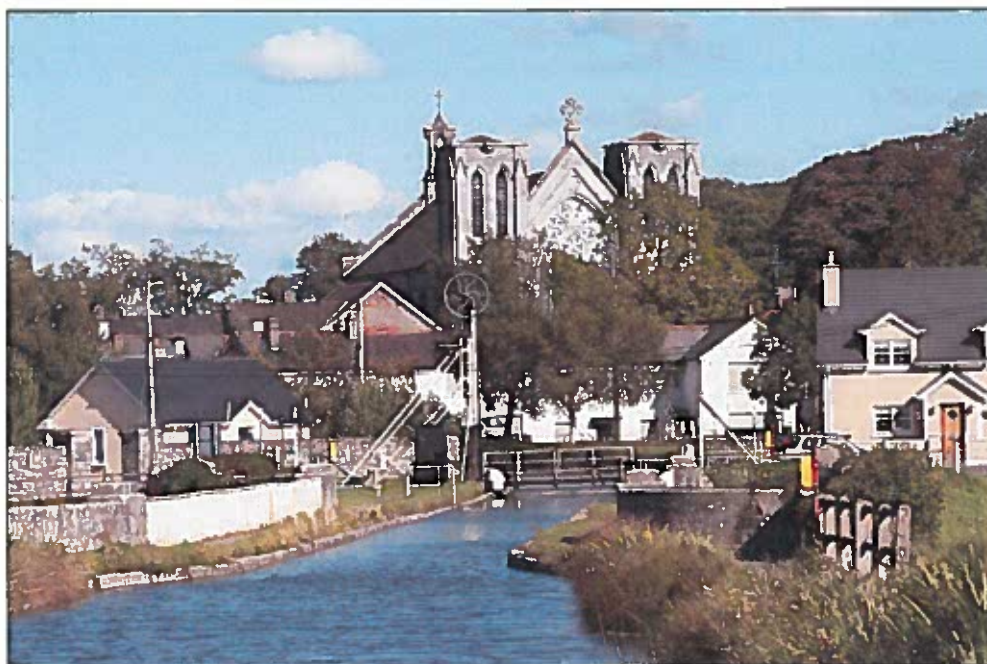


**Natura Impact Report
Draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan**



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report details the appropriate assessment screening of the (draft) Monasterevin Local Area Plan (LAP) 2015-2021. This report is being carried out 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; Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended); and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011). The purpose of this report is to assess the likely effects of the proposed Plan either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, on any Natura 2000 site and to consider whether these impacts are likely to be significant and thus require an appropriate assessment.

1.2 Draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2015-2021

The draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2015-2021 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended for the area defined in the Figure 1.1. It sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Monasterevin 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.

1.2.1 The aim of the draft Plan is to build on the strengths of Monasterevin and to provide a focused approach to planning for future development in a coherent sustainable, spatial fashion. This Plan aims to achieve a more consolidated town centre through the reuse, restoration and regeneration of the town centre and the creation of a vibrant urban form that facilitates a sustainable economic base and creates sustainable and integrated communities while balancing future development with the conservation and enhancement of the unique natural and built environment of the town.

1.2.2 Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 sets out the Council's policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Kildare. The undertaking of Appropriate Assessment (AA) is mandatory in the case of development plans. The AA of the CDP 2011-2017 was undertaken by environmental consultants CAAS on behalf of Kildare County Council. The resultant Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was published alongside the CDP 2011-2017. The Appropriate Assessment informed the policies and objectives of the Plan and also suggested appropriate mitigation measures, which were incorporated in to the relevant chapters of the Plan upon its adoption in 2011. This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report should be read in conjunction with the CDP 2011-2017 and the associated Appropriate Assessment Screening Report.

1.3 Legislative Context

In accordance with requirements under the EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on certain European designated sites (Natura 2000 sites¹), that are designated for the protection of nature, must

¹ Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive. Special Areas of Conservation are sites that are protected because they support particular habitats and/or plant and animal species that have been identified to be threatened at EU community level. Special Protection

be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting of the plan. This is to determine whether or not the implementation of plan policies could have negative consequences for the habitats or plant and animal species for which these sites are designated. This assessment process is called a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) and must be carried out on all stages of the plan making process.

- 1.3.1 This report contains the results of the assessment which was carried out on the draft Monasterevin LAP as published February 2015. It also contains recommendations for modifications to objectives of the plan to prevent any risk of impact to all Natura 2000 sites arising from implementation of the plan.
- 1.3.2 The Appropriate Assessment Screening process for Land use plans is now legislated for in Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Land use plans are defined in this Act, Section 177R, to include a local area plan. The competent authorities are now required to assess land use plans or proposed developments for any potential significant effects on any European Site. The competent authority are then required to determine if the next step, an Appropriate Assessment, is required or if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Local Area Plan will have a significant effect on the European Site.

Areas are sites that are protected for the conservation of species of birds that are in danger of extinction, or are rare or vulnerable. Special Protection Areas may also be sites that are particularly important for migratory birds. Such sites include internationally important wetlands.

1.4 The EU Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) Process

The EU Habitats Directive Assessment is an iterative process which runs parallel to and informs the plan making process. It involves analysis and review of draft policies as they emerge during each stage of plan making, to ensure that their implementation will not impact on sites designated for nature conservation, nor on the habitats or species for which they are designated. Within this process, regard must also be had to the potential for policies to contribute to impacts which on their own may be acceptable, but which could be significant when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans or policies.

1.4.1 The process may result in the development of new policy areas and/or the modification or removal of certain policies to be presented in the final plan. The results of this analysis and review are presented in Natura Impact Reports which will be produced for each iteration of the plan and its policies (draft plan, post consultation amendments, final amendments, and final plan). At the end of the plan making process, an Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement will be produced which contains a summary of how ecological considerations in relation to Natura 2000 sites have been integrated into the plan. The final Natura Impact Report and a declaration in relation to the potential for the plan to affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within its potential impact zone will also be produced at this time.

1.4.2 The European Union has provided guidance as to how to complete a Habitats Directive Assessment for land use plans which identifies four main stages in the process as follows:

Stage One Stage 1: Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

The process which identifies what might be likely impacts arising from a plan on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. If the screening process results in a judgement that likely significant effects may occur or cannot be ruled out, then a more detailed 'Appropriate Assessment' known as Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment is required

Stage Two: Appropriate assessment

Where the possibility of significant impacts has not been discounted by the screening process, a more detailed assessment is required. This is called an appropriate assessment and involves the consideration of the impact of the plan on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, having regard to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, it involves an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

Should the conclusion of the appropriate assessment be that there are likely to be impacts which will affect the overall integrity of the Natura 2000 site, then it is required to examine alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse such impacts. Stage three of a Habitats Directive Assessment involves the assessment of alternative solutions.

Stage Four: Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)

Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain. Should it be found there are no viable alternative solutions to avoid adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 site, and should it be agreed that the project/plan can proceed despite such impacts (which can only be for overriding reasons of public interest), then compensatory measures must be put in place in advance of the implementation of the plan/project. The fourth stage of the habitats directive assessment process

involves the assessment of the proposed compensatory measures. The assessment may stop at any of the above stages if significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.

1.4.3 This document represents the first phase of the HDA process for the draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2015-2021 (Natura Impact Report for draft plan). It incorporates the first two stages of the process as set out above, being the screening and appropriate assessment stages. All Natura 2000 sites within the potential impact zone of the plan have been screened to determine whether there is potential for significant impacts on qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites to arise out of implementation of the plan. Those sites which cannot be screened out at the initial stage of the process (i.e. the potential for negative impacts on the site, habitats or species cannot be ruled out), are assessed in further detail (stage 2), where it is determined whether the implementation of particular policies is likely to affect the overall integrity of any Natura 2000 site having regard to the ecological structure and function of such sites and their conservation objectives. Arising from this assessment, this document contains recommendations relating to the modification, insertion or deletion of objectives which will be integrated into the manager's report at the completion of the draft planning process.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Local Area Plan (LAP) was undertaken and the findings of the assessment are presented in this Habitats Directive Screening Report. The approach taken in the making of this assessment follows *European Communities, 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, 2002*, and *Local Government and Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009*. As the LAP is progressed through the plan making process the appropriate assessment process will continue in tandem and will inform the decision making process in terms of any likely significant impacts arising from the LAP on Natura 2000 sites.

2.2 Data Sources

The appropriate assessment of potential impacts on the integrity of European Sites in this study is based on a review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support, and the personal knowledge of the sites. References and data used are cited in the back of this report.

2.3 Consultation

The draft plan and this Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the plan will be placed on public display with the proposed Local Area Plan and will be referred to Government Departments and other statutory consultees for consideration during the consultation process. Submissions on same will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final plan and accompanying Appropriate Assessment.

2.3 Approach

The approach taken in the making of this assessment follows *European Communities, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the*

provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Government and Appropriate Assessment of Authorities, 2009.

Directive 92/43/EEC, 2002, and on Local Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning

3 STAGE 1 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT MONASTEREVIN LOCAL AREA PLAN

Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2004-2013 was adopted by Kildare County Council in 2004. The County Kildare Development Plan (CDP) 2011-2017 now specifies that the Monasterevin Local Area Plan shall be reviewed. The Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2015-2021 has been prepared in accordance with the procedure set out in Sections 18–20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The County Kildare Development Plan (CDP) 2011-2017 sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Kildare over the period 2011-2017. The CDP aims to direct population growth into the Metropolitan urban areas of the county but also into key towns and villages in the hinterland area including Naas, Newbridge, Athy, Kildare, Monasterevin and Kilcullen. The CDP also emphasises the need to protect the built heritage, unique landscape, natural heritage and biodiversity of the county for their intrinsic value and as resources for the tourist economy of the future.

3.1.1 The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 have designated Monasterevin as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town which is reinforced in the CDP settlement strategy with the town being targeted for consolidated growth by allowing it to develop in a self sufficient manner, reducing commuting levels and ensuring sustainable levels of housing growth while providing a full range of local services adequate to meet local needs at district level and for surrounding rural areas.

3.1.2 The draft plan consists of a written statement and maps. It takes cognisance of the County Kildare Development Plan 2011-2017 and relevant aspects of The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 in terms of its objectives relating to population targets, housing strategy, settlement strategies and boundaries, economic development, flood risk assessment, climate change and biodiversity strategies. It comprises;

Part A: Introduction to Monasterevin and Context

The part of the plan outlines the social, economic and planning context for the town, setting the framework for the plan's policies and objectives.

Part B: Policies and Objectives

The part of the plan sets out specific policies and objectives relating to the LAP area. The key policies and objectives are grouped under the following headings:

- Compliance with the Core Strategy to achieve sustainable growth
- Enterprise, Industry and Economic Development
- Retail and Town Centre Uses
- Urban Design and Town Centre Development
- Movement and Transport
- Water, Drainage and Environmental Services
- Energy and Communications
- Educational, Community and Cultural

- Architectural and Archaeological Heritage
- Natural Heritage and Biodiversity
- Recreation, Amenity and Open Space

Part C: Mapped Objectives

Sets out objectives in the plan which can be mapped including land use zoning, site specific objectives for road improvements, natural and built heritage

3.1.3 Future Development Strategy

The strategy for the future development of Monasterevin is based upon the principles established in the previous LAP 2008 and the framework provided by the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017. It provides a blueprint for the development of Monasterevin town for the period 2015-2021, setting out a vision for the area, specifying the type, amount and quality of development needed to achieve that vision while seeking to protect and enhance the natural and built environment while promoting the attractions and amenities of the town.

- 3.1.4 The vision for the town is to build on its strengths and to provide a focussed approach to planning for future development in a coherent sustainable manner. It is envisaged that Monasterevin will continue to grow over the short to medium term to achieve a critical mass which will support increased competitiveness, sustainable and create opportunities for local economic development and employment opportunities. The development of the town will be supported by a range of residential, employment, recreational, community, retail, tourism and educational facilities appropriate for a town of its size.

The strategic direction for the future development of Monasterevin will focus on

1. Economic Development
2. Town Centre Consolidation and Improvement
3. Planning for residential expansion
4. Retail Development
5. Protection of the Natural and Built Heritage

- 3.1.5 This LAP identifies specific policies and objectives applicable to Monasterevin in order to facilitate land use in a manner that will promote proper planning and sustainable development. 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. A summary the key policies and objectives are grouped under the following headings:

(i) Compliance with the Core Strategy to achieve sustainable growth

To ensure that the future development of Monasterevin is in accordance with the Core Strategy of the Kildare CDP 2011-2017, the plan provides for the zoning of lands for residential and employment uses. A framework is also established for the town's sustainable growth through the incorporation of policies in relation to, housing mix, community development and new housing provision.

(ii) Enterprise, Industry and Economic Development

Monasterevin must develop in a self sufficient manner reducing commuting levels and ensuring sustainable levels of housing growth, providing a full range of local services adequate to meet local needs at district level and for surrounding rural areas. The plan sets out policies and objectives that build on the town's economic and heritage strengths to create a unique tourism destination while also maximising lands strategically located to provide for future new employment areas.

(iii) Retail and Town Centre Uses

The potential of Monasterevin to operate as a national tourist and local retailing destination is advocated by combining and marketing the town and environs as a unique heritage, tourism and retail offer. The plan sets out policies and objectives that reinforce the town centre while encouraging the re use and regeneration of vacant buildings and sites within the town centre area. Significant opportunities exist for the re-use and regeneration of land and buildings within the town centre area. The protection of built heritage and the integration of new retail development within the existing historic urban form is also a key objective of this plan.

(iv) Urban Design and Town Centre Development

The importance of Monasterevin's townscape qualities which are derived from its historic urban structure are in the plan a detailed urban design analysis of the existing townscape is set out together with policies and objectives specific to the future development of the town. The regeneration of strategic sites within the town are advocated and comprise Dublin Street, Market Square and Main Street (including Moore Abbey entrance and the junction treatment between both streets) These design briefs have been prepared to assist in the planning process by setting out broad design parameters for the future development of these sites. The plan encourages the regeneration and conservation of the town centre by using best practice urban design principles.

(v) Movement and Transport

The improvement of transportation infrastructure in Monasterevin is a key element of sustainable development of the town. Policies and objectives are outlined to promote integrated land use and transportation planning to further support and encourage more sustainable modes of travel. The plan also sets out specific policies for local improvements in and around the town centre and objectives to secure routes for longer term roads infrastructure.

(vi) Water, Drainage and Environmental Services

The adequacy of water, drainage and environmental services is necessary to facilitate the sustainable development of the town. These issues are addressed in various policies and objectives to provide for sufficient water, wastewater and water drainage infrastructure to service the predicted requirements of the town over the plan period and beyond. Relevant legislative requirements in relation to environmental requirements are also set out including policies and objectives relating to flood risk requirements.

(vii) Energy and Communications

The development of a more sustainable approach to energy use, power generation and energy efficiency in all sectors is vital to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes focussing on renewable energy generation and improving energy efficiency.

(viii) Educational, Community and Cultural

The provision of education and community facilities to support the projected population levels for Monasterevin are recognised. In this regard a site within Moore Abbey Demesne has been identified for the provision of a new school while the improvement of local community facilities and sports facilities together with the need to encourage the shared use of existing facilities is advocated. The remainder of Moore Abbey Demesne located within the town boundary is zoned for Community and Educational purposes.

(ix) Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

The protection and enhancement of the unique built heritage and streetscape in Monasterevin is one of the core objectives of this plan. Policies and objectives have been incorporated which seek to protect, preserve and enhance the town's archaeology, built heritage and townscape.

(x) Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

The importance of green infrastructure and its contribution to the town is recognised. This plan includes basic maps and describes the green infrastructure of Monasterevin including relevant policies for its protection and enhancement. Policies and objectives are also included to ensure the protection of the River Barrow (SAC) and the Grand Canal (p NHA).

(xi) Recreation, Amenity and Open Space

The plan recognises the importance of the existing natural amenities in the town and outlines clear objectives to expand and enhance the provision of these key natural assets. Lands have been designated for open space and amenity purposes, in Moore Abbey and along the River Barrow to preserve these amenities for future generations and to avoid inappropriate development. A series of existing and planned local green ways/cycle/pedestrian routes are also identified for recreation, tourism and residential use and to increase permeability within and around the town.

Note: All the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan 2011-2017 are applicable to all settlements in County Kildare. These policies and objectives have already been assessed for effects on Natura 2000 Sites through the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process in preparing the CDP 2011-2017.

3.2 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT OF LAP LANDS

3.2.1 Water Quality / Water Framework Directive

Monasterevin lies within the South East River Basin District for which a River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 has been prepared. The River Barrow flows along the westerly side of the town and is located in the Bagenalstown 1 waterbody. This waterbody is part of the Barrow Main Water management Unit. Contained within the Barrow Main Water management Unit are two artificial waterbodies the Grand Canal and the Barrow navigation. The Grand Canal also passes through Monasterevin. The overall status of this waterbody is "Moderate" with restoration to "Good Status" required by 2021. River water monitoring is carried out by the Council and other agencies for the purposes of implementing the Water Framework Directive. Policies in relation to the maintenance and improvement of water quality are set out in Section 7.6.2 of the CDP.

3.3 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES

- 3.3.1** This section of the screening process describes the Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the draft Plan boundary. 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. Screening was based on a desktop review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support.
- 3.3.2** One SAC/ SPAs lies within 15km of the Plan boundary and could potentially be impacted by the Plan, the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 002162) Figure 1 shows the location of other sites greater than 15km from the draft Monasterevin LAP boundary. The habitats and/or species for which these sites are designated are also listed in Table 1, as are the principle threats which could affect these. The threats listed have been identified from written sources including the *Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS 2013)* and the NPWS produced Natura 2000 Site synopsis and conservation objectives.
- 3.3.3** 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 or SPA. The qualifying features for each site have been obtained through a review of the Conservation Objectives available from NPWS

The River Barrow and Grand Canal are important recreational and wildlife amenities in Monasterevin and the Council is committed to protecting and enhancing these waterbodies. The draft LAP includes objectives for the protection and improvement of the River Barrow and Grand Canal and its water quality, including the Land Use Zoning along both banks as Open Space and Amenity.

3.2.2 Water Supply

The Hybla Wellfield Development Scheme has been completed with the capacity to supply 2.5 mega litres of potable water into supply for Monasterevin and surrounding areas. This wellfield water will be blended with water from the regional supply (from the Ballymore Eustace water treatment plant) and this blending will have the effect of ensuring security of supply to Monasterevin and its environs during the plan period. The level of growth in Monasterevin 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.

3.2.3 Wastewater Facilities

A wastewater treatment plant has recently been constructed which is sufficient to meet the needs of the population of Monasterevin over the plan period. The plant has a Population Equivalent (PE) of 9,000. The opportunity exists for further expansion of the current site should the need arise in the future. The level of growth in Monasterevin 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.

3.3.4 Surface Water Drainage

The Cassidy Stream, being a tributary of the River Barrow, is prone to flooding and surface water discharge to this stream shall not be encouraged.

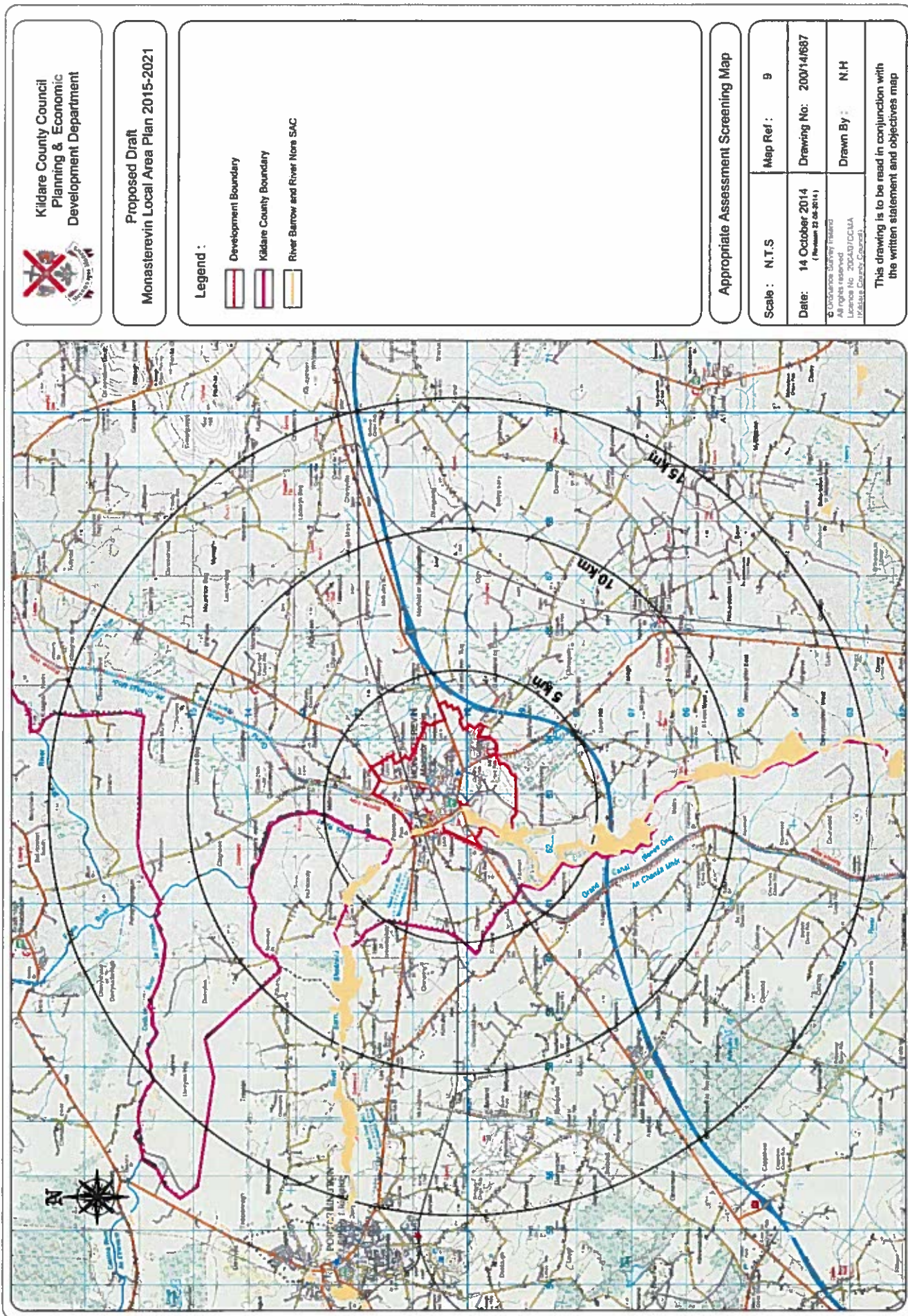
3.2.5 Groundwater Protection

Monasterevin is situated in the Bagenalstown 1 waterbody. The overall status of this waterbody is "Moderate and therefore requires action to improve its status. Kilcullen is situated on a regionally important sand and gravel aquifer with groundwater vulnerability in the area classified as High. The Geological Survey of Ireland has completed a Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Kildare. The overall aim of the groundwater protection scheme is to preserve the quality of groundwater, particularly for drinking water purposes, for the benefit of present and future generations. The scheme is not intended to have any statutory authority, but provides a framework for decision making and guidelines for the Council in carrying out its functions.

3.2.6 Flood Protection and Management

In line with "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)", the preparation of this plan was subject to Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The SFRA has recommended that development proposals for a number of areas within the Plan Boundary be the subject of site-specific flood risk assessment appropriate to the nature and scale of the development being proposed (refer to Map no. 2). Chapter 7 (Water, Drainage and Environmental Services) of the Kildare CDP 2011-2017 sets out the general policies, requirements and objectives which are to be applied for the purpose of ensuring that flood risk management is fully integrated into this plan.

Figure 1 Special Areas of Conservation within 15km of Monasterevin LAP boundary





3.4 River Barrow and River Nore SAC

This site consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford. The site passes through eight counties – Offaly, Kildare, Laois, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford. The main threats to the site and current damaging activities include high inputs of nutrients into the river system from agricultural run-off and several sewage plants, overgrazing within the woodland areas, and invasion by non-native species, for example Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*). The water quality of the site remains vulnerable. Good quality water is necessary to maintain the populations of the Annex II species for which the site is designated. Good quality is dependent on controlling fertilisation of the grasslands, particularly along the Nore. It also requires that sewage be properly treated before discharge. Drainage activities in the catchment can lead to flash floods which can damage the many Annex II species present. Capital and maintenance dredging within the lower reaches of the system pose a threat to migrating fish species such as lamprey and shad. Land reclamation also poses a threat to the salt meadows and the populations of legally protected species therein.

Overall, the site is of considerable conservation significance for the occurrence of good examples of habitats and of populations of plant and animal species that are listed on Annexes I and II of the E.U. Habitats Directive respectively. Furthermore it is of high conservation value for the populations of bird species that use it. The occurrence of several Red Data Book plant species including three rare plants in the salt meadows and the population of the hard water form of the Pearl Mussel which is limited to a 10 km stretch of the Nore, add further interest to this site. Table 1 shows the qualifying interests for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

SAC site	Site code	Qualifying interests	
		Annex I Habitats downstream of Monasterevin	Annex II species downstream of Monasterevin
River Barrow and River Nore SAC	2162	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) • Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) • White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) • Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)

Table 1 List of Natura 2000 sites (SAC and SPA) within 15km of the Monasterevin Local Area Plan and qualifying interests

3.5 Qualifying Features and Sensitivities

The importance of a site designated under the Habitats Directive is defined by its qualifying feature or interest. Qualifying interests for any Natura 2000 site are listed on a pro forma, called the Natura 2000 standard data form and forms the basis of the rationale behind designation, and informs the Conservation Management Plan for targeted management and monitoring of key species and habitats.

Qualifying interests for the River Barrow/River Nore SAC are given in Table 2 and Table 3, along with the specific sensitivities/ main threats relevant to each feature. The environmental sensitivities for each site have been derived from the baseline assessments of conservation status carried out by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as part of the report to the EU commission on The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, submitted in 2013.

Natura 2000 code	Qualifying Feature Annex I Habitats	Environmental Sensitivity/ Main Threats
3260	Floating river Vegetation Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho- Batrachion</i> vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water dependent • Highly sensitive to hydrological changes • Medium sensitivity to pollution • Spread of invasive species

Table 2 Annex I habitats and Environmental Sensitivities associated with River Barrow/River Nore SAC

Natura 2000 code	Qualifying Feature Annex II Species	Environmental Sensitivity/ Main Threats
1096	Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface Water Dependent • Highly sensitive to hydrological change
1029 1990	Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water dependent • Highly sensitive to hydrological change • Very highly sensitive to pollution
1092	Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface Water Dependent • Highly sensitive to hydrological change
1106	Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface Water Dependent • Highly sensitive to hydrological change
1355	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water dependent • Moderately sensitive to hydrological change
1016	Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater dependant • Highly sensitive to hydrological change

Table 3 Annex II Species and Environmental Sensitivities associated with the River Barrow/River Nore SAC downstream of Monasterevin

3.6 Conservation Objectives

The National Parks and Wildlife Service are in the process of preparing Conservation Management Plans for all Natura 2000 sites in the country. These plans will have a range of conservation objectives which relate to the protection and enhancement of habitats and populations of species for which these sites are designated. In relation to appropriate assessment, regard must be had to potential impacts arising from the plan on the conservation objectives for all Natura 2000 sites. The Natura 2000 sites's

Conservation Objectives are defined by DAHG and are, “intended to ensure that the relevant Annex I habitats and Annex II species present on a site are maintained in a favourable condition” (DEHLG, 2010). NPWS have provided generic Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 Sites such as:

- To maintain Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.²
- To maintain the extent species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.
- To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

Conservation objectives have been compiled for the qualifying interests of River Barrow/River Nore SAC. The conservation objectives for qualifying interests which may be impacted upon by the Monasterevin Local area Plan are listed below.

3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:		
Attribute	Measure	Target
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes
Hydrological regime: river flow	Metres per second	Maintain appropriate hydrological regimes
Hydrological regime: Groundwater discharge	Metres per second The groundwater flow to the habitat should be permanent	and sufficient to maintain tufa formation
Water chemistry: minerals	Milligrammes per litre	The groundwater and surface water should have sufficient concentrations of minerals to allow deposition and persistence of tufa deposits
Water quality: Suspended sediment	Milligrammes per litre	The concentration of suspended solids in the water column should be sufficiently low to prevent excessive deposition of fine sediments
Water quality: nutrients	Milligrammes per litre	The concentration of nutrients in the water column should be sufficiently low to prevent changes in species composition or habitat condition.
Vegetation composition: typical species	Occurrence	Typical species of the relevant habitat sub-type should be present and in good

² Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: “population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.”

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: “its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable”

		condition.
Floodplain connectivity	Area	The area of active floodplain at and upstream of the habitat should be maintained

1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Brook lamprey in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target
Distribution	% of river accessible	Access to all watercourses down to first order streams
Population structure of juveniles	Number of age/size groups	At least three age/size groups of brook/river lamprey present Juvenile density in fine sediment
Juvenile density in fine sediment	Juveniles/m ²	Mean catchment juvenile density of brook/river lamprey at least 2/m ²
Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	m ² and occurrence	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds
Availability of juvenile habitat	Number of positive sites in 2nd order channels (and greater), downstream of spawning areas	More than 50% of sample sites positive

1029 Freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Brook lamprey in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.³

1990 Nore freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera durrovensis*

To restore the favourable conservation condition of the Nore freshwater pearl mussel in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets

Attribute	Measure	Target
Distribution	Kilometres	Maintain at 15.5km
Population size: adult mussels	Number	Restore to 5,000 adult mussels
Population structure	Percentage per size class	Restore to at least 20% of population no more than 65mm in length; and at least 5% of population no more than 30mm in length
Population structure: Adult mortality	Percentage	No more than 5% decline from previous number of live adults counted; dead shells less than 1% of the adult population and scattered in distribution
Habitat extent	Kilometres	Restore suitable habitat in length of river corresponding to distribution target (15.5km; see map 7) and any additional stretches

³ The status of the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) as a qualifying Annex II species for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC is currently under review.

		necessary for salmonid spawning
Water quality: Macroinvertebrates and Phytobenthos (diatoms)	Ecological quality ratio (EQR)	Restore water quality macroinvertebrates: EQR greater than 0.90; phytobenthos: EQR greater than 0.93
Substratum quality: Filamentous algae (macroalgae), macrophytes (rooted higher plants)	Percentage	Restore substratum quality filamentous algae: absent or trace (<5%); macrophytes: absent or trace (<5%)
Substratum quality: sediment	Occurrence	Restore substratum quality stable cobble and gravel substrate with very little fine material; no artificially elevated levels of fine sediment
Substratum quality: Oxygen availability	Reduce potential	Restore to no more than 20% decline from water column to 5cm depth in substrate
Hydrological regime: Flow variability	Metres per second	Restore appropriate hydrological regimes
Host fish	Number	Maintain sufficient juvenile salmonids to host glochidial larvae

1092 White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of White-clawed crayfish in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets

Attribute	Measure	Target
Distribution	Occurrence	No reduction from baseline. The crayfish is present almost throughout this SAC.
Population structure recruitment:	Percentage occurrence of juveniles and females with eggs	Percentage occurrence of juveniles and females with eggs Juveniles and/or females with eggs in at least 50% of positive samples
Negative indicator Species	Occurrence	No alien crayfish species Alien crayfish species are identified as major direct threat to this species and as disease vector
Disease	Occurrence	No instances of disease. Disease is identified as major threat and has occurred in Ireland even in the absence of alien vectors.
Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q3-4 at all sites sampled by EPA
Habitat quality heterogeneity	Occurrence of positive habitat features	heterogeneity Occurrence of positive habitat features No decline in heterogeneity or habitat quality

1106 Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) (only in fresh water)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Salmon in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target
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Distribution: extent of anadromy	% of river accessible	100% of river channels down to second order accessible from estuary
Adult spawning fish	number	Conservation Limit (CL) for each system consistently exceeded
Salmon fry abundance	Number of fry/5 minutes electrofishing	Maintain or exceed 0+ fry mean catchment-wide abundance threshold value. Currently set at 17 salmon fry/5 min sampling
Out-migrating smolt abundance	Number	No significant decline
Number and distribution of redds	Number and occurrence	No decline in number and distribution of spawning redds due to anthropogenic causes
Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by EPA

1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Otter in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target
Distribution	Percentage positive survey sites	No significant decline
Extent of terrestrial habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 122.8ha above high water mark (HWM); 1136.0ha along river banks / around ponds
Extent of marine habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 857.7ha
Extent of freshwater (river) habitat	Kilometres	No significant decline. Length mapped and calculated as 616.6km
Extent of freshwater (lake) habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 2.6ha
Couching sites and holts	Number	No significant decline
Fish biomass available	Kilograms	No significant decline

1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Desmoulin's whorl snail in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute		Target
Distribution: occupied sites	Number	No decline.
Population size: Adults	Number per positive sample	At least 5 adults snails in at least 50% of samples
Population density	Percentage positive samples	Percentage positive samples Adult snails present in at least 60% of

		samples per site
Area of occupancy	Hectares	Minimum of 1ha of suitable habitat per site
Habitat quality: Vegetation	Percentage of samples with suitable vegetation	90% of samples in habitat classes I and II as defined in Moorkens & Killeen (2011)
Habitat quality: soil moisture levels	Percentage of samples with appropriate soil moisture levels	90% of samples in moisture class 3-4 as defined in Moorkens & Killeen (2011)

3.7 Documented threats to the Special Areas of Conservation

Documented threats to Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species in Ireland are presented in the 'Backing documents' and 'Form' for each habitat and species which are available at: <http://www.npws.ie/publications/article17assessments/article172013assessmentdocuments//>. Not all of these threats will apply to all SACs in which these habitats and species are present; however gathering information on the documented perceived threats to the qualifying features of the sites (and therefore to the Conservation Objectives of the sites and the integrity of the sites) is an important prerequisite for assessing what are the 'likely significant effects' on the sites resulting from the Plan. Threats include:

- reduction in habitat area
- disturbance to key species
- habitats or species fragmentation
- reduction in species density
- changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.)

It is important to realise that many of these threats do not necessarily represent activities that occur within the boundary of the Natura 2000 site. This applies in particular to aquatic features and systems which can be affected by impact sources that occur a large distance from the site.

3.8 Assessment Criteria

3.8.1 The key aspects of the Plan which could give rise to direct/indirect impacts to Natura 2000 sites will principally be related to zonings, the Local Area Plan objectives, infrastructural provision and upgrades, as well as recreational infrastructure and activities.

3.8.1 The main threats to Natura 2000 sites in general arise from the density of population present in the Monasterevin area in close proximity to the sites. Human pressure on the sites can be manifested in a number of ways either directly in the form of land take, trampling and disturbance by people themselves; or indirectly, for example, in the form of water quality deterioration resulting from sewage effluent and storm water discharges. The relative importance of these potential impacts will vary from site to site depending on the particular circumstances of the site and the human pressure in the vicinity. Related to the Local Area Plan for Monasterevin is the need for adequate recreational facilities. If located in or adjacent to a protected site, such developments can have likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites. Similarly, provision of footpaths and cycleways within and close to Natura 2000 sites can have predicted and unforeseen negative impacts.

3.8.2 The provision of infrastructure is also a key consideration including wastewater treatment, surface water drainage systems and waste management facilities. The Natura 2000 site within the Monasterevin Local Area Plan area, River Barrow and Nore SAC may be directly impacted by land take

for infrastructural development or through pollution of these sensitive sites; therefore, it is essential that zonings take account of the direct and indirect impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

3.8.3 Impacts arising from the implementation of objectives of the Draft Plan which could cause significant impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites include activities which give rise to:

- direct impacts on habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive and for which the site is designated;
- reduction in the area of any habitats within the site;
- direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) in the Natura 2000 site;
- serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity);
- direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated;
- activities which interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects.
-

It is essential that the zonings and infrastructural objectives of the plan and developments that might arise on foot thereof take account of these direct and indirect impacts and ensure adequate buffering and other mitigation measures are put in place. Objectives of the plan that will contribute towards the protection of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive have been included in the plan.

3.8.4 All of the proposed objectives and zonings were reviewed as part of the screening process. Consideration was given to direct and indirect impacts which may arise from activities which could be encouraged by objectives contained in the Draft Plan. Such activities could include new residential, commercial, infrastructural, recreational or other development which may give rise to direct impacts on habitats or species (loss of habitat, disturbance to species); as well as activities which could have indirect impacts (e.g. activities which could affect water quality or hydrology which could in turn affect the status/health of populations of water dependant habitats or species). Table 4 identifies any any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Natura 2000 sites without consideration of mitigation policies/objectives⁴ and table 5 identifies likely Changes to Natura 2000 Sites without mitigation policies/ objectives.

⁴ This table is derived from European Commission Environment DG document "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".

Name of SAC	Direct Impacts	Indirect/Secondary	Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.)	Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)	Excavation Requirements	Transportation Requirements	Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning
River Barrow And River Nore	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	None	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts	Potential Impacts

Table 4 any potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites⁵.

3.8.5 All of the proposed objectives and zonings were reviewed to determine if there are any likely changes to the SAC arising as a result of implementation of the Monasterevin LAP. Table 5 identifies likely Changes to Natura 2000 Sites without mitigation policies/ objectives.

There is no provision within the plan for zoning of lands within the SAC and the majority of the lands adjacent to the SAC are zoned open space or agricultural. There is a requirement for all projects to Appropriate Assessment Screening under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and a full AA will be carried out where necessary.

This is a land-use plan in the context of the Planning & Development Acts and sets the broad parameters under which lands can be developed and used. The plan has limited role in influencing the operation of agriculture, which is bound by compliance S.I. No. 378 of 200 - European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2006.

The plan does however have a role in influencing the location, type and operation of industrial activities (other than those activities that are regulated by the EPA through IPC Licences). Through normal planning control measures with regard to wastes and emissions, which will be reinforced in this proposed plan, no development shall be facilitated that would result in industrial pollution. The draft Monasterevin Plan includes as an objective to develop a blueway cycling and walking route along the Barrow Navigation between Monasterevin, Co. Kildare and St. Mullins, Co. Carlow. This project has under gone initial screening under the Habitats Directive. The screening concluded that the overall project would have no significant impact on any Natura 2000 site. It is proposed to submit a proposal for the Kildare portion of the route which will undergo a more detailed appropriate assessment screening as required by the objectives of this plan.

The draft Monasterevin Plan includes as an objective to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian bridge across the River Barrow linking The Hulk lands and the Town Centre. This proposal will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment Screening as detailed in the relevant objective.

While the proposed plan will allow an increase in the town population, it is not considered that this growth will result in additional use of the Barrow particularly as the lands are predominately in private ownership.

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
River Barrow And River Nore SAC	None	Potential Impacts	None	None	Potential Impacts	None

Table 5 Likely Changes to Natura 2000 Sites

3.8.6 Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combinations with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon Natura 2000 sites. Table 6 lists the plans or projects that may interact with the Monasterevin LAP to cause in-combination effects to Natura 2000 sites. The plans or projects are listed according to a spatial hierarchy of International, National, Regional/Local Projects and Plans.

Directive	Purpose	In-combination Effects
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	This directive establishes a regime, which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding. With trends such as climate change and increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones, this poses a threat of flooding in	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure such as flood walls or flood defences. Avoidance on, or near protected

	coastal and river basin areas.	areas should be implemented or where this is not possible, favouring infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the plan.
Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further pollution.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality
The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality
The Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (96/61/EC)	Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land from industrial sources.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality
National Development Plan 2007-2013	Objectives of the NDP are to promote more balanced spatial and economic development.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure.
National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020	Objectives of the NSS are to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by more effective planning.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure.
Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022	Policy document which aims to direct the future growth of the Greater Dublin Area over the medium to long term and works to implement the strategic planning framework set out in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS)	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure.
Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area	The Dublin Transportation Office (DTO) 'A Platform for Change 2000-2016' seeks the development of an efficient and high	No in-combination impacts will arise as no infrastructure under this strategy will affect the River

	quality system of public transport connections within the Greater Dublin Area.	Barrow/River Nore SAC
Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017	The Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 due for adoption in April 2011 has been prepared having regard to the NSS, the RPGs and various Government guidelines. It sets out the context for future development in County Kildare and includes a core strategy, development objectives, a settlement hierarchy, and policies for the protection of the environment.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure

Table 6 Plans & Projects Likely to Cause In-Combination Effects

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

All policies and objectives have been assessed to determine if they are likely to cause impacts on the SAC which may be determined to be significant. Policies and objectives which may give rise to impacts on the SAC without consideration of mitigation policies/ objectives are listed in table 7. Mitigation policies and objectives listed in the plan have also been identified. When mitigation policies and objectives are considered as detailed in Section significant impacts no not arise.

Policy/ Objective	Impact from Monasterevin LAP	Risk of Significant Impact to qualifying interests	Mitigation policy or objective
<p>Core Strategy</p> <p>PD 1: To monitor carefully the scale, rate and location of newly permitted developments and implement appropriate development management measures to ensure compliance with the core strategy including population targets and to achieve the delivery of strategic plan led and coordinated, balanced development within the town.</p>	<p>Increased use of the River. Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. NH2, GIO2 , SRO7, C6, FRA5, FRA7, GI1-G14, ARO3</p> <p>Measures outlined in section 6.11 to protect quality of surface water entering the SAC</p>
<p>6.4 Tourism Development</p> <p>T 1: To continue to work closely with key stakeholders in the tourism industry including Kildare Fáilte, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Services, in order to develop the overall tourist and economic potential of the town, with particular emphasis on the River Barrow and Grand Canal.</p>	<p>Increased use of river. Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat.</p>	<p>Riverside walks will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. NH2, GIO2 SRO7, C6, FRA5, FRA7, GI1-G14, ARO3</p>
<p>T 2: To recognise and improve the existing tourism resources of Monasterevin, including the Grand Canal and River Barrow waterside amenity activities such as walking, cycling, angling and boating and to facilitate their further enhancement.</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Riverside walks will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>

<p>TO 3: To support the development of green and blue ways by Waterways Ireland and adjoining authorities along with the National Transport Authority in Monasterevin through the implementation of the objectives and actions set out in the relevant plans.</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Riverside walks will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>
<p>TO 4: To promote the development of and enhance all walking routes within the town, as indicated (Transportation and Movement Objectives) on Map 2.</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Riverside walks will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>
<p>6.10 Movement and Transport PCO 3: To facilitate the implementation of the objectives set out in the NTA Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan 2013 and the River Barrow Cycling Trail Feasibility Study carried out by DECLG and LEADER along with other local authorities and public bodies.</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Riverside walks will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>
<p>PCO 4: To facilitate the implementation of the objective set out by Waterways Ireland to develop the Barrow Blueway, an integrated walking, cycling and recreational amenity trail.</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Development of riverside walks of cycling paths will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>

<p>PCO 7: To investigate the feasibility and promote the provision of a recreational pedestrian/cycle route through Moore Abbey Demesne and Moore Abbey Woods and along the banks of the River Barrow.</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Development of riverside walks of cycling paths will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>
<p>6.10.3 Streets and Road Infrastructure SRO 7: To investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian bridge across the River Barrow linking The Hulk lands and the Town Centre. This proposal will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment Screening to determine if the proposed development will have impacts on the c SAC</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Development of a pedestrian bridge across the River Barrow will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3, SRO7</p>
<p>FRA 8: To ensure that the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowance for dry weather flow conditions to be reflected in channel cross-section; • Appropriate programming of any 'in-stream works' to reflect the requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland. 	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>All flood alleviation measures will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>
<p>FRO 1: To carry out a programme of dredging surface water drains and to continue to ensure that the</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat.</p>	<p>Dredging of drains will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS.</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>

drains are regularly maintained to minimise the risk of flooding	Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality	Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts	
6.14.2 Community C 6: To support the development of a park by Monasterevin Tidy Towns Committee on KCC owned lands adjacent to the Fire Station, subject to an Appropriate Assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.	Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality	Development of park will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts	Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7, C6 Objective ARO3
6.19 Recreation, Amenity and Open Spaces AR 6: To facilitate the development of additional mooring facilities at the Canal Harbour including floating moors and secure gangways and any additional measures that are deemed appropriate.	Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality	Expansion of mooring facilities will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts	Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3
Recreation – Objectives ARO 1: To support the development of the Barrow Blueway along the Barrow Line & Barrow Navigation.	Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality	Development of riverside walks of cycling paths will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts	Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3
ARO 2: To develop canal side and river side cycling and pedestrian route ways in conjunction with all	Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat.	Development of riverside walks of cycling paths will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI	Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3

<p>relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies. This development shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A linear parkland area where appropriate. • High quality seating arrangements. • Where appropriate the provision of high quality, well-lit cycling and pedestrian route. • The planting of a mixture of semi mature and mature trees for the length of the linear park, both formally and informally. 	<p>Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	
<p>ARO 3: To create, where possible, a 50m set back either side of the River Barrow where possible, to create a linear park and pedestrian/cycle greenway linking back into the route ways identified in Moore Abbey Demesne and Woods, the Canal and also throughout the town</p>	<p>Disturbance to riparian banks along River Barrow including Otter habitat. Removal of riparian habitat. Discharge of sediments and suspended solids to River Barrow and temporary deterioration of water quality</p>	<p>Development of a linear park will require AA screening at project level and consultation with IFI and NPWS. Mitigation measures re proximity of walks to river edge and avoidance of suitable otter habitat will reduce potential for significant adverse impacts</p>	<p>Policy NH 2, GIO2, FRA7 Objective ARO3</p>

Table 6 Policies and objectives which may lead to impacts on SAC.

3.9 Mitigation Measures

A review of the policies and objectives included in the draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan indicated that there is a risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the River Barrow/River Nore SAC unless appropriate mitigation is undertaken. Mitigation measures in the form of specific objectives and policies designed to protect the environment are provided to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive Article 6 requirements by integrating measures for the protection of Natura 2000 sites into all policy areas covered by the proposed plan. Mitigating policies clearly indicate that where any physical development, such as housing, commercial development, roads, service infrastructure or any other form of development, has the potential to significantly impact on a Natura 2000 site, it will be subject to an individual Appropriate Assessment process, as defined by Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.

In particular the plan includes the following policies and objectives:

- 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 provides sufficient detail illustrating how it will limit any possible impact upon the designated site and will include proposals for appropriate amelioration. All plans or projects must undergo an Appropriate Assessment Screening under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and a full AA will be carried out where necessary. In all such cases the National Parks and Wildlife Section of the DAHG shall be consulted.
- GIO 2: To ensure that all appropriate surveys and ecological assessments have been carried out, where deemed necessary prior to submission of a planning application. Particular attention should be given to the requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening where necessary and seasonally-dependent ecological surveys such as bat surveys
- SRO 7: To investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian bridge across the River Barrow linking The Hulk lands and the Town Centre. This proposal will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment Screening to determine if the proposed development will have impacts on the c SAC.
- C6: To support the development of a park by Monasterevin Tidy Towns Committee on KCC owned lands adjacent to the Fire Station, subject to an Appropriate Assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.
- FRA 5: 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 (GDSDS) for treating and controlling the discharge of surface water from developments
- FRA7: To create Buffer Zones between development and the River Barrow and the Grand Canal. The extent and form of the buffer zones shall be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist and following a Flood Risk Assessment where appropriate. 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 River Barrow and not less than 5m in the case of other watercourses.
- ARO 3: To create, where possible, a 50m set back either side of the River Barrow where possible, to create a linear park and pedestrian/cycle greenway linking back into the route ways identified in Moore Abbey Demesne and Woods, the Canal and also throughout the town.

In addition to the above mentioned objectives, other policies/objectives, which will serve to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive and the protection of the Natura 2000 network, have also been included in the Plan.

GI 1: To protect the Green Infrastructure of Monasterevin (Refer to Map 6) and to maintain existing ecological linkages with the surrounding countryside, with designated sites within the town and with other significant habitats within the town boundary.

GI 2: To conserve and protect the Green infrastructure, all planning applications on undeveloped sites must:

- (a) Have regard to the Site Specific Target Notes and detailed Habitat Mapping carried out for Monasterevin, set out in the supplementary report on Green Infrastructure which accompanies this plan.
- (b) Identify all ecological habitats and corridors, which are present on the proposed development lands (including hedgerows and masonry stonewalls) that are likely to be affected by the development proposal.
- (c) Identify any losses to these habitats and corridors, which would result if the development proceeds.
- (d) Show how such losses would be fully offset through the replacement of the relevant habitats with similar native species or by enhancing these habitats (preferably prior to any habitat loss).
- (e) Include a landscaping and habitat management plan for the proposed development with details of how any green infrastructure proposed as part of the development (e.g. green open spaces, hedgerows, tree lines, etc.) contribute positively to the development and protection of the overall green infrastructure assets of Monasterevin as identified on Map 6 and how it protects and enhances linkages to the wider natural landscape features.

GI 3: To identify, protect, conserve, and enhance, wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats may include woodland, river, grassland areas and field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). Such features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish. Once a locally important habitat has been identified it shall be surveyed to establish its significance and a site-specific conservation plan prepared to establish development guidelines for the area.

GI 4: To seek the protection of the following trees and groups of trees of special amenity value at the following locations:

- (i) Within Moore Abbey Demesne
- (ii) Drogheda Street
- (iii) Along the River Barrow
- (iv) Around Togher House
- (v) Around the Parochial House
- (vi) In the grounds of Monasterevin Convent Primary School, Drogheda Street

- (vii) Two trees at intersection of Whelan and Drogheda Streets
- (viii) Two trees outside Tyna Knitware, Whelan Row
- (ix) Open space outside the new cemetery
- (x) Along the front of the Glanbia site
- (xi) In the grounds of 'The Hulk'
- (xii) The row of large mature beech trees in the grounds of 'Beech Lodge', Gorteenoon, Nurney Road.

GI 5: To prohibit development where it is likely that damage would be caused either to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order or, to those which have a particular local amenity or nature conservation value. Development that requires the felling of mature trees of amenity value, conservation value or special interest notwithstanding the fact that they may not be listed in this plan, will be discouraged.

GI 6: To seek the provision of links between larger areas of green infrastructure (particularly areas of public open space) where appropriate.

GI 7: To ensure biodiversity conservation and /or enhancement measures, as appropriate, are included in all proposals for new development. Particular notice should be given to European Protected Species such as bats, otters, kingfisher and other protected species.

GI 8: To ensure that green infrastructure provision and management does not lead to the spread of invasive species and to encourage the early treatment of such species by landowners where possible to avoid their further spread.

GI 9: To ensure all planting within developments gives preference to the planting of native species where possible and that alien and invasive species are avoided wherever possible on planting specifications

GI 10: To ensure old stone walls are protected where appropriate and that the contribution they make to green infrastructure is protected.

GI 11: To support the enhancement and correct management of semi natural grasslands within new developments and existing amenity grassland areas.

GI 12: To ensure that valuable hedgerows, identified on Map 6, and the linkages that they provide to larger areas of green infrastructure and the wider countryside, are retained where appropriate and integrated into the design of new developments.

GI 13: To encourage the development and appropriate management of small wooded areas within new developments.

GI 14: To seek the creation of new wetlands (e.g. swales or constructed wetland basins) and/or enhancement of existing wetland habitat (particularly within the floodplain of the River Barrow) through the provision for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW) where appropriate.

GI 15: To seek to protect the views and prospects identified on Map 5 and to ensure that all development in the proximity of the River Barrow and Grand Canal do not detract from the views and prospects along these waterways.

GI 16: To identify the primary Green Infrastructure areas across the town which would most benefit from reinforcing and strengthening their biodiversity value.

The policies and objectives outlined in section 6.11 will protect the quality of surface water entering the SAC:

SW 1: To ensure that no further surface water discharges shall be permitted to Cassidy's Stream and to prohibit the culverting of Cassidy's Stream.

SW 2: 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 3: To divert, where feasible, existing surface water drainage away from combined sewers, during remedial works in order to free up capacity in the foul sewer network.

SW 4: 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 5: To ensure the implementation of the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.

SW 6: To require on site surface water attenuation measures if, in the opinion of the council, a development is likely to cause flooding or potential destructive storm surges in existing water courses.

SW 7: To require surface water runoff to pass through an oil/petrol/silt interceptor prior to discharging to groundwater, existing sewers or surface water.

SW 8: To maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface water and ground waters by implementing the Programme of Measures contained in the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015.

SW 9: To require surface water drainage plans to have regard to the policies and objectives of Section 6.18 (Green Infrastructure) of this Plan.

SWO1: To undertake a feasibility study in order to determine the necessity for the upgrading of the storm/surface water drainage system in Monasterevin to include the following areas: Skirteen,

Hazel Hotel area, Kildare Road, Dublin Road, Kill, Gurteenooona and determine if such areas can be best served by ground infiltration.

Cowpasture or otherwise to

SWO2: To improve the provision of water and drainage services in new developments and in those areas of the town where deficiencies exist.

SWO3: To carry out a survey of the surface water culverts in Monasterevin to assess their current state, and to improve culverts where necessary.

SWO4: To carry out a programme of dredging surface water drains in Monasterevin and to continue to ensure that the drains are regularly maintained to minimise the risk of flooding.

SWO5: To promote sustainable water conservation initiatives, particularly for larger developments including rainwater harvesting, re-use of grey water and improved leakage control.

SWO6: To promote rainwater harvesting as a complementary surface water management system in all developments and in particular for larger developments.

3.10 Screening Conclusions

On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and by applying the precautionary principle, it is concluded that the draft Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site and will not have significant impacts on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required. A Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix has been completed and is presented in Section 4 of this Screening Statement.

4 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT MATRIX

Name of project or Plan	Draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2015-2021
Name and location of Natura 2000 Site	<p>Pollardstown Fen SAC; Mouds Bog SAC; Red Bog Kildare SAC; River Barrow and River Nore SAC; Slaney River Valley SAC; and Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA.</p>
Description of the project or Plan	<p>The 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 CDP aims to direct population growth into the Metropolitan urban areas of the county but also into key towns and villages in the hinterland area including Naas, Newbridge, Athy, Kildare, Monasterevin and Kilcullen.</p> <p>The CDP also emphasises the need to protect the built heritage, unique landscape, natural heritage and biodiversity of the county for their intrinsic value and as resources for the tourist economy of the future. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 have designated Monasterevin as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town which is reinforced in the CDP settlement strategy with the town being targeted for consolidated growth by allowing it to develop in a self sufficient manner, reducing commuting levels and ensuring sustainable levels of housing growth while providing a full range of local services adequate to meet local needs at district level and for surrounding rural areas.</p> <p>Future Development Strategy</p> <p>The strategy for the future development of Monasterevin is based upon the principles established in the previous LAP 2008 and the framework provided by the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017. It provides a blueprint for the development of Monasterevin town for the period 2015-2021, setting out a vision for the area, specifying the type, amount and quality of development needed to achieve that vision while seeking to protect and enhance the natural and built environment while promoting the attractions and amenities of the town.</p> <p>The vision for the town is to build on its strengths and to provide a focussed approach to planning for future development in a coherent sustainable manner. It is envisaged that Monasterevin will continue to grow over the short to medium term to achieve a critical mass which will support increased competitiveness, sustainable and create opportunities for local economic development and employment opportunities. The development of the town will be supported by a range of residential, employment, recreational, community, retail,</p>

tourism and educational facilities appropriate for a town of its size. The strategic direction for the future development of Monasterevin will focus on

1. Economic Development
2. Town Centre Consolidation and Improvement
3. Planning for residential expansion
4. Retail Development
5. Protection of the Natural and Built Heritage

This LAP identifies specific policies and objectives applicable to Monasterevin in order to facilitate land use in a manner that will promote proper planning and sustainable development. 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. A summary of the key policies and objectives are grouped under the following headings:

Compliance with the Core Strategy to achieve sustainable growth

To ensure that the future development of Monasterevin is in accordance with the Core Strategy of the Kildare CDP 2011-2017, the plan provides for the zoning of lands for residential and employment uses. A framework is also established for the town's sustainable growth through the incorporation of policies in relation to, housing mix, community development and new housing provision.

Enterprise, Industry and Economic Development

Monasterevin must develop in a self sufficient manner reducing commuting levels and ensuring sustainable levels of housing growth, providing a full range of local services adequate to meet local needs at district level and for surrounding rural areas. The plan sets out policies and objectives that build on the town's economic and heritage strengths to create a unique tourism destination while also maximising lands strategically located to provide for future new employment areas.

Retail and Town Centre Uses

The potential of Monasterevin to operate as a national tourist and local retailing destination is advocated by combining and marketing the town and environs as a unique heritage, tourism and retail offer. The plan sets out policies and objectives that reinforce the town centre while encouraging the re use and regeneration of vacant buildings and sites within the town centre area. Significant opportunities exist for the re-use and regeneration of land and buildings within the town centre area. The protection of built heritage and the integration of new retail development within the existing historic urban form is also a key objective of this plan.

Urban Design and Town Centre Development

The importance of Monasterevin's townscape qualities which are derived from its historic urban structure are in the plan a detailed

urban design analysis of the existing townscape is set out together with policies and objectives specific to the future development of the town. The regeneration of strategic sites within the town are advocated and comprise Dublin Street, Market Square and Main Street (including Moore Abbey entrance and the junction treatment between both streets) These design briefs have been prepared to assist in the planning process by setting out broad design parameters for the future development of these sites. The plan encourages the regeneration and conservation of the town centre by using best practice urban design principles.

Movement and Transport

The improvement of transportation infrastructure in Monasterevin is a key element of sustainable development of the town. Policies and objectives are outlined to promote integrated land use and transportation planning to further support and encourage more sustainable modes of travel. The plan also sets out specific policies for local improvements in and around the town centre and objectives to secure routes for longer term roads infrastructure.

Water, Drainage and Environmental Services

The adequacy of water, drainage and environmental services is necessary to facilitate the sustainable development of the town. These issues are addressed in various policies and objectives to provide for sufficient water, wastewater and water drainage infrastructure to service the predicted requirements of the town over the plan period and beyond. Relevant legislative requirements in relation to environmental requirements are also set out including policies and objectives relating to flood risk requirements.

Energy and Communications

The development of a more sustainable approach to energy use, power generation and energy efficiency in all sectors is vital to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes focussing on renewable energy generation and improving energy efficiency.

Educational, Community and Cultural

The provision of education and community facilities to support the projected population levels for Monasterevin are recognised. In this regard a site within Moore Abbey Demesne has been identified for the provision of a new school while the improvement of local community facilities and sports facilities together with the need to encourage the shared use of existing facilities is advocated. The remainder of Moore Abbey Demesne located within the town boundary is zoned for Community and Educational purposes.

Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

The protection and enhancement of the unique built heritage and streetscape in Monasterevin is one of the core objectives of this plan. Policies and objectives have been incorporated which seek to protect, preserve and enhance the town's archaeology, built heritage

	<p>and townscape.</p> <p>Natural Heritage and Biodiversity The importance of green infrastructure and its contribution to the town is recognised. This plan includes basic maps and describes the green infrastructure of Monasterevin including relevant policies for its protection and enhancement. Policies and objectives are also included to ensure the protection of the River Barrow (SAC) and the Grand Canal (p NHA).</p> <p>Recreation, Amenity and Open Space The plan recognises the importance of the existing natural amenities in the town and outlines clear objectives to expand and enhance the provision of these key natural assets. Lands have been designated for open space and amenity purposes, in Moore Abbey and along the River Barrow to preserve these amenities for future generations and to avoid inappropriate development. A series of existing and planned local green ways/cycle/pedestrian routes are also identified for recreation, tourism and residential use and to increase permeability within and around the town.</p> <p>Note: All the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan 2011-2017 are applicable to all settlements in County Kildare. These policies and objectives have already been assessed for effects on Natura 2000 Sites through the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process in preparing the CDP 2011-2017.</p>
<p>Is the project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Are there other projects or Plans that together with the project or Plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?</p>	<p>Kildare County Development Plan 20011-2017; Greater Dublin Area Regional Planning Guidelines 2010; National Spatial Strategy; Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area National Development Plan 2007-2013 Eastern RBD Management Plan; Water Services Investment 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. EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC) EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) The Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (96/61/EC)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Assessment of Significance of Effects</p>	

Describe how the project or Plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.	The main threats to Natura 2000 sites in general arise from the density of population present in the Monasterevin area in close proximity to the sites. Human pressure on the sites can be manifested in a number of ways either directly in the form of land take, trampling and disturbance by people themselves; or indirectly, for example, in the form of water quality deterioration resulting from sewage effluent and storm water discharges. Related to the Local Area Plan for Monasterevin is the need for adequate recreational facilities The provision of footpaths and cycleways within and close to the SAC can have predicted and unforeseen negative impacts.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant.	The inclusion of policies NH2, GIO2 , SRO7, C6, FRA5, FRA7, GI1-G14, ARO3 shall reduce the impact of the implementation of the Monasterevin LAP as will Measures outlined in section 6.11 to protect quality of surface water entering the SAC. The policies G1-G14 will also protect the SAC. Therefore it is considered that these impacts will not be significant.
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or email address	Agencies will be consulted on the draft plan and draft AA screening report.
Response to consultation.	
Data Collected to Carry Out the Assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	Bridget Loughlin, Heritage Officer KCC
Sources of data	NPWS database Information from Kildare County Council
Level of assessment completed	Desktop
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?	Kildare County Council
Overall Conclusion	Overall Conclusion Stage 1 Screening indicates that the draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan alone and in combination with other plans and programmes 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 is not required.

5. Next Steps

This report documents the potential for impact of the draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan on Natura 2000 Sites. The assessment process is iterative and recommendations for change emerging from this report will be incorporated into the Monasterevin Local Area Plan as it is being finalised.

A review of all amendments proposed to be made to the LAP arising from the consultation process will be carried out when the redrafting of the plan is complete, to assess whether any of these have the potential to have impacts on Natura 2000 sites within the potential impact zone. The final Natura Impact Report and Conclusion Statement will be issued on completion of the plan making process. Subject to incorporation of all of the amendments recommended in this document, no significant impacts are predicted on any Natura 2000 sites within the impact zone of this plan.

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