

Kildare County Council

Naas Local Area Plan 2019-2023

Draft Naas Local Area Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening
Report

Report Ref

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

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

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This draft Screening Report to inform Appropriate Assessment for the Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2019-2023 has been prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd. (Arup) on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC). It has been prepared to inform KCC, the competent authority, of the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 Sites.

This document forms part of this initial stage of the plan making process. The draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2019-2023 is being considered to assess if there is likely to be a significant adverse effect on any Natura 2000 sites. Following the public consultation period, any proposed amendments will be further assessed in order to assess any potential impacts arising. This proactive approach allows for the adjustment of the policies, objectives and proposals of the Plan prior to adoption. This approach will avoid significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from implementation of the LAP.

1.2 The Requirement for Habitats Directive Assessment

Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA), also known as Appropriate Assessment (AA), is a requirement under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Habitats Directive indicates the need for plans and projects to be subject to Appropriate Assessment if the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site but is likely to have a significant effect either individually or in combination with other plans or projects on Natura 2000 sites.

1.3 The Purpose of Appropriate Assessment

The purpose of an AA is to identify the possible effects of implementing a plan (or project) on the conservation status of designated Natura 2000 sites within the sphere of influence of the plan (or project). Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna – the ‘Habitats Directive’ provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Habitats Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of interest to the EU in a favourable condition. The Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997.

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken for any plan or program that is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site. Article 6 paragraph 3 states:

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

Therefore, an AA is an evaluation of the potential impacts of a plan on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, and the development, where necessary, of mitigation or avoidance measures to preclude adverse effects. In a situation where it is not possible to fully demonstrate that adverse effects on the site integrity would occur, options must be explored so that any risk of damaging designated sites is avoided.

Plans can only be adopted after having ascertained that there will be no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the sites in question. Components within a plan, such as policies and objectives, can be adjusted or removed to avoid significant adverse impacts prior to implementation. The plan may also proceed if sufficient mitigation or compensation measures are in place to ensure the overall integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

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 is then required to determine if the next step, a Stage 2 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(s).

1.4 Habitats Directive Assessment Process in relation to the Preparation of the Naas LAP

In the preparation of this report to inform AA by the competent authority the following documents have been reviewed:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009);
- European Commissions: Managing Natura 2000 Sites. The provisions of Article 6, of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Commission: 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;
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC; and

- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Circular letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 dated 15 February 2008.

This screening report is based on available ecological information and an adequate description of the plan and its likely environmental impacts. It also takes into account any policies that will set the terms for future development. The results of the screening are recorded and will be made available to the public.

In any case where, following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the plan must be carried out and - in any case where a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out.

When the results of the Stage 2 AA under Article 6(3) are negative or uncertain then the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive apply. That is:

- The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site; and,
- Doubts remain as to the absence of adverse effects on the integrity of the site linked to the plan or project concerned.

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

There are a number of methodologies in use for the characterisation and assessment of potential impacts and effects. This assessment broadly follows the approach specified by the professional association for ecologists, the Chartered Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Management (CIEEM), which encourages a case by case assessment and description of impacts rather than relying on a strictly defined set of characters. This acknowledges the variation in the effects of impacts depending on the receptors involved. Guidance highlights the iterative nature of the assessment process "As with other forms of impact assessment, the AA process is an iterative one and the information gathered in respect of Natura 2000 sites, their conservation objectives, environmental sensitivities and existing environmental problems, should be used to guide the policies and objectives of the plan and to avoid impacts on the sites" (DOEHLG 2010). Where later work has allowed a clear and unambiguous screening out of an impact, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, the screening section has been revised to account for this.

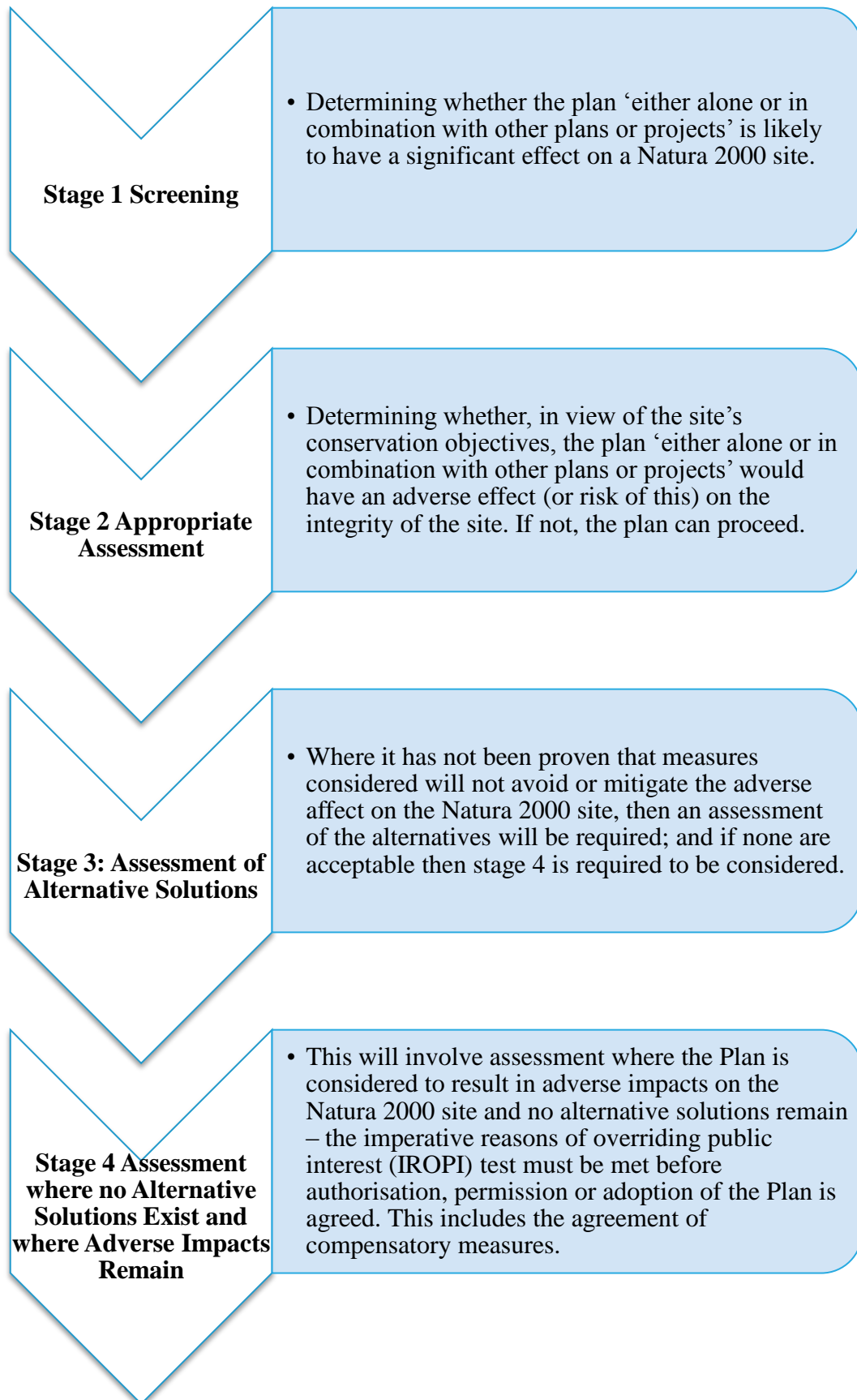


Figure 1: Four-stage approach to Appropriate Assessment

1.5 Overview of Stage One Screening

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

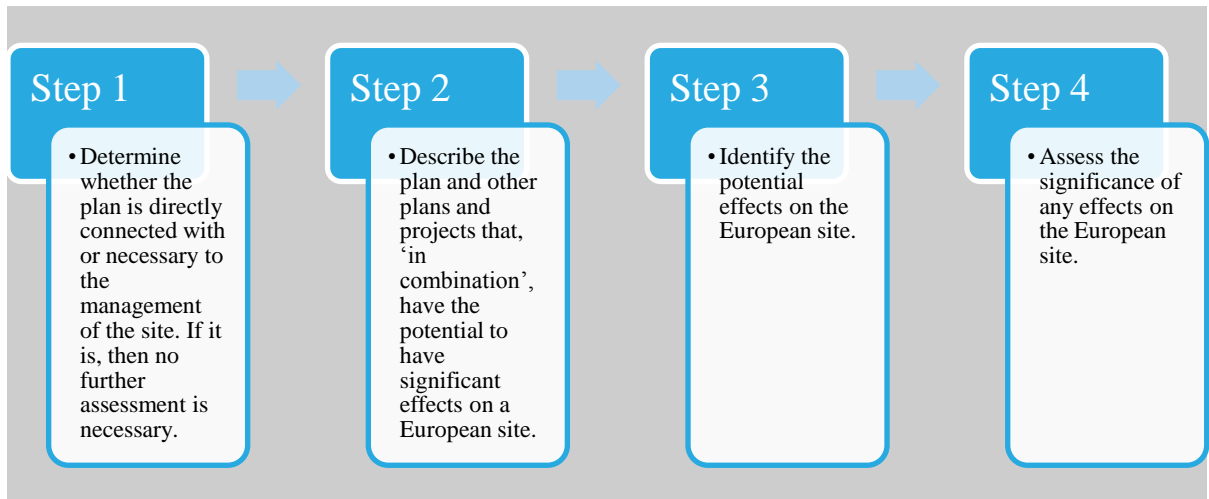


Figure 2: Steps in Stage 1 Screening

As the draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2019-2023 is a land use plan and not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 site, this assessment will proceed to step two of the process.

1.6 Appropriate Assessment Process in Tandem with LAP Progression

As the LAP is progressed through the plan making process the appropriate assessment process will be continued in tandem by the competent authority, KCC, and will inform the decision-making process in terms of any likely significant impacts arising from the LAP on Natura 2000 sites.

This report contains the findings of the assessment which was carried out on the draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2019-2023. It also contains recommendations for modifications to objectives and/or policies where applicable to prevent any risk of impact to all Natura 2000 sites arising from implementation of the plan.

1.7 Data Sources

This AA screening report of Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2019-2023 for potential significant effects on a European or Natura 2000 site is based on a review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;

- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Eastern River Basin District River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 (National River Basin Management Plans 2015-2021) from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2013a and 2013b);
- National Biodiversity Data Centre - Biodiversity Maps;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 Natura Impact Report; and
- Ecological reports and EIS/EIAR reports for proposed developments within LAP lands.

1.8 Consultation

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

2 Description of the Plan and other Plans and Projects

2.1 Introduction

The plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site therefore this report moves directly onto the second step of the Stage One Screening process.

Detailed below is the second step of the Stage One Screening process which provides a description of the plan and other plans and projects that, 'in combination', have the potential to have significant effects on a European or Natura 2000 site.

2.2 Description of the Draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2019-2023

2.2.1 Introduction

The Draft LAP provides the main public statement of planning policies and objectives for Naas. The policies and objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development as the LAP is the primary statutory land use policy framework against which planning applications are assessed.

The objectives of the LAP are also used by Kildare County Council to guide their activities and to indicate priority areas for action and investment by the Council such as focusing on attracting employment into the town or enhancing the town as a centre for tourism.

The LAP is a key document for setting out a vision for how Naas should develop over the years 2019-2023 and beyond. The Draft LAP is consistent with the objectives set out in the following documents:

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework
- Draft Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031
- The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022;
- Greater Dublin Area Transportation Study 2016-2035;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021;
- County Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2011; and
- County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014.

2.2.2 Vision and Development Strategy

A key aim of any local area plan is to set out the vision and development strategy for the future development of the plan area and from this vision, all policies and objectives can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this vision.

The vision and development strategy for the Draft LAP must be consistent with the ‘Core Strategy’ of the County Development Plan and reflect the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of the plan area.

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

The vision for the Draft LAP is:

“To ensure that the growth planned for the town up to 2040 and beyond occurs in a sustainable and sequential manner, while prioritising a low carbon, compact, consolidated and connected pattern of development. To develop Naas as a vibrant and culturally rich town supported by an inclusive sustainable all-of-life residential community.

The emphasis of this Plan is to create a distinct sense of place and community in which people will continue to choose to live, work, do business and visit. Movement, connectivity and permeability to key destinations within the town and wider region will be prioritised and a greater emphasis on safe active transport routes and an enhanced public transport network.

The Plan seeks to deliver and facilitate high quality transformative projects, such as McAuley Place. It will focus on the regeneration and redevelopment of Core Regeneration Areas in tandem with a radically improved public realm and rejuvenated town centre while having regard to and optimising the heritage assets of the town.

Through the realisation of a shared civic vision Naas will undergo expansion of growth within the designated Key Development Areas and towards the Northwest Quadrant (NWQ). There will be a clear emphasis on linking the town centre to the NWQ lands, developing key transport modes, community facilities and amenities and delivering a high quality and connected employment quarter with diverse residential and amenity areas.”

2.2.3 LAP Development Strategy

The Regeneration and Urban Development Strategy for Naas represents a continuation of the principles outlined in the Naas Town Development Plan (2011-17) which sought to consolidate the overall growth of Naas, direct its long-

term expansion towards the Northwest Quadrant and identify opportunities for regeneration within the town centre.

The Draft LAP provides for a greater level of focus in directing and shaping the future growth of Naas, as guided by the 2040 Vision for Naas, as outlined in Section 2.3, as well as new and emerging planning policy at national and regional levels. **Figure 2.1** conceptually illustrates the main principles guiding the physical development of the town, including the following:

- *Town Centre and Urban Regeneration:* To realise the potential and grow the economic activity, whilst promoting a high-quality town centre experience.
- *Movement and Connectivity:* The Plan seeks to develop and encourage more sustainable modes including walking, cycling and public transport and to reduce the existing over-reliance on the private car within the town centre in particular.
- *Integrating the Periphery:* The LAP acknowledges the existing economic and residential activity at the periphery as an essential component of Naas. The spatial severance between the core and the periphery needs to be addressed.
- *Connecting with the Hinterland, Heritage and Environment:* The exceptional level of diversity and quality in the Naas hinterland remains under-exploited by the town. This includes an extensive heritage of boglands, equine-landscape, ecclesiastical and military history, and impressive canal infrastructure connecting Naas to regional and national destinations. These present opportunities for a tourism strategy enabling connection with the hinterland and heritage of Naas.
- *Collaboration and Citizen Engagement:* This LAP places a major emphasis on citizen consultation and stakeholder engagement. The perspectives generated at plenary sessions, workshops, and meetings with sectoral groups, has informed the content and direction of the LAP. The LAP is committed to harnessing the energy of all Naas stakeholders in creating a positive context for optimizing collaboration on the successful implementation of the plan.
- *Implementation and Monitoring:* Kildare County Council will seek to actively implement the LAP and progress the vision during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond. Chapter 10, Implementation, details the monitoring and review process and outline specific focus areas for implementation. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) which have informed policies and objectives will also be monitored.

2.3 In-combination/Cumulative Effects with other Plans and Projects

Other plans and projects within the Kildare/Greater Dublin Area which have the potential for cumulative effects in association with the Naas LAP are considered below.

It is considered extremely unlikely that significant in-combination or cumulative effects arising from in-combination/cumulative effects with other plans or projects

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

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022

The Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) inform and direct the City and County Development Plans of each of the Councils in the Greater Dublin Area. They provide the clear policy link between national policies -the National Development Plan and the National Spatial Strategy and other national policy documents and guidance; and Local Authority planning policies and decisions. The RPGs have undergone a Stage 2 AA and it recommended specific conditions to protect European sites (Section 4.6 of HDA). These were high level mitigation measures aimed at ensuring that all plans and projects referenced within the RPGs were assessed according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016

The purpose of the retail strategy is to guide the activities and policies for retail planning across the seven Councils which make up the Greater Dublin Area. The Strategy sets out a series of policy recommendations which draw on quantitative analysis undertaken as part of the review, examining existing market pattern expenditure and future growth projections. By setting out a strategic framework for retail, the Strategy gives guidance on where future retail should be provided and what issues need to be addressed.

No publicly available data suggests that this Strategy has undergone Appropriate Assessment however the retail strategy sits under the RPGs for the Greater Dublin Area which was subject to AA, and which, through mitigation, placed emphasis on the protection of European sites during the preparation of plans and projects arising from implementation of the RPGs.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2016-2035

The Transport Strategy provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) for the next two decades.

The strategy has undergone an AA and mitigatory measures have been recommended and incorporated into the text. Mitigation measures include those specifically to protect biodiversity including European sites, protection of riparian zone and waterbodies and watercourses and soil protection and contamination. All projects and plans arising from the strategy will be screened for the need to undertake AA under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021

The second River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) outlines the new approach that Ireland will take as it works to protect its rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters over the period 2018 to 2021. The Government is now planning on the basis that Ireland is defined as a single River Basin District replacing the Eastern, South Eastern, South Western, Western and Shannon River Basin Districts which are merged to form one national River Basin District. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was prepared to inform the AA of the RBMP and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), as the competent authority for the RBMP, concluded that the Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, was not likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

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

The Draft RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region, is a strategic plan which identifies regional assets, opportunities and pressures, and provides appropriate policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives. At this strategic level it provides a framework for investment to better manage spatial planning and economic development throughout the Region.

The Draft RSES provides a:

- **Spatial Strategy** – to manage future growth and ensure the creation of healthy and attractive places to live, work, study, visit and invest in.
- **Economic Strategy** – that builds on our strengths to sustain a strong economy and support the creation of quality jobs that ensure a good living standard for all.
- **Metropolitan Plan** – to ensure a supply of strategic development areas for the sustainable growth and continued success and competitiveness of the Dublin metropolitan area.
- **Investment Framework** – to prioritise the delivery of key enabling infrastructure and services by government and state agencies.
- **Climate Action Strategy** – to accelerate climate action, ensure a clean and healthy environment and to promote sustainable transport and strategic green infrastructure.

In October 2018, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly prepared a draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the whole of the Eastern and Midland Region for the period 2019-2031, as required under section 24(4) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018.

As outlined in Section 3.1.2, the RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region will replace the RPGs, on adoption.

Naas is classified as a Key Town under the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, which are defined as ‘*Large economically active service and/or county towns that provide employment for their surrounding areas and with high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as growth drivers to complement the Regional Growth Centres.*’

The draft RSES includes the following Regional Policy Objectives in respect of Naas:

- RPO 4.33** Promote the improvement of the transport network within and serving Naas town, including delivery of a robust and efficient walking, cycling and bus network with strong links to Sallins Railway Station, key destinations within the town and to the North West Quadrant and town centre area.
- RPO 4.34** Support the use of the Grand Canal for amenity, recreation and sustainable transport purposes.

Public consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy ended on the 23rd of January. Elected members of the Regional Assembly at a meeting of 1st March 2019 considered the submissions received during the public consultation of the draft RSES and decided to propose material amendments to the draft RSES.

Submissions or observations on the proposed material amendments only will be received between 15th March 2019 and 12th April 2019. The Proposed Amendments set out in the ‘Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly: Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031’ include:

- RPO 4.34** Support the development of the Grand Canal for amenity, recreation and sustainable transport purposes including the Naas to Sallins and Naas to Corbally harbour greenways and linking these to the national Grand Canal Greenway.
- New RPO** Regeneration and consolidation of the historic centre to improve the retail and commercial functions of the town core, with enhanced permeability and sustainable mobility within the town centre and improve links between the core and surrounding residential and employment areas through the further development of walking and cycling routes and improved public transport.
- New RPO** Strengthen the local employment base through the development of MERITS, Millennium Park in the North West Quadrant and the regeneration of underutilised lands including industrial lands in the north east of the town.
- New RPO** Support the delivery of a dedicated public transport interchange in Naas with associated Park and Ride.

New RPO Support an enhanced role and function of Naas as the County town of Kildare, particularly as a hub for high quality employment, residential and amenities.

Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023

This Plan has undergone an AA and the report has been published. The AA concluded that:

“It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of all European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and will reliably mitigate these effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to relevant stages of Appropriate Assessment when further details of design and location are known. Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is considered that the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 is not foreseen to have any likely significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site”.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

County Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2011

This Plan has not undergone an AA. However, the aim of the County Kildare Heritage Plan is *“To identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county”*.

A number of actions within the Heritage Plan aim to raise public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the County’s Heritage and promote best practice e.g. Action 2.12 “Inform general public, particularly estate agents, auctioneers, farmers and public bodies of protected sites (NHA, SAC, SPA), Protected Structures (RPS) and monuments and archaeological sites (record of Monuments and Places) and make them aware of the level of protection these sites and structures have under national and international legislation.

No adverse in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

The draft County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019 – 2025 was recently placed on public consultation and is due to be adopted in May 2019.

County Kildare Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014

This Plan has not undergone an AA however it should be noted that it sits under the Kildare County Development Plan which has undergone AA and has placed emphasis on the protection of European sites. The nature of the Biodiversity Plan

is to raise awareness and enhance the protection, conservation and management of County Kildare's natural heritage.

No in-combination impacts with the draft Naas LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Sallins Local Area Plan 2016-2022

This Plan was subject to an AA Screening which concluded that it will not have a significant effect on European sites.

3 Existing Environment

Lying between the east coast and Ireland's central plain with the Mountains to the south, Kildare has a wealth of natural habitats which support a wide variety of wildlife, mostly distributed throughout the countryside.

Kildare is an inland county. It consists of a low-lying, fertile plain, broken only in a few places by small hills such as the Hill of Allen and Dunmurry Hill, with upland areas mainly on the eastern county boundary. Good agricultural land covers much of county, interrupted in places by expanses of bog and fen, river and canal networks.

Kildare's wide variety of wildlife habitats including peatlands, grassland, woodland, hedgerows, rivers and canals. Even urban areas support wildlife habitats in parks and green spaces, stone walls and bridges, gardens and hedgerows, and along waterways.

The biodiversity of County Kildare is protected by National and EU legislation (The Wildlife Act (1976 & 2000) and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives) and is also protected by Kildare County Council through policies in the Kildare County Development Plan.

A Biodiversity Action Plan was adopted by Kildare County Council for the 2005-2011 period. The purpose of this document was to provide a framework for the conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage at a local level by translating policies (national and international) and legislation into practical action which serve to raise awareness of and enhance the protection, conservation and management of County Kildare's natural heritage.

3.1 Water quality

The River Liffey is located on the western/north-western periphery of the town of Naas. The most up to date fisheries stock assessment by Inland Fisheries was conducted in 2013 at Kilcullen Bridge, approximately 10km south-west of the draft LAP. A total of six fish species were recorded at this location. Brown trout was the most abundant species recorded followed by salmon, minnow, stone loach, perch and European eel. The Morell River is located to the east and north-east of Naas town.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) required Member States to manage all of their waters to ensure they achieve at least 'good status' by 2015. In line with requirements of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021, ecological sampling is carried out. The nearest EPA sampling point to Naas is the Morell river station and the latest results (1981-2016) show that the river's WFD status has not changed and is still of Moderate WFD status.

The overall status of the River Liffey at the monitoring station closest to Naas at Caragh Bridge is of Moderate-Good quality, however the section of the River Liffey flowing downstream through Cellbridge was recorded as being of "Good" status in 2016.

Based on water quality, ecology and morphology the EPA has determined that the River Liffey which flows through the Plan area is of 'good' status. It was also classed as "not at risk" of not achieving "good status" by 2015 under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) risk score system in 2010.

3.2 Hydrogeological Features

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) bedrock aquifer mapping identifies that a majority of the draft LAP area is underlain by a "Locally Important Aquifer – Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones" (Ll aquifer) in the centre portion of the Plan area. To the east of the Plan area is a "Regionally Important Aquifer – Karstified (diffuse)" (Rkd aquifer). The south of Naas is underlain by a "Poor aquifer – Bedrock which is generally unproductive except for Local Zones" (Pl aquifer). The south-east of Naas is underlain by a "Poor aquifer- Bedrock which is generally unproductive" (Pu aquifer).

Ll aquifers have limited and relatively poor connectivity with fractures, joints and fissures, and this leads to a low fissure permeability which subsequently decreases further with depth. The aquifer has a low "recharge acceptance" due to its low permeability and poor storage capacity. Rkd aquifers are characterised by the presence of karstified bedrock. Often karstification results in an uneven distribution of permeability. Distinctive karst landforms such as swallow holes, caves, dry valleys develop at the surface. Pu aquifers have a low fissure permeability which tends to decrease with depth. They consist of poorly connected fractures, fissures and joints. The poor network within the aquifer results in poor storage. Overall, groundwater quality in the plan area is of 'good status' and groundwater vulnerability is generally classed as being of 'moderate' or 'high' vulnerability.

3.3 Wastewater Facilities

Naas is served by the Oberstown Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), of the Upper Liffey Sewerage Scheme, which also serves the towns of Newbridge, Kilcullen, Sallins and Kill.

The scheme is currently operating at 80,000 population equivalent (PE) and is being expanded and upgraded to provide a treatment capacity of up to 130,000

PE. The upgraded WWTP will ensure a sufficient supply of waste water infrastructure to serve new development in the Plan area.

3.4 Natural Heritage/European Sites

There are a range of statutory provisions in force in Ireland to protect, conserve and manage natural heritage, and to control and regulate human activities that may impact upon it negatively. The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is responsible, through the National Parks and Wildlife Service, for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland.

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Proposed NHAs were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995 but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. There is one Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within 15km of the study area. Hodgestown Bog NHA (Site Code 001393) is located to the north west of the Naas LAP boundary. There are 17 proposed Natural Heritage Area's (pNHAs) within 15km of the Plan boundary, as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: NHA's and pNHA's within the Naas Local Area Plan Boundary

Site Name	Site Code
Hodgestown Bog NHA	001393
Slade of Saggart and Crooksling Glen pNHA	000211
Ballynafagh Bog pNHA	000391
Curragh (Kildare) pNHA	000392
Liffey Valley Meander Belt pNHA	000393
Mouds Bog pNHA	000395
Pollardstown Fen pNHA	000396
Red Bog (Kildare) pNHA	000397
Poulaphouca Reservoir pNHA	000731
Ballynafagh Lake pNHA	001387
Donadea Wood pNHA	001391
Kilteel Wood pNHA	001394
Liffey at Osberstown pNHA	001395
Liffey Bank above Athgraven pNHA	001396
Newtown Marshes pNHA	001759
Dunlavin Marshes pNHA	001772
Grand Canal pNHA	002104

4 Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Sites

4.1 Introduction

This is the third step of the Stage One Screening, the purpose of which is to map and tabulate the information available on all Natura 2000 sites within or immediately adjoining the region. As part of this, reasons for site designation and environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity will be indicated, where possible. It should be noted that Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) as well as proposed sites awaiting approval – potential SPAs (pSPAs) and candidate SACs (cSACs).

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) by the DAHG due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) by the DEHLG due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union.

4.2 Identification and Consideration of Natura 2000 Sites

There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the Plan boundary. However, there are six SACs and two SPAs within 15km of the Plan area which are of relevance to the preparation of the draft Plan (see **Table 2**).

Table 2: Natura 2000 sites within 15km of Naas LAP Area

Site Name	Site Code	Distance to LAP
Mouds Bog SAC	002331	6km
Red Bog Kildare SAC	000397	6.5km
Ballynafagh Lake SAC	001387	7.5km
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	000391	8.4km
Pollardstown Fen SAC	000396	9.5km
Wicklow Mountains SAC	002122	10.10km
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	004063	7.7km
Wicklow Mountains SPA	004040	13.8km

Figure 1 in shows the Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the plan area. Up to date information, data and maps of Irish Natura 2000 sites, including those identified above is available from the Maps and Data Section on the NPWS website at <http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData>.

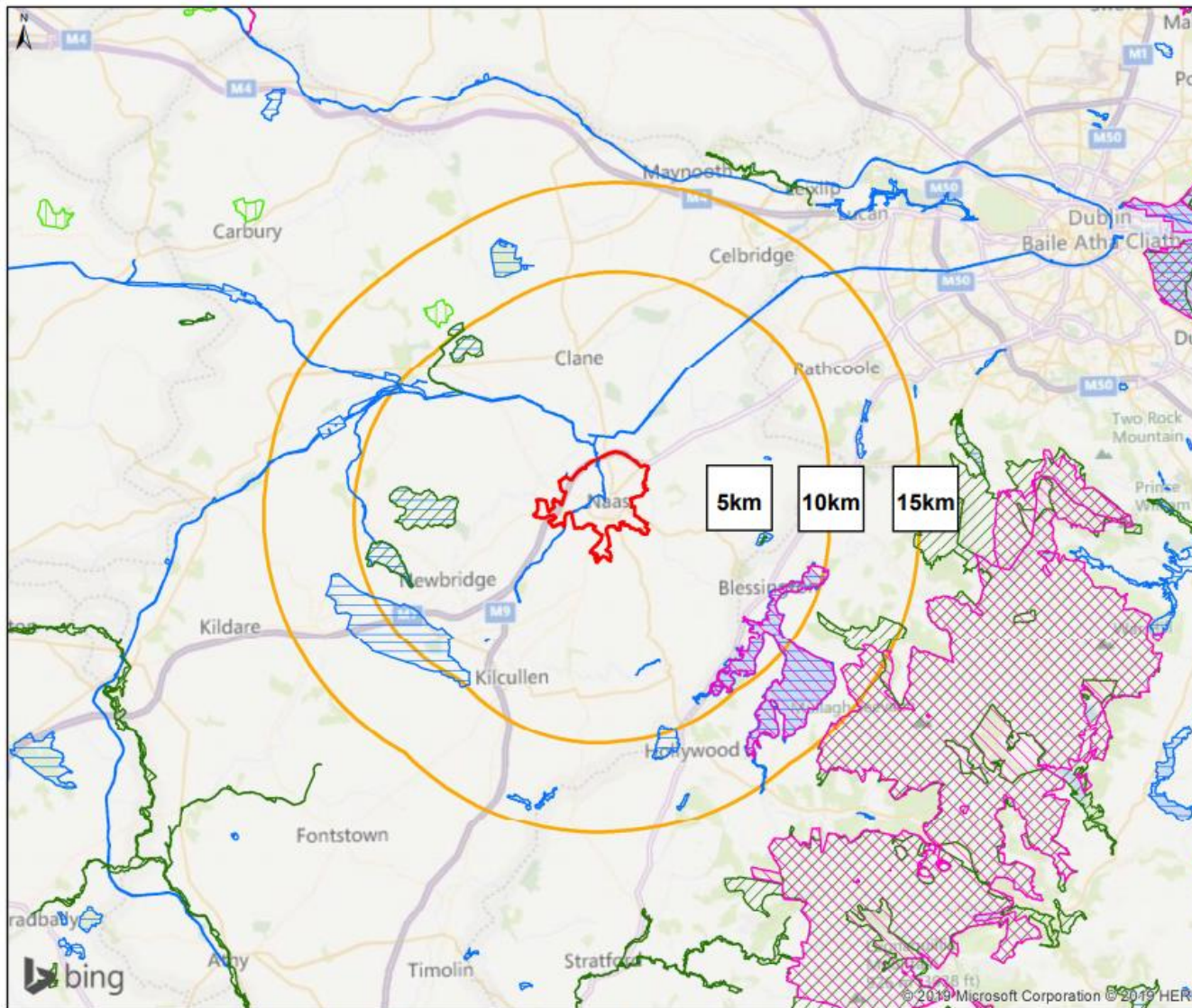


Table 3 lists the qualifying interests of each SAC and the pressures and threats as identified in relevant Natura 2000 data forms.

Conservation Objectives

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) is in the process of drawing up Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) for all Natura 2000 sites.

These SSCO aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site. The maintenance (or restoration) of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

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’.

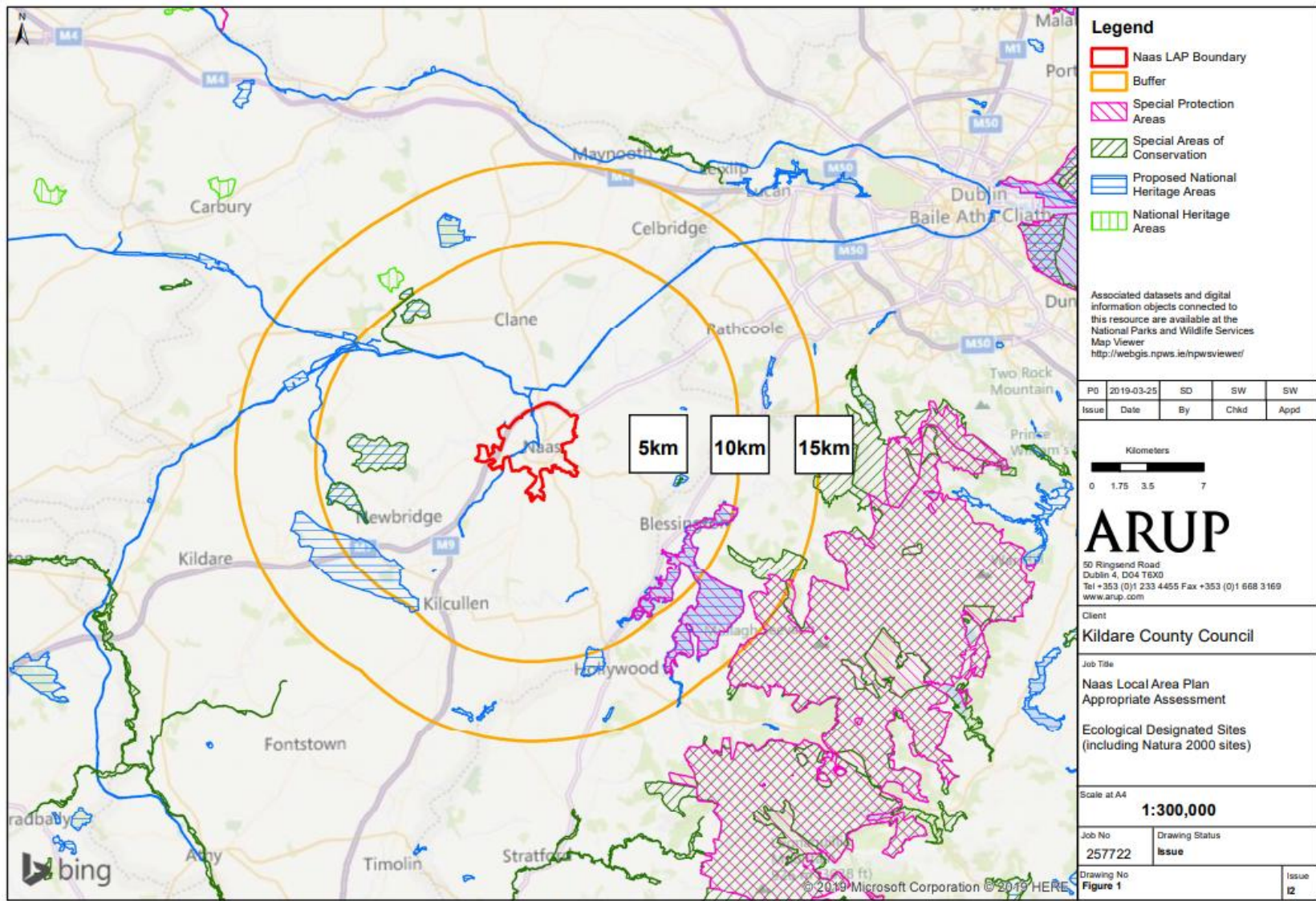
Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when:

‘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.’

SSCOs is available for the Wicklow Mountain SAC. The conservation objectives are to restore the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with each habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* in Wicklow Mountains SAC;
- European dry heaths;
- Alpine and Boreal heaths;
- Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and sub-mountain areas, in Continental Europe);
- Blanket bogs (if active bog);
- Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*);
- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation;
- Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.

For those sites where no SSCOs are available, which is the case for the other Natura 2000 sites, the DAHRRGA has provided generic Conservation Objectives for designated European sites i.e. *To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.*



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Table 3: Qualifying interests, pressures and threats for each Natura 2000 site within 15km of Naas LAP boundary.

Site/Qualifying Interests	Identified Pressures and Threats
Mouds Bog SAC	
<i>Habitat – Annex 1</i> Active raised bogs (7110) Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (7120) Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site. A04 grazing A01 cultivation C01.03.02 hand cutting of peat I01 invasive non-native species J01 fire and fire suppression E02 industrial or commercial areas B silviculture, forestry
Red Bog Kildare SAC	
<i>Habitat – Annex 1</i> Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140)	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site. F02.03 leisure fishing A08 fertilisation A04 grazing F03.01 hunting C01.01 sand and gravel extraction E01.03 dispersed habitation
Ballynafagh Lake SAC	
<i>Habitat – Annex 1</i> Alkaline fens (7230) <i>Species – Annex 2</i> Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (1016) Marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (1065)	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site. F02.03 leisure fishing A04 grazing

Site/Qualifying Interests	Identified Pressures and Threats
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	
<p><i>Habitat – Annex 1</i></p> <p>Raised bog (active) (7110)</p> <p>Degraded raised bog (7120)</p> <p>Rhynchosporion vegetation (7150)</p>	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site.</p> <p>E01.04 patterns of habitation</p> <p>G05 human intrusions and disturbances</p> <p>B01 forest planting on open ground</p> <p>D05 improved access to site</p> <p>J01 fire and fire suppression</p> <p>C01.03 peat extraction</p>
Pollardstown Fen SAC	
<p><i>Habitat – Annex 1</i></p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> (7210)</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) (7220)</p> <p>Alkaline fens (7230)</p> <p><i>Species – Annex 2</i></p> <p>Geyer’s whorl snail <i>Vertigo geyer</i> (1013)</p> <p>Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (1014)</p> <p>Desmoulin’s whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (1016)</p>	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site.</p> <p>E03.01 disposal of household/recreational facility waste</p> <p>E01.03 dispersed habitation</p> <p>A04 grazing</p> <p>F02.03 leisure fishing</p> <p>B silviculture, forestry</p> <p>J01 fire and fire suppression</p> <p>D02.01 electricity and phone lines</p> <p>C01.01 seed and gravel extraction</p> <p>F03.01 hunting</p>
Wicklow Mountains SAC	
<p><i>Habitat – Annex 1</i></p> <p>Obligotrophic waters containing very few minerals (3110)</p> <p>Dystrophic lakes (3160)</p> <p>Wet heath (4010)</p>	<p>The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site.</p> <p>G01.03.02 off-road motorised driving</p> <p>E03.01 disposal of household/recreational facility waste</p> <p>K04.05 damage by herbivores (including game species)</p>

Site/Qualifying Interests	Identified Pressures and Threats
Dry heath (4030) Alpine and subalpine heaths (4060) Calaminarian grassland (6130) Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland (6230) Blanket bogs (active) (7130) Siliceous scree (8110) Old oak woodlands (91A0) <i>Species – Annex 2</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> (1355)	B06 grazing in forests/woodland G01.04 mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology G05.07 missing or wrongly directed conservation measures G01.02 walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles I01 invasive non-native species K01.01 erosion A04 grazing G02.09 wildlife watching G05.01 trampling, overuse A05.02 stock feeding E01 urbanised areas, human habitation F03 hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial) L05 collapse of terrain, landslide F04.02 collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc) G05.04 vandalism G01 outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities G05.06 tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees G04.01 military manouvres J01.01 burning down D01.01 paths, tracks cycling tracks C01.03 peat extraction F03.02.02 taking from nest (falcons)
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	
Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> (A043) Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> (A183)	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site. F03.01 hunting

Site/Qualifying Interests	Identified Pressures and Threats
	D01.05 bridge, viaduct B01 forest planting on open ground F02.03 leisure fishing G01.01 nautical sports
Wicklow Mountains SPA	
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> (A098) Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (A103)	The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site. A04 grazing C01.03 peat extraction G01.02 walking, horse-riding, non-motorised vehicles D01.01 paths, tracks, cycling tracks B silviculture, forestry

5 Assessment of the Significance of any Impacts on Natura 2000 Sites

5.1 Introduction

This is the fourth and final step of Stage One Screening and involves an assessment of the significance of any impacts on Natura 2000 Sites. In identifying the potential issues which could affect the integrity of these sites a range of factors were taken into account, including the possibility of effects manifesting themselves in the short, medium and long-term, in combination effects and the potential impacts of climate change. In addition, the precautionary principle was adhered to in the carrying out of this assessment.

Where potentially effects have been identified, modification of the plan is recommended, where possible, so as to ensure that significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are avoided. If this can be achieved there may not be a need to proceed to Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment.

In certain instances, this can be achieved by amending the objective or policy so that they will not have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. In other cases, a caveat or conditional approach will be used to indicate that before certain policies or objectives are implemented certain things have to happen so that when implemented, will have no significant effect, or adversely impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. In other situations, it may be recommended that additional mitigation policies be included or that certain objectives/policies be rejected so as to ensure that significant adverse effects on the Conservation Objectives of Natura 2000 sites are avoided.

5.2 Data Sources, Consultation, Gaps and Limitations

This Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment of potential adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites in this study is based on a desktop review of literature, existing and relevant NPWS Natura 2000 Site Synopses Data, Qualifying Interests, Conservation Management Plans and the Site-Specific Conservation Objectives and generic Conservation Objectives.

A review was also carried out of Habitats Directive Assessments/Natura Impact Assessments recently carried out in relation to plans /projects in the area, with particular attention paid to the Stage 2 AA Natura Impact Report for the Kildare County Development Plan and planning applications in the vicinity of each Natura 2000 site.

Consultation will take place in accordance with the Department’s circular letter which states that:

“The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department has a formal consultation role (through the Development Applications Unit (DAU)) as part of the screening and assessment process.”

The Scoping report for the SEA for the Draft Naas LAP was also sent to the statutory bodies and submissions received have been incorporated into the plan where appropriate.

Furthermore in line with recommendations in the European Commission: 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, representatives from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Inland Fisheries Ireland will be further consulted with prior to the adoption of the plan and the completion of the accompanying 'Finding of no significant effects' (FONSE) report. The AA will also be forwarded as part of the SEA consultation process to statutory bodies required under the SEA directive.

The primary issue relating to data gaps and limitations was identified as the generic nature of some of the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites with site-specific quantitative objectives for each qualifying interest yet to be identified.

5.3 Identification of Potential Impacts

The potential for impacts on European Sites arising from the implementation of the draft LAP are discussed below.

5.3.1 Direct Impacts on Habitats and Species

The construction of residential space, retail units, car parks, business units, cycleways, walkways and other developments within Naas has no potential to impact directly on the habitats or species listed as Qualifying Interests of the aforementioned European Sites as these sites do not lie within the draft LAP boundary.

5.3.2 Indirect Damage/Degradation of Habitats and Disturbance to Species

Any new development within Naas poses minimal potential to impact indirectly on the habitats listed as Qualifying Interests of the European Sites or result in disturbance to species as they are all a significant distance from the draft LAP area i.e. in excess of 6km away. There are no hydrological connections between the draft LAP area and a European Site.

Although both Naas and the majority of Mouds Bog SAC are located in the Liffey River Catchment Naas is downstream and therefore there is no hydrological pathway from the plan area to Mouds Bog SAC.

The Red Bog SAC is also within the Liffey River Catchment, however there is no hydrological pathway between the plan area and Red Bog SAC.

Given the lack of hydrological pathway between the plan area and both Mouds Bog SAC and Red Bog SAC it is considered that these significant effects on these sites are highly unlikely.

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA is located 7.7km from the draft LAP boundary.

Pollardstown Fen SAC, Ballynafagh Bog SAC and Ballynafagh Lake SAC are all located in the Barrow River Catchment, and so have no hydrological connectivity to the LAP area. Any potential development in Naas is highly unlikely to impact on the surface water or groundwater regime of these SACs and therefore will not impact on the integrity of the SACs or the habitats and species for which they are designated.

5.3.3 Resource Requirements (e.g. Drinking Water Abstractions)

The majority of the water supplied in Co Kildare comes from the Dublin City Waterworks at Ballymore Eustace and this water is delivered by the Poulaphouca Regional Scheme to the Naas LAP area.

A Remedial Action List (RAL) of problematic drinking water supplies is released by the EPA on a quarterly basis. The Remedial Action list is a public record for the supplies known to be at risk and where the EPA is requiring Irish Water to take corrective action. The EPA has instructed Irish Water to submit an action programme for the improvement of each of these supplies and has initiated enforcement action where action programmes were not being prepared or were not prepared to the satisfaction of the EPA. This includes issuing legally binding Directions requiring specific work to be carried out. The Poulaphouca Regional drinking water supply which serves Naas was not included on the Remedial Action list for Q3 of 2017.

5.3.4 Emissions (e.g. Disposals to Lands, Water, Air)

Naas's wastewater is collected via a gravity and rising mains network and is treated at Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant which also serves the towns of Newbridge, Kilcullen, Sallins and Kill.

In 2015, Irish Water identified that the previously existing infrastructure of Osberstown wastewater treatment plant was under pressure and unable to support future economic and social development in the region. Irish water subsequently announced a major upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant. This €30.3 million upgrade represented the largest single investment to date in the upgrade of a wastewater treatment plant by Irish Water.

Construction of the plant has recently been completed, and process proving has commenced. The plant now has a final treatment capacity of 130,000 PE and a higher level of treatment in full compliance with environmental licenses.

The newly upgraded plant serves the many industries, local businesses and homes in Sallins, Clane, Prosperous, Naas, Johnstown, Kill, Newbridge, Kilcullen, Athgarven, Carragh and the Curragh.

The Osberstown treatment plant discharges treated wastewater into the River Liffey making it one of the largest inshore discharge points in the country.

5.4 Detailed Screening for Potential Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

The plan is screened at objective level and policy level so as to ensure that potential effects of the plan on Natura 2000 sites are identified. Recommended modification to the wording of the draft plan, where appropriate, so as to avoid significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are shown in red text. If this text can be included within the Draft Plan there will not be a need to proceed to Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment.

The DoEHLG (2009) have advised that policies and objectives found at Stage 1 AA screening to have no significant effect can include policies or objectives that:

- Will not lead to development;
- Are intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity (see Article 10 of Directive);
- Are intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment and are unlikely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 site;
- Positively steer development away from Natura 2000 sites and associated sensitive areas;
- Positively make provision to ensure that the policy/objective implementation will not have a significant effect or adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site; or,
- Policies and objectives that can be dealt with by using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case by case AA.

5.4.1 Detailed Screening of the LAP for Potential Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

The results of the screening exercise of the plans objectives, for potential effects on Natura 2000 sites, are presented in **Table 4**. Recommended amendments to LAP wording to avoid the potential for significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are presented in the column entitled, Risk of Significant Effect.

No Natura 2000 site is located within the LAP boundary therefore there will be no direct impacts on qualifying habitats or species of any SAC. It is considered that effects which could be generated by the draft Naas LAP and which have the potential to act on Natura 2000 sites could give rise to adverse impacts, are likely to be limited to issues relating to groundwater, water quality, disturbance associated with recreation and tourism and invasive species. Where the LAP may give rise to the potential for these issues to impact on the SAC they are discussed, with proposed changes to the wording in the LAP proposed where appropriate.

Table 4: Naas LAP – Detailed Screening for Potential Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Compliance with the Core Strategy		
CS1	It is the policy of the Council to support the sustainable long-term growth of Naas in accordance with the core strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and provisions of the National Planning Framework, 2018 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (when adopted).	None identified. The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017- 2023 has been subject to Stage 2 AA and the overarching core strategy was not specifically identified as significant risk.
CSO 1.1	Monitor the scale, type, tenure and location of constructed and permitted developments in Naas during the lifetime of the Plan and apply appropriate development management standards to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and to achieve the delivery of strategic plan-led and coordinated balanced development within the town.	None identified
CSO 1.2	Prioritise the development of sites zoned A: Town Centre and C: New Residential within the town as set out in Chapters 2, 8 and 10 of this Plan.	None identified
CSO 1.3	Support and facilitate sustainable intensification and consolidation in the town centre and established residential areas.	None identified
CSO 1.4	Support new residential development in Regeneration and Key Development Areas identified in Chapter 8 in tandem with the delivery of supporting physical and social infrastructure.	None identified
CSO 1.5	Investigate in consultation with the NTA, Irish Water, Irish Rail, Waterways Ireland and other statutory agencies and stakeholders, options for the longer-term development of Naas, and in particular the development of the North-West Quadrant within the context of a masterplan.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Residential Development		
HC1	It is the policy of the Council to ensure that sufficient land continues to be available at appropriate locations to satisfy the County Core Strategy growth allocation for Naas and that good quality housing is provided.	None identified
HCO 1.1	Promote and facilitate the phased development of identified Core Regenerations Areas and Key Development Areas in accordance with the guidance set out in Chapter 8 and 10 of this Plan.	None identified
HCO 1.2	Prepare Masterplans for the Northwest Quadrant, Castle Quarter CRA and Canal Quarter CRA (Refer to Map 8.1) in co-operation with relevant stakeholders and actively secure their implementation through phased development and the timely delivery of necessary physical, social and community infrastructure.	None identified
HCO 1.3	Secure the provision of social infrastructure, including social housing, community, and recreational facilities in tandem with residential development.	None identified
HCO 1.4	Encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for residential uses within the footprint of the existing built up area.	None identified
HCO 1.5	Manage the provision of one-off housing on lands zoned as I: Agricultural. Limited one-off housing may be permitted in this zone subject to compliance with Chapter 4, Rural Housing Policy of the County Development Plan 2017-2023 and subject to compliance with other normal siting and design considerations.	None identified
HCO 1.6	Utilise the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended) with regards the Vacant Site Levy to facilitate the appropriate development of vacant sites on Residential Land and Regeneration Land.	None identified
HCO 1.7	Continue to pursue funding avenues and apply for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund to realise the vision for Naas Town Centre.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Residential Density, Mix and Design		
Policy HC2	It is the policy of the Council to ensure that all new residential development provides for a sustainable mix of housing types, sizes and tenures and that new development complements the existing residential mix.	None identified
HCO 2.1	Require that an appropriate mix of housing type, tenure, density and size is provided in all new residential areas and in appropriate brownfield/infill areas to meet the needs of the population of Naas, including the provision of appropriate supported housing and longer term residential care solutions designed for older people and/or people with disabilities.	None identified
HC2.2	Seek to provide Traveller Specific Accommodation at appropriate locations close to key services and public transport facilities in accordance with the Traveller Needs Assessment and Traveller Accommodation Plan due for review in 2019.	None identified
HC2.3	Require that residential schemes in close proximity to Naas' heavily trafficked roads are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance, follow a good acoustic design process and clearly demonstrate that a significant adverse noise impact will be avoided.	None identified
Education, Early Learning and Healthcare		
Policy HC3	It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and secure the provision of social infrastructure to support existing and new communities within the Naas LAP area, in a manner which provides flexibility to respond to varied and changing community needs.	None identified
HCO 3.1	Support and facilitate improvements to and expansion of existing educational, early learning, childcare and healthcare facilities, at appropriate locations in Naas.	None identified
HCO 3.2	Support the provision of appropriately located and purpose built early learning and childcare facilities to meet the pro-rata childcare needs of housing development during the plan period.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
HCO 3.3	Support the delivery of facilities and services for older people, at appropriate locations in Naas.	None identified
Community, Sports and Recreational Facilities		
Policy HC4	It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and support a broad range of community, cultural and recreational facilities to serve the needs of the residents of the Plan area and its wider catchment.	None identified
HCO 4.1	Support and facilitate the provision of appropriately located multi-functional community facilities to meet the needs of the growing population in Naas.	None identified
HCO 4.2	Support the relocation of Naas Town Library to Naas Town Hall.	None identified
HCO 4.3	Support access to the lands zoned Future Park/Green Wedge to accommodate a public parkland amenity in Naas.	None identified
HCO 4.4	Support and promote the development of cultural, arts and performance spaces in Naas.	None identified
HCO 4.5	Facilitate sports and community groups in the acquisition and/or use of lands for sports and recreation purposes.	None identified
HCO 4.6	Facilitate the development of a network of amenity spaces and recreational areas.	None identified
HCO 4.7	Support and facilitate the provision of an appropriately located cemetery and associated uses to serve Naas and the hinterland.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Movement and Transportation		
Policy MT1	It is the policy of the Council to liaise closely with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in relation to securing appropriate improvements to the transportation network within the Plan area.	None identified. A NIR has been prepared for the Draft Transport Strategy For The Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 which concluded that the Strategy would not impact on the Natura 2000 network of sites.
MTO 1.1	To co-operate and liaise with the Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport, the NTA and TII in relation to securing appropriate improvements/extensions to the transport network within the Naas.	None identified
MTO 1.2	To ensure that both existing and new streets are multi-functional, balancing movement, place and safety for all users within an appropriate traffic environment in accordance with the principles of Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS), 2013 and any subsequent revisions.	None identified
MTO 1.3	Improve road safety within the Plan area by implementing gateway entry treatments into the town in order to signal to drivers that they are entering an urban area and to adjust driving speed and behaviour accordingly.	None identified
MTO 1.4	Investigate the feasibility of diverting HGVs away from the town centre.	None identified
MTO 1.5	Provide in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders, an appropriately located 'Park and Ride/Stride' facilities in Naas to serve both commuters and local trip makers on journeys into and out of the town.	None identified
Walking and Cycling		

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Policy MT2	It is the policy of the Council to promote enhanced permeability for pedestrians and cyclists within Naas in order to improve access to residential areas, the town centre, schools, recreational facilities, employment hubs, shops, public transport services and other amenities. This includes providing improved connectivity across the Grand Canal and enhanced links through the Northwest Quadrant, Canal Harbour and east-west links through the town.	None identified
MTO 2.1	Support and promote the use of sustainable active transport modes in Naas and seek to provide for a connected network of walking and cycling infrastructure in the town in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and other statutory agencies, and to promote Naas as 'model town' for active transport.	None identified
MTO 2.2	Identify opportunities to create local permeability routes within existing housing developments where appropriate. This shall be carried out in the context of a Permeability Strategy for the entire town, the preparation of which will be commenced within 12 months of the adoption of the Plan.	None identified
MTO 2.3	Ensure footpaths in the town provide adequate access for persons with a disability or who have impaired mobility.	None identified
MTO 2.4	Maximise connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists in Core Regeneration Areas and Key Development Areas and identify strategic links in existing areas in order to maximise access to local services, schools, transport services and amenities.	None identified
MTO 2.5	Continue to work with Waterways Ireland to progress the delivery of: Naas to Sallins Greenway Naas to Corbally Harbour Greenway	None identified
MTO 2.6	Support cycling as a more convenient and safe method of transport by working with the National Transport Authority to implement the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan proposals for Naas identified in Table 4.1 and on Map 4.1.	None identified. A NIR has been prepared for the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan which concludes that the Authority, in conjunction with other agencies and the local authorities will not pursue any schemes arising out of this plan, or in-combination with other plans or projects, which will adversely affect

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
		the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.
MTO 2.7	Create new pedestrian and cycle links across the Grand Canal that enhance connectivity in the area and links residential areas, the town centre, community facilities and public spaces/amenities. Options will be explored in further detail and subject to ecological analysis and assessment (Map 4.1).	None identified
MTO 2.8	Ensure that all development within Naas allows for connectivity (pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular) to adjacent lands in accordance with the National Transport Authority's Permeability Best Practice Guide (2015).	None identified
MTO 2.9	To provide adequate, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities at appropriate locations at: In the town centre; Employment areas; Designated neighbourhood centres Adjacent to heritage, community and amenity destinations.	None identified
MTO 2.10	Promote the town centre as a pedestrian/cyclist friendly area and to investigate the feasibility of pedestrianisation at the following locations: Poplar Square Market Square St. John's Lane connecting Main Street to Corban's Lane.	None identified
MTO 2.11	Seek to improve and promote looped walks in conjunction with Sli na Sláinte and other relevant bodies recognising them as important health and recreation infrastructure within the town.	None identified
MTO 2.12	Seek to retain the character of Rathasker Road, Craddockstown and other rural links on the outskirts of the town and to develop them as a connected series of walking routes in conjunction with Sli na Sláinte and other relevant bodies.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Parking		
Policy MT3	It is the policy of the Council to manage the provision of car parking to provide for the needs of residents, business and visitors to Naas Town Centre.	None identified
MTO 3.1	Apply the parking standards in the Kildare County Development Plan, and relevant Section 28 Guidelines, to all applications for planning permission.	None identified
MTO 3.2	To support the provision of strategically located 'Park and Stride' and 'Park and Ride' sites conveniently located to the town centre/schools/amenities and employment areas as an alternative to providing additional car parking within the town centre.	None identified
Public Transport		
Policy MT4	It is the policy of the Council to promote the sustainable development of Naas by supporting and guiding the relevant national agencies in delivering improvements to the public transport network and to public transport services.	None identified
MTO 4.1	Secure the implementation of major public transport projects identified in the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035.	None identified. A NIR has been prepared for the Draft Transport Strategy For The Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 which concluded that the Strategy would not impact on the Natura 2000 network of sites.
MTO 4.2	Promote the provision of improved public transport services and facilities to serve the population of Naas through ongoing liaison with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, TII, the NTA, other statutory agencies and public transport providers.	None identified
MTO 4.3	Focus people intensive land uses around and close to existing and planned public transport nodes and improve access to services.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
MTO 4.4	Support the provision of new or upgraded public transport infrastructure in Naas.	None identified
MTO 4.5	Engage and co-operate with the NTA, Dublin Bus, Irish Rail, Local Link and other stakeholders to improve the provision of public transport in Naas including the delivery of a bus link between Naas and Sallins Train Station, 'Park and Ride/Stride' facilities, and the provision of bus priority measures to ensure the improved movement of bus services through the town centre and local neighbourhoods.	None identified
MTO 4.6	Support infrastructural improvements to the railway including the 4-tracking the line to Kildare and electrification of the Dublin –Cork Railway line, subject to planning and environmental considerations.	None identified
MTO 4.7	Provide a priority bus route (in conjunction with statutory providers) in particular on the Dublin and Sallins Road linking Sallins Train Station, Naas Town Centre and Millennium Park.	None identified
MTO 4.8	Support the provision of a public transport interchange adjacent to, or in close proximity to Main Street linking existing residential areas and key expansion areas to the town centre and educational and community facilities.	None identified
MTO 4.9	Support in conjunction with Irish Rail, the extension of Sallins Train Station or its relocation to the west of the existing station and the development of an ancillary 'Park and Ride' facility to serve the population of Naas and the wider region.	None identified
Road and Street Network		
Policy MT5	It is the policy of the Council to maintain, improve and extend the local road network in and around Naas to ensure a high standard of connectivity and safety for all road users.	None identified
MTO 5.1	Maintain and improve, as required, the local road network to ensure a high standard of road quality and safety in accordance with the requirements of this Plan and relevant legislation.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
MTO 5.2	Secure the delivery of road projects indicated in Table 4.2 (refer to Section 4.8) and the Movement and Transportation Map 4.1 and where necessary to preserve identified routes free from development. Each project should be subject to appropriate environmental assessments.	None identified
MTO 5.3	Investigate the development of a street network within the Northwest Quadrant by way of a Masterplan (as set out in Section 8.6.2) including improved accessibility over the canal and access to the town centre and Sallins Train Station to facilitate increased permeability and connectivity.	None identified
MTO 5.4	Improve connectivity between the outer areas of the town through the planning and delivery of orbital connections between the existing radial road network.	None identified
MTO 5.5	Investigate the requirements and provision of additional and/or consolidated off-street public car parking on the approaches to the town centre.	None identified
MTO 5.6	Ensure that development proposals within Core Regeneration Areas, Key Development Areas and the Northwest Quadrant are subject to Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), to be carried out in accordance with the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014). The requirement for all other developments will be determined on a case by case basis.	None identified
MTO 5.7	Examine the feasibility of realigning/raising the Newbridge Road (R445) at the point of crossing of the canal at Jigginstown to be of a sufficient height so as not to hinder the future passage of boats and barges.	None identified
MTO 5.8	Seek to implement traffic management measures on the Newbridge and Dublin Roads in accordance with the principles of DMURS (2013) to signal the transition into an urban area and to encourage unnecessary traffic to travel on the Distributor Roads where possible as an alternative to using the town centre as a through route.	None identified
Strategic Road Connections		

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Policy MT6	It is the policy of the Council to plan for the long term needs of Naas in its regional role and context and to provide improvement capacity and movement on strategic routes in order to reduce congestion in the town and to improve connections to the national road network.	None identified
MTO 6.1	Investigate the feasibility of providing an outer eastern relief road connecting Junction 8 (Johnstown Interchange) with Junction 10 (Newhall Interchange) with the aim of providing an alternative route to relieve pressure on the town centre and eastern area of the town.	None identified
MTO 6.2	To support the long-term provision of a Leinster Outer Orbital Route from Drogheda to the Naas/Newbridge area.	None identified
MTO 6.3	Facilitate and progress the construction of the roads/streets identified in Table 4.2 and on Map 4.1 and in the interim to protect these routes from development.	None identified
MTO 6.4	Investigate the feasibility of providing pedestrian/cyclist/public transport bridge crossings over the Grand Canal to connect the areas including the Canal Harbour, North West Quadrant, Millennium Park and the Town Centre. Such crossings should be cognisant of views and the ecology along the Canal must be of a high design standard and would enhance the urban setting and connectivity of Naas. Indicative locations are shown on Map 4.1.	None identified
Enterprise and Economic Development		
Policy ED1	It is the policy of the Council to support the development of Naas as the enterprise and employment hub for County Kildare, increase the number of jobs located within the town, reduce commuting and ensure new employment development contributes towards reducing carbon output.	None identified
EDO 1.1	Incentivise employment creation on lands zoned 'A: Town Centre' as a key driver of regeneration, including through a review of the Development Contribution Scheme.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
EDO 1.2	Promote enterprise and employment development in the Northwest Quadrant, focusing on high-tech manufacturing and research, ICT, food science and production, public administration, banking, tourism and bloodstock.	None identified
EDO 1.3	Support the development of Mid-East Region Innovation Think Space [MERITS] in Devoy Park and to support the creation of economic linkages between all scales of local businesses through this enterprise and incubation hub.	None identified
EDO 1.4	Encourage new industry, warehousing and employment use to develop in a comprehensive and sequential manner which uses existing infrastructure effectively and efficiently.	None identified
EDO 1.5	Engage with IDA Ireland and the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in seeking to attract Foreign Direct Investment into the Northwest quadrant and elsewhere in the town, in line with the Mid-East Region's Enterprise Plan.	None identified
EDO 1.6	Require new enterprise, employment, industrial and warehousing uses to facilitate, improve or create pedestrian and cycle linkages to public transport hubs and the town centre in accordance with the Permeability Best Practice Guide, NTA.	None identified
EDO 1.7	Ensure new enterprise and employment uses provide sustainable travel plans to reduce the dependency on private modes of travel consistent with the principles set out in the National Transport Authority guidance: 'Achieving Effective Workplace Travel Plans'.	None identified
EDO 1.8	Facilitate the regeneration and redevelopment of the lands to the east of the Dublin Road roundabout, in particular Donnelly Mirrors and former Cemex Concrete sites	None identified
Tourism		
Policy ED2	It is the policy of the Council to support and facilitate existing amenities and the development of sustainable tourism attractions and activities in Naas.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
EDO 2.1	Support and facilitate the development of an integrated network of greenways and heritage trails, including along the Corbally and Naas branches of the Grand Canal.	None identified. Although increased tourism activities and business can have the potential to disturbance sensitive habitats or species it is considered that such an increase at Naas is extremely unlikely to impact on qualifying features of N2K sites.
EDO 2.2	Encourage the development of tourism activities such as waterways activities, cultural and agri-tourism, equine tourism and food markets in Naas.	None identified. Although increased tourism activities and business can have the potential to disturbance sensitive habitats or species it is considered that such an increase at Naas is extremely unlikely to impact on qualifying features of N2K sites.
EDO 2.3	Facilitate the provision of standardised signage and interpretation for tourism facilities and tourist attractions throughout the town.	None identified
EDO 2.4	Support the development of new tourist facilities or upgrading / extension of existing tourist facilities.	None identified
EDO 2.5	Support the development of the Fairgreen and the Lakelands area for tourism, leisure and amenity uses and events.	None identified
EDO 2.6	Encourage appropriate development proposals for St David's Castle, Jigginstown Castle, Leinster Mills and The Moat Theatre and investigate the tourism potential and opportunities for these sites.	None identified
EDO 2.7	Support the re-use of the Eir building on Abbey Street for a mix of uses e.g. cultural, community, leisure and/or tourism.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
EDO 2.8	Support Naas' status as a 'purple flag' night-time economy and as a high-quality night-time destination.	None identified
EDO 2.9	Support the diversification and intensification of employment opportunities in the equine and agriculture industries in Naas and further develop linkages between the equine and tourism industries.	None identified
EDO 2.10	To work in conjunction with Kildare Fáilte to develop a local museum/tourist information centre within the town centre.	None identified
Retail		
Policy ED3	It is the policy of the Council to support the Level 2 Twin County Town Centre retail function of Naas and to consolidate existing retail development and to develop/regenerate opportunity sites/areas within the town centre.	None identified
EDO 3.1	Protect and promote the viability of the Core Retail Area, and to ensure that it remains the primary location for retail development in Naas.	None identified
EDO 3.2	Retain the retail function at ground floor level in the Core Retail Area and prohibit development that would either individually or cumulatively undermine the Core Retail Area, with the exception of addressing vacancy.	None identified
EDO 3.3	Restrict retail development outside the Core Retail Area in accordance with Section 5.5 of the LAP, the County Development Plan, relevant regional policy frameworks and the Retail Planning Guidelines (DECLG, 2012).	None identified
EDO 3.4	Facilitate the redevelopment or re-use of the Corban's Lane Shopping Centre site for a mix of town centre uses in accordance with Section 8 of this plan and through the use of the Council's statutory powers, where appropriate under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 and Urban Regeneration and Housing	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	Act 2015, to stimulate use and development of this site.	
EDO 3.5	Manage the provision of undesirable uses such as fast food outlets, amusement arcades, off-licences, bookmakers, and to manage the distribution of other non-retail uses in the interest of protecting the vibrancy, residential amenity and public realm of Naas Town Centre.	None identified
EDO 3.6	Facilitate the development of new neighbourhood centre at an appropriate location in conjunction with the development of a new urban expansion area in the Northwest Quadrant and in accordance with an agreed Masterplan for the area.	None identified
EDO 3.7	Ensure that traditional/historic shop fronts are retained and restored, and that new shopfront design contributes positively to and enhances the streetscape.	None identified
EDO3.8	Encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of derelict or underutilised lands and buildings in the town centre for retail and other town centre uses, with due regard for the character, heritage and design requirements of the Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character.	None identified
EDO 3.9	Support the development of retail-led tourism associated with the natural and built heritage assets of Naas.	None identified
Archaeological Heritage		
Policy BNH1	It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the archaeological heritage in Naas and avoid negative impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.	None identified
Policy BNH2	It is the policy of the Council to retain where possible the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.	None identified
BHN 1.1	Protect and preserve items of archaeological interest listed in Table 6.1 and shown on the Map 6.1 from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	and setting of these sites.	
BHN 1.2	Progress in conjunction with the OPW the preservation and development of Jigginstown Castle (National Monument) as an attraction and training facility and to make it and the surrounding area accessible to the public as a tourist/training/open space attraction. Support the preparation of a Conservation Plan for Jigginstown Castle.	None identified
BHN 1.3:	Protect the historic core of Naas and retain where possible the existing street layout, historic building lines, traditional plot widths and medieval walls where these derive from medieval origins.	None identified
BHN 1.4:	Ensure proposals contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of sites including underwater sites associated with the Grand Canal.	None identified
BHN 1.5	Provide for the protection of historic burial grounds within Naas in co-operation with agencies such as the Office of Public Works and the National Monuments Section of the Department of the Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.	None identified
BHN 1.6:	Seek the preparation and implementation of heritage led regeneration plans (including the public realm) in Naas's historic core, through funding sources such as the Historic Towns Initiative and the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.	None identified
Protected Structures		
Policy BHN2	It is the policy of the Council to preserve and enhance the buildings identified on the Record of Protected Structures and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of such structures, including their historic curtilage, both directly and indirectly.	None identified
BHN 2.1	Ensure the protection and preservation of all protected structures, (or parts of structures) including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures contained in the Record of Protected Structures (refer to Map 6.2 and Map 6.2a).	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
BHN 2.2	Support the sensitive conservation of protected structures, their curtilage and attendant grounds, and to operate flexibility with regard to the use of these buildings to facilitate their ongoing use, subject to good conservation principles.	None identified
BHN 2.3	Raise awareness of the unique built heritage of Naas by facilitating conservation interpretation and management projects; such as 'Open House Tours'.	None identified
BHN 2.4	Proactively address dereliction, endangerment, neglect and vacancy in the town centre through the use of the Council's legal process and through the promotion of appropriate uses and the sensitive conservation of historic buildings.	None identified
Architectural Conservation Area		
Policy BNH3	It is the policy of the Council to protect the character of the Architectural Conservation Area and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of the ACA while providing guidance through the publication of a Statement of Character, to support property owners located within the ACA.	None identified
BNH 3.1	Ensure that new development, modifications, extensions and renovation works within or adjacent to Naas ACA is sympathetic to the distinctive character and visual setting of the ACA including views and vistas, streetscapes, building lines, fenestration patterns and architectural features.	None identified
BNH 3.2:	Have regard to the Naas ACA Statement and Kildare Shopfront Guidelines (2013) in the consideration of any shopfront or commercial proposals within the ACA. All proposals (contemporary or traditional) must be of high quality design and finish and must contribute positively to the established pattern, scale, materials and proportions of the buildings.	None identified
BNH 3.3:	Support the retention, repair and re-use of materials which characterise the vernacular architecture of the ACAs including stone, slate, timber windows and doors, and decorative render.	None identified
BNH 3.4	Conserve and enhance the unique characteristics of the laneways of Naas, their place, scale and form and to promote their overall enhancement within the context of a Public Realm Strategy.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
BNH 3.5	Protect and conserve important heritage items such as gates, street furniture, post boxes and other significant historic features of interest.	None identified
BNH 3.6	Encourage the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular and industrial heritage of Naas.	None identified
BNH 3.7	Promote the use of planned maintenance programmes and the preparation of conservation management plans of historic buildings within the ACA e.g. St David's Castle.	None identified
BNH 3.8	Encourage the removal of visually intrusive elements and unnecessary clutter from existing shopfront/ façades/commercial premises located within the ACA including: Utility structures; Obsolete/unnecessary lighting, electrics, cables, ducts; Signage (including sign protruding from the façade) at ground and upper floor levels; Internally affixed stickers; Internally illuminated signage.	None identified
Scenic Routes and Views		
Policy BNH5	It is the policy of the Council to ensure that the proposed location, siting and design of buildings and structures and any mitigation measures identified in the LAP, protect the special character of the identified scenic routes and protected views.	None identified
BNH 4.1	Protect the visual amenity and character of scenic routes and views in Naas and as identified in this LAP and the County Development Plan.	None identified
BNH 4.2	Require a Visual Impact Assessment of proposals/planning applications for development that may impact on the special character and visual amenity of scenic routes and views as part of the planning application process.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Natural Heritage		
Policy NH1	It is the policy of the Council to support the protection of species and habitats that are designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992 as well as areas of high local biodiversity value.	None identified. Overarching policies which cover the protection of the Natura 2000 network are included within the Kildare County Development Plan NH5 and NH6.
NHO 1.1	Protect and enhance the built, natural and recreational potential of the Grand Canal Corridor within Naas and to encourage and promote sustainable access to and enjoyment of the Grand Canal. Any development which an impact on the Canal River and Riparian habitats may have, shall be accompanied by an Ecological Impact Assessment.	None identified
NHO 1.2	Maintain a suitable buffer zone along the Grand Canal and other watercourses protecting them from development. The extent and composition of the buffer zone should be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist and will be informed by Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment (SHRFB).	None identified
NHO 1.3	Protect and conserve the integrity of soils that supports the rich biodiversity and ecological networks in Naas.	None identified
NHO 1.4	Encourage the retention and protection of trees and hedgerows on the approach roads to Naas, in particular those located on Tipper Road, Rathasker Road and Craddockstown Road.	None identified
NHO 1.5	Protect the lakes off the Ballymore Road and to consult with National Parks and Wildlife Service prior to undertaking or authorising any works or development that may impact on the natural heritage of the lakes.	None identified
NHO 1.6	To identify and protect, in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies and other relevant groups active in Naas, sites of local biodiversity importance (Local Biodiversity Areas), not otherwise protected by legislation.	None identified
NHO 1.7	Protect trees and woodlands of particular amenity value from damage and/or degradation.	None identified
Green Infrastructure		

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
Policy GI1	It is the policy of the Council to protect, reinforce and strengthen the Green Infrastructure network in Naas and to strengthen links to the wider regional network.	None identified
GIO 1.1:	Reduce and avoid fragmentation or deterioration of the Green Infrastructure network and strengthen ecological links within Naas and to the wider regional network. Ensure linkages are retained where appropriate and integrated into the design of new developments.	None identified
GIO 1.2:	Preserve, protect and augment trees, groups of trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the town by increasing, where appropriate, tree canopy coverage using locally native species by incorporating them within design proposals and supporting their integration into the existing Green Infrastructure network. Consideration should be given to planting of small areas of woodland or retention of areas of wet grassland/wetland as appropriate.	None identified
GIO 1.3:	Require proposals for development to demonstrate how they integrate/respond to Green Infrastructure and contribute to the development and protection of overall Green Infrastructure assets.	None identified
GIO 1.4	Seek the enhancement of existing wetlands in Naas and encourage the creation of new wetlands and the creation of new wetlands where appropriate, through the provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW).	None identified
GIO 1.5:	Seek to develop habitat patches/stepping stones within the landscape; to maximise proper connectivity between urban and peri-urban parks and the surrounding rural landscape.	None identified
GIO 1.6:	Seek to strengthen the ecological linkages with watercourses, the Grand Canal and the surrounding countryside.	None identified
GIO 1.7:	Promote a network of paths and cycle tracks to enhance accessibility to the Green Infrastructure network, while ensuring that the design and operation of the routes responds to the ecological protection needs of each site.	None identified
GIO 1.8	Promote best practice with respect to preventing, minimising and controlling the spread of, and eradicating, invasive species.	None identified
GIO 1.9	Ensure where the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside is unavoidable as part of a development that appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures are put in place, to conserve	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	and enhance biodiversity and landscape character. In some cases, it may be more effective to carry out mitigation or compensatory measures in another location.	
GIO 1.10	Deliver the green infrastructure routes identified on Map 7.1 through the integration of a network of natural habitat and biodiversity supporting spaces, parkland for passive and active recreational uses, heritage features, sustainable surface water and flood risk management measures.	None identified
Open Spaces		
Policy OS1	It is the policy of the Council to provide for a hierarchy of high quality multi- functional public open spaces and parkland within Naas, and to preserve and protect such spaces through the appropriate zoning of lands.	None identified
OSO 1.1	Support and facilitate the provision of open spaces with ecological and recreational corridors to aid the movement of biodiversity and people, subject to appropriate environmental assessment.	None identified
OSO 1.2	Protect lands zoned F: Open Space and Amenity and M: Future Park/Green Wedge on Map 7.3 for a variety of passive and active uses.	None identified
OSO 1.3	Provide a range of opportunities for active and passive recreation within public open spaces.	None identified
OSO 1.4	Seek the enhancement of existing wetlands in Naas and encourage the creation of new wetlands and the creation of new wetlands where appropriate, through the provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW).	None identified
OSO 1.5	Develop links between strategic areas of existing and future green infrastructure including: Along the Grand Canal from Sallins to Naas Harbour and onto Corbally Harbour; Monread Park; The Lakes and Fairgreen; Caragh Road; The River Liffey; Future town park on 'F1' zoned lands in Sallins Local Area Plan 2016-2022;	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	Kerdiffstown Park.	
OSO 1.6	Require that in the case where it is an absolute necessary to remove mature trees and/or hedgerow that they are replaced with semi mature trees/hedgerow.	None identified
OSO 1.7	Ensure that the existing topography of the lands is incorporated into the design and overall layout of any development with minimal variations to existing ground levels, in as far as is practicable in development schemes.	None identified
OSO 1.8	Investigate the feasibility of development of a greenway along the former Tullow Rail Line linking residential and open space areas.	None identified
OSO 1.9	Develop links between the lakes within the Oldtown Demesne and the Grand Canal to enhance the overall future park/green wedge area, by contributing to the overall recreational, aesthetic and wellbeing value of the area.	None identified
OSO 1.10	Investigate the feasibility of the Council acquiring lands for public open space and to co-operate with sporting and recreational bodies in the acquisition of lands.	None identified
Climate Change Adaptation Objectives		
Policy CC1	It is the policy of the Council to become a low-carbon and climate change resilient town by promoting the economic, social and environmental benefits of low-carbon development, reducing pollution and waste, making effective use of land and using resources efficiently.	None identified
CCO 1.1	Support the implementation and adoption of the County Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and promote Naas as a key driver of the transition to a low carbon economy within the County.	None identified
CCO 1.2	Support the effective and efficient use of land, prioritising the development of brownfield land in preference to greenfield land.	None identified
CCO 1.3	Support proposal for new development that seek to ensure they reduce energy use, use energy efficiently and use renewable energies	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
CCO 1.4	Require sustainable or green travel plans in appropriate developments.	None identified
CCO 1.5	Support proposals for retrofitting buildings that demonstrate a commitment to reducing energy use or use renewable/clean energy sources.	None identified
CCO 1.6	Seek integration of positive climate change mitigation and adaptation measures to be considered for all planning applications. Promote use of biodiversity techniques, blue and green walls and roofs and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and support the design of developments that minimise the usage of fresh water supplies and harvest 'grey' water for re-use.	None identified
Public Realm		
Policy URD1	It is the policy of the Council to actively encourage, support and facilitate environmental and public realm improvements in Naas to address environmental quality, urban design, architectural character, safety, and traffic impact.	None identified
URD 1.1	Commence the preparation of a Public Realm Strategy for Naas and implement it on a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.	None identified
URD 1.2	Ensure that the town centre is accessible to all members of the community, including people with disabilities, the elderly and people with young children.	None identified
URD 1.3	Actively engage with the community, developers and other agencies to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of the public realm in Naas.	None identified
URD 1.4	Prioritise the enhancement of the streetscape and heritage assets of the town centre, to continue environmental improvements, to sustain and improve its attraction for living, working, visiting and investment.	None identified
URD 1.5	Reduce the use of line-marking and signage on along Main Street.	None identified
URD 1.6	Investigate and explore options as part pf the Naas Transport Strategy and Public Realm Strategy including:	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	The potential for developing a one-way, looped system along Main Street; Rebalancing streets to become more pedestrian/cyclist friendly.	
URD 1.7	Actively consider the widening of pavement along suitable portions of North/South Main Streets to incorporate designated urban spaces/squares, parking, set down areas and potential for new tree planting.	None identified
URD 1.8	Facilitate and promote the extension of and links to the Grand Canal and to optimise the use of the Canal Harbour area.	None identified
URD 1.9	Investigate options to connect St David's Church and St David's Castle sites as an integrated heritage site and key tourist/community destination in the centre of the town.	None identified
Regeneration and Urban Development		
Policy URD2	It is the policy of the Council to promote the implementation of the Regeneration and Urban Development Strategy to ensure that planned growth for the town occurs in a sustainable and sequential manner while prioritising a low carbon, compact, consolidated and connected pattern of development in order to realise a vibrant and regenerated town centre; a prosperous, enterprising, dynamic and green economy; supported by an inclusive sustainable all-of-life residential community.	None identified
URD 2.1	Promote the town centre as the priority location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development and to promote new infill and backland development that consolidates and regenerates the existing urban core.	None identified
URD 2.2	Improve the quality, ambience, vitality and vibrancy of the town centre, through the following: Promotion of an appropriate mix of day and night time uses. Facilitation of development that will attract and retain commercial and retail activities in the town centre.	None identified
URD 2.3	Ensure that regeneration and new development enhances the character of the townscape and the quality of the public realm. Such development shall also be in keeping with the relevant Urban Design Principles outlined in Section 8.3.2.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
URD 2.4	Encourage full utilisation of buildings and sites, in particular use of upper floors and back lands where appropriate, with due cognisance to quality of urban design, integration and linkages.	None identified
URD 2.5	Require that new development facilitates a connected network of streets and spaces which prioritise pedestrians and cyclists and provide for the possibility of connections to future development on adjacent lands.	None identified
URD 2.6	Ensure that new development in the town centre will only be permitted where it conserves or enhances the existing character of the area and where it is demonstrated that it is of high architectural quality; providing a strong vertical emphasis and incorporating a fine urban grain, with active frontages at ground floor level where appropriate.	None identified
URD 2.7	Actively engage with the community, land owners, developers and other agencies to secure resources for the enhancement, renewal and regeneration of Naas town centre.	None identified
URD 2.8	Actively seek funding from relevant agencies and Government sources including the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) to secure financial support for all regeneration and urban development projects in Naas.	None identified
URD 2.9	All development proposals within designated Core Regeneration Areas, Key Development Areas and North West Quadrant must as far as practicable comply with the relevant development objectives and design frameworks set out in this plan.	None identified
URD 2.10	Prepare a Masterplan for the Northwest Quadrant subject to the considerations and specifications outlined in Section 8.6 to ensure that any development within the Northwest Quadrant takes place in a phased, co-ordinated and integrated manner. The Masterplan may be incorporated in to the LAP by way of an amendment or by agreement with the local authority.	None identified
URD 2.11	Investigate the preparation of a Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme for Naas to provide for the delivery of strategic public infrastructure including principal route connections, strategic open space and associated pedestrian, cyclist and community infrastructure in accordance with the provisions of Section 49 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).	None identified
URD 2.12	Actively seek the regeneration of St David's Castle, the Canal Harbour and Abbey Street areas as key visitor and community destinations within Naas Town Centre.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
URD 2.13	Ensure that development in both the Canal Bank area of the Canal Quarter and KDA: Naas West are well-integrated and does not close-off any options for future connections.	None identified
URD 2.14	Promote and facilitate the re-use of the existing Naas Library (once vacated) by the occupation of an active community use that will complement the vision for the Canal Harbour.	None identified
Water Supply and Wastewater		
Policy I1	It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and wastewater infrastructure in Naas, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.	None identified
IO 1.1	To work in conjunction with Irish Water to promote the ongoing upgrade and maintenance of water supply and wastewater services to meet the future needs of Naas.	None identified
IO 1.2	To seek to ensure that development proposals comply with the standards and requirements of Irish Water in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure.	None identified
Surface Water and Groundwater		
Policy I2	It is the policy of the Council to maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in Naas and to protect surface and ground water quality in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.	None identified
IO 2.1	Carry out surface water infrastructure improvement works as required.	None identified
IO 2.2	Incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) as part of all plans and development proposals in Naas. Proposals for development in KDAs, CRAs and Masterplan areas should address the potential for SuDS at a local and district level to control surface water outfall and protect water quality.	None identified
IO 2.3	Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in Naas in conjunction with the EPA and in accordance with the Eastern River Basin Management Plan and the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
IO 2.4	Require applicants where necessary to demonstrate that proposals will not negatively impact on the status of a waterbody, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan.	None identified
IO 2.5	Encourage 'daylighting'/de-culverting and the restoration of culverted water bodies within the town as a natural method of flood management.	None identified
Flood Risk Management		
Policy I3	It is the policy of the Council to manage flood risk in Naas in conjunction with the OPW and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).	None identified
IO 3.1	Ensure development proposals within the areas outlined on the Flood Risk Map (Map Ref. 9.1) are the subject of Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, appropriate to the nature and scale of the development being proposed.	None identified
IO3.2	Support and co-operate with the OPW in delivering the Eastern CFRAM Programme applicable to Naas.	None identified
Energy and Communications		
Policy I4	It is the policy of the Council to promote and facilitate the development and renewal of energy and communications networks in Naas, while protecting the amenities of the town.	None identified
IO 4.1	Support the statutory providers of national grid infrastructure by safeguarding existing infrastructure and strategic corridors from encroachment by development that might compromise the operation, maintenance and provision of energy networks.	None identified
IO 4.2	Support and facilitate the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in Naas, subject to safety and amenity requirements.	None identified
IO 4.3	Seek the undergrounding of all electricity, telephone and television cables in the town including the town centre and in housing and amenity areas.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
IO 4.4	Discourage a proliferation of above-ground utility boxes in the town and to seek screening measures and discreet locations in conjunction with the provision of such structures.	None identified
IO 4.5	Promote and encourage the use of renewable energy technologies for small, medium and large developments of existing and proposed building stock, such as direct heating, micro generation and other renewable energy technologies.	None identified
Pollution and Environmental Services		
Policy 15	It is the policy of the Council to protect environmental quality in Naas through the implementation of European, national and regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.	None identified
IO 5.1	Maintain recycling facilities and to secure the provision of additional facilities, as required, including in conjunction with new development.	None identified
IO 5.2	Avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole through promoting the preservation of best ambient air quality with sustainable development.	None identified
IO 5.3	Support local schools, town and community groups such as Naas Tidy Towns through education and awareness programmes and the provision of grant aid.	None identified
Changes to Zoning		
	Amend the LAP boundary to include: 'F(4): Open Space & Amenity' to the south of the LAP; 'L: Leisure & Amenity' to the south of the LAP; 'I: Agricultural' to the south of the LAP; 'F: Open Space & Amenity' to the south of the LAP.	None identified
	Amend the LAP boundary to include: 'Q1(2): Enterprise & Employment' to the north east of the LAP; 'R: Retail/Commercial' to the north east of the LAP;	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	'R: Retail/Commercial' to the north of the LAP; 'U: Utilities and Services' to the west of the LAP; 'Q1(8): Enterprise & Employment' to the south west of the LAP; 'R: Retail / Commercial' to the south west of the LAP; 'E: Community & Education' to the south of the LAP; 'E: Community & Education' to the south of the LAP.	
	Amend the LAP boundary to include: 'H: Industry & Warehousing' to the north of the LAP; 'H: Industry & Warehousing' to the north of the LAP; 'H: Industry & Warehousing' to the north west of the LAP; 'H: Industry & Warehousing' to the south west of the LAP; 'H: Industry & Warehousing' to the south west of the LAP; 'H: Industry & Warehousing' to the south west of the LAP; 'H: Industry & Warehousing' to the south west of the LAP; 'H: Industry & Warehousing' to the south west of the LAP.	None identified
	To the north of the Local Area Plan from 'R: Retail/Commercial' to 'H: Industry & Warehousing' (1.38Ha).	None identified
	To the north east of the Local Area Plan from 'R1: Retail/Commercial' to 'K (1): Commercial/Residential' (1.33Ha).	None identified
	To the north east of the Local Area Plan from 'Q1: Enterprise & Employment' to 'E: Community & Education' (1.2Ha).	None identified
	To the east of the Local Area Plan from 'Q: Enterprise and Employment' to 'C1(16): New Residential (Tier 1)' (3.9ha).	None identified
	Amendment of the Local Area Plan boundary to the south east of the towns map to lose an area of 'I: Agricultural'.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	To the north of the Local Area Plan from ‘J: Transport & Utilities’ to ‘K: Commercial/Residential’.	None identified
	To the north of the Local Area Plan from ‘J: Transport & Utilities’ to ‘K: Commercial/Residential’.	None identified
	In the centre of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘W: White Land’ to ‘C2(20): New Residential (Tier 2 Lands)’.	None identified
	In the centre of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘G: Urban Village’ to ‘C2(21): New Residential (Tier 2 Lands)’.	None identified
	In the centre of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘W: White Land’ to ‘C2(21): New Residential (Tier 2 Lands)’.	None identified
	In the centre of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘W: White Land’ to ‘Q: Enterprise & Employment’.	None identified
	In the centre of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘E: Community & Education’ to ‘Q: Enterprise & Employment’.	None identified
	To the south of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘I: Agricultural’ to ‘Q: Enterprise & Employment’.	None identified
	To the north of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘E: Community and Education’ to ‘Q: Enterprise & Employment’.	None identified
	To the north of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘E: Community and Education’, ‘C1: New Residential’ and ‘G: Urban Village’ to ‘Q: Enterprise & Employment’.	None identified
	To the north of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘W: White Land’ to ‘Q: Enterprise and Employment’.	None identified
	To the north of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from ‘Q: Enterprise & Employment’ to ‘F: Open Space & Amenity’.	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	To the south east of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from 'W: White Land' to 'C1(4): New Residential (Tier 1 Lands)'.	None identified
	To the south east of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from 'W: White Land' to 'C2(3): New Residential (Tier 2 Lands)'.	None identified
	To the south of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from 'F: Open Space & Amenity' and 'E2 & E1: Community & Education'.	None identified
	South of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from 'F: Open Space & Amenity' to 'Q: Enterprise & Employment'.	None identified
	South of the Northwest Quadrant of the Local Area Plan from 'F: Open Space & Amenity' to 'E: Community & Education'.	None identified
	South of the Northwest Quadrant from 'B: Existing/ Infill Residential' to 'C1(1): New Residential (Tier 1 Lands)' (2.1Ha).	None identified
	South west of the Local Area Plan from 'C5: New Residential' to 'A: Town Centre' (4ha).	None identified
	To the south west of the Local Area Plan from 'I: Agricultural' to 'F: Open Space & Amenity'.	None identified
	To the south west of the Local Area Plan from 'I: Agricultural' to 'Q: Enterprise & Employment' (59.4Ha).	None identified
	To the south of the Local Area Plan from 'E4: Community & Education' to 'C1(5): New Residential (Tier 1 Lands)'.	None identified
	To the south of the Local Area Plan from 'I: Agricultural' to 'C1(5): New Residential (Tier 1 Lands)'.	None identified
	To the south of the Local Area Plan from 'I: Agricultural' to 'F(2): Open Space & Amenity' 15.6Ha).	None identified

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	To the south of the Local Area Plan from 'I: Agricultural' to 'E(2): Community & Education'.	None identified
	South of the Local Area Plan from 'N1: Neighbourhood Centre' to 'E: Community & Education'.	None identified

6 Conclusion

The likely impacts that will arise from the draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2019-2023 alone and in combination with other plans and programmes have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially have a significant effect on Natura 2000 European Sites.

Eight Natura 2000 sites were identified within 15km of the LAP boundary however there is no pathway for impacts between the LAP boundary and those Natura 2000 sites and their qualifying features. Some additional wording has been identified to be included within a number of the LAP objectives to avoid potential for significant impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.

It is considered that significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 sites arising from the implementation of the LAP are extremely unlikely.

On the basis of the findings of this Screening Report to inform Appropriate Assessment by the competent authority, it is concluded that the proposed draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2019-2023 will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.