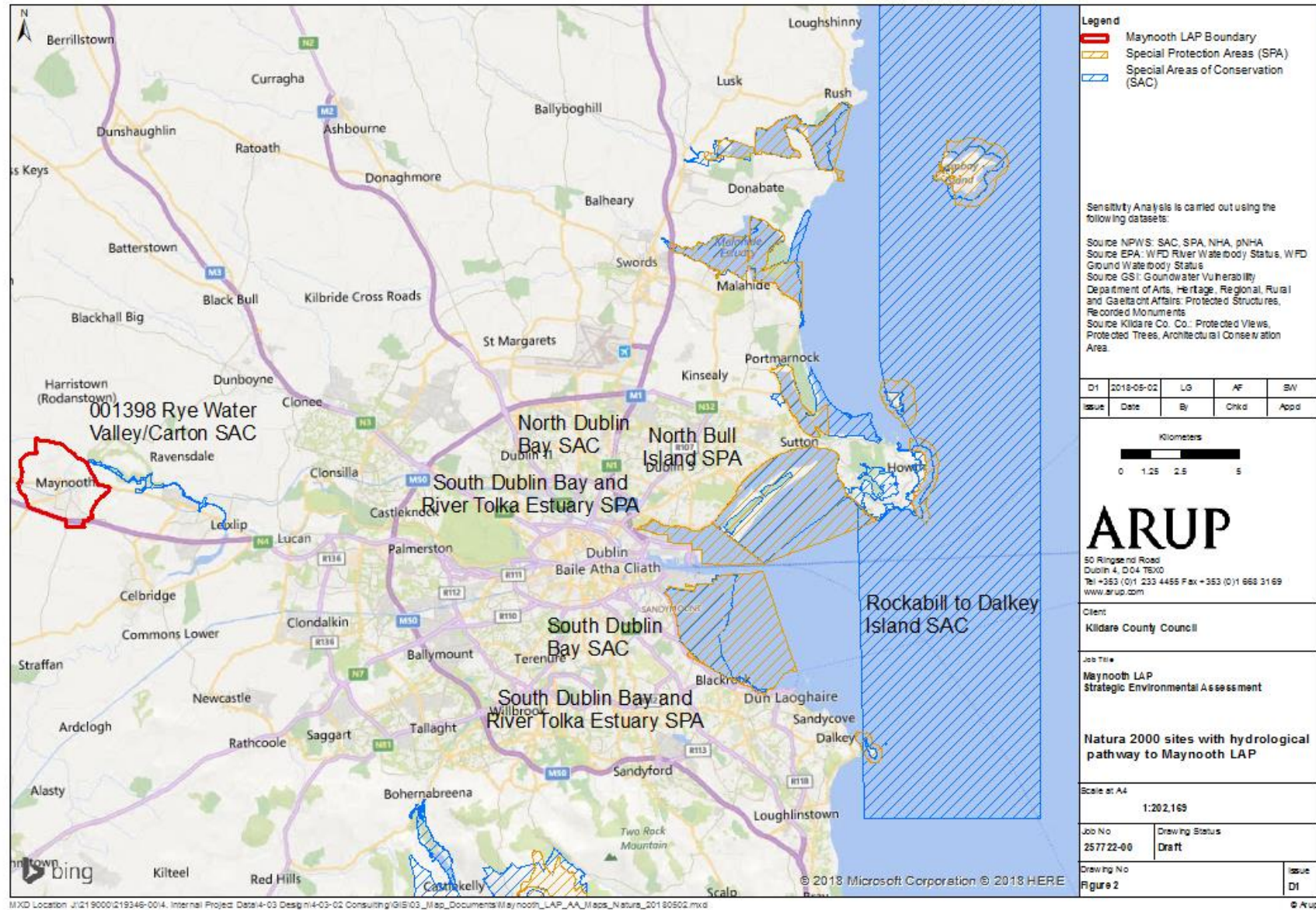
Appendix A

Map of Designated Sites

A1 Map of Designated Sites



A4



Appendix B

Finding of No Significant Effects Report

B1 Finding of No Significant Effects Report

Name of Project:

Proposed Amendment No.1 to Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019

Names of Natura 2000 Sites of relevance to the proposed scheme:

Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC – Site code 001398. The Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC is considered to be of relevance in this report due to its proximity (<15km) to the Maynooth LAP boundary.

Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?

No

Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?

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.

It has been determined by Arup that it is possible to rule out likely significant impacts on any Natura 2000 sites including the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC.

Explain why these effects are not considered significant.

No direct source-pathway-receptor link between the Proposed Amendment No.1 and any Natura 2000 site, NHA or pNHA within the Zone of Influence has been identified.

The Rye Water Valley/Carton House SAC is groundwater dependent habitat and fed by the Rye Water River. There is no direct hydrological link between lands affected by the Amendment No.1 and this the SAC. Maynooth LAP 2013 - 2019 includes policy (NH 2) that will ensure any future development proposal within the vicinity of the SAC site will not impact on the Rye Water Valley/Carton House SAC.

List of Agencies consulted

It is anticipated that the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Inland Fisheries Ireland will be consulted by Kildare County Council as part of the SEA process.

DATA COLLECTED TO CARRY OUT THE ASSESSMENT

Who carried out the assessment?

The assessment was carried out by the Arup ecologist.

Sources of Data -

Sources of data included:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography (www.osi.ie) (viewed on 2 May 2018);
- Bing aerial photography (viewed on 2 May 2018);
- National Parks and Wildlife Service online data on Natura 2000 Sites and (www.npws.ie) (viewed on 2 May 2018);
- National Parks and Wildlife Service online data on protected flora and fauna (viewed on 2 May 2018);
- Information on environmental quality data available from www.epa.ie (Envision Online Environmental Map Viewer) (viewed on 2 May 2018);
- National Biodiversity Data Centre - Biodiversity Maps at www.biodiversityireland.ie;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 Screening for Appropriate Assessment (2012);
- Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019; and
- Ecological reports and EIA reports for proposed developments within LAP lands.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information provided above, and by applying the precautionary principle, it has been determined by Arup that it is possible to rule out likely significant impacts on any Natura 2000 sites and therefore it is the view of Arup that it is not necessary to undertake any further stage of the Appropriate Assessment process.