

Screening for Appropriate Assessment for

Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013-2019 – Proposed Amendment No. 1

February 2015

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1.0 Introduction

This report comprises information in support of screening for an Appropriate Assessment in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Planning and Development Act 2010; and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) of the Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Newbridge Local Area Plan (LAP) 2013-2019.

1.1 Background

The LAP was adopted by Kildare County Council on December 3rd 2013 and became effective on 29th January 2014. It became apparent that a small number of areas (four in total) zoned as open space and amenity in the LAP did not reflect existing or established uses or previously permitted developments. The Council now seeks to address this issue.

1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

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

Article 6(4) states:

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

1.3 Stages of The Appropriate Assessment

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

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. <http://www.npws.ie>
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, referred to as MN2000, European Commission 2000; <http://ec.europa.eu>
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, referred to as the "EC Article 6 Guidance Document (EC2000); <http://ec.europa.eu>
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. <http://ec.europa.eu>

The E.U. Commission produced a guidance document on carrying out Appropriate Assessment in 2001 (E.U. Commission 2001). This document divides the Appropriate Assessment into four stages.

- **Stage 1: Screening** (the process which identifies the likely impacts of a project or plan, on its own or in combination with other projects or plans, upon a Natura 2000 Site).
- **Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment** (the consideration of the impacts on the Natura 2000 site and a review of the effectiveness of possible mitigation measures).
- **Stage 3: Alternative Solutions** (a process which examines alternative options for a project or plan which will avoid any adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 site).
- **Stage 4: Assessment where adverse impacts remains** (an assessment of compensatory measure which can be undertaken if adverse impacts remain and the project or plan is permitted to proceed for Reason of Overriding Public Interest).

2.0 Screening

The screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment contains the following elements:

- Description of proposed Amendment to the Newbrigde LAP;
- Identification of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected;

- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result;
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified above on site integrity;
- Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects; and
- Screening conclusion.

2.1 Description of the Proposed Amendment No. 1

The proposed Amendment seeks to amend the zoning on four sites as contained in Land Use Zoning Map 7 as follows:

Site	Location	Area (ha.)	Proposed Zoning Amendment
1A	Crotanstown Grange.	0.98	Zone site from F Open Space and Amenity to B Existing Residential/Infill
1B	Southern Relief Road, Moorefield.	0.26	Zone site from F Open Space and Amenity to B Existing Residential/Infill
1C	Standhouse Road.	0.05	Zone site from F Open Space and Amenity to B Existing Residential/Infill
1D	Watercress Manor, Morristownbillar.	1.18	Zone site from F Open Space and Amenity to B Existing Residential/Infill

All of the sites are currently zoned as F Open Space and Amenity and the Amendment seeks to zone each site as B Existing Residential/Infill.

The exact boundaries of each of the sites are delineated on Land Use Zoning Map 7 attached.

2.2 Description of the Natura 2000 Sites

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

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

There are no Natura 2000 sites located within the Newbridge LAP area. Pollardstown Fen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) immediately adjoins the boundary in the southwest. Table 1 lists the Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Newbridge LAP. (See Map in Appendix 1).

2.2.1 Pollardstown Fen SAC

Pollardstown Fen SAC lies adjacent to the LAP boundary to the southwest. Pollardstown Fen SAC is a ground water dependent ecosystem, and therefore, any changes to the groundwater regime as a result of the LAP could have adverse effects on the habitats and species for which the SAC is designed.

The LAP contains policies and objectives which seek to protect and enhance the groundwater around Newbridge town, and have specific policies to ensure the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. In addition Policy NH 8 ensures all proposals/projects are screened to avoid significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Such policies and measures would ensure that the proposed Amendment will not impact on the groundwater regime including the groundwater regime of Pollardstown Fen SAC and therefore will not impact on the integrity of the SAC or the habitats and species for which it is designated.

2.2.2 Mouds Bog SAC

Mouds Bog SAC is located approximately 2km to the northeast of the LAP boundary. Mouds Bog SAC is a ground water dependent ecosystem, and therefore, any changes to the groundwater regime as a result of the LAP could have adverse effects on the habitats and species for which the SAC is designed. As mentioned above, policy NH 8 ensures that all proposed development(s) are screened under Article 6 of the Habitat Directive.

2.2.3 Barrow/Nore SAC

The Tully Stream is a small tributary of the River Barrow, rising south west of Kildare Town and flowing south-westwards to join the River Barrow near Vicarstown on the Laois/Kildare Border. The Tully Stream rises c. 11km from the Newbridge LAP and joins the River Barrow/Nore SAC 16km from the LAP. Therefore any potential development proposed in the Amendment is unlikely to impact on the integrity of the Barrow/Nore SAC or the habitats and species for which it is designated.

2.2.4 Ballynafagh Lake SAC

Ballynafagh Lake is located about 2 km north-west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. It is a shallow alkaline lake with some emergent vegetation. The Blackwood Feeder, which connects Ballynafagh Lake to the Grand Canal, is also included in the site. There is no hydrological link between the LAP lands and the SAC. As such no significant impacts are likely to occur.

2.2.5 Ballynafagh Bog SAC

This raised bog is situated about 1 km west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. The area is directly underlain by muddy, fossiliferous limestones, interbedded with calcareous shales. The subsoils are predominantly clay-rich tills. All are of low permeability. The site comprises a relatively small core of uncut high bog (approx. 70 ha), which is surrounded by a more extensive area of cutover bog (approx. 90 ha). The high bog area can be divided into a wet core of active bog which covers an area of 23 ha, surrounded by approximately 44 ha of degraded raised bog which is experiencing drying-out at present. There is no hydrological link between the LAP lands and the SAC. As such no significant impacts are likely to occur.

Table 1: Summary of information for Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Newbridge LAP

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from LAP area	Qualifying Habitats and species	Conservation Objectives
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Main River 15 to 16km 11km (tributary of)	<p>Annex I - priority habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alluvial wet woodlands - Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) (91E0) - Petrifying springs - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (7220) <p>Annex I- habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old oak woodlands - Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles (91A0) - Floating river vegetation - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation (3260) - Estuary – (1130) - Tidal mudflats - <i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) (1320) - <i>Salicornia</i> mudflats - <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand (1310) - Atlantic salt meadows - (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) (1330) - Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) (1410) - Dry heath - European dry heaths (4030) - Eutrophic tall herbs - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels (6430) <p>Annex II- species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (1095) - River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (1099) - Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (1096) - Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (1029) - Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i> (1990) - Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (1092) - Twaite Shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> (1103) - Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (1106) - Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> (1355) - Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (1016) - Killarney Fern <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (1421) <p>Qualifying interests occurring in Kildare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alluvial wet woodlands - Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) (91E0) - Petrifying springs - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (7220) - Old oak woodlands - Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles (91A0) - Floating river vegetation - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and 	<p>Generic Conservation Objective:</p> <p>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.</p>

			<p>Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation (3260)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dry heath - European dry heaths (4030) – Eutrophic tall herbs - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels (6430) <p>Annex II- species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – River Lamprey - <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (1099) – Brook Lamprey – <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (1096) – Freshwater Pearl Mussel – <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (1029) – Crayfish – <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (1092) – Atlantic Salmon – <i>Salmo salar</i> (1106) – Otter – <i>Lutra lutra</i> (1355) – Desmoulin’s Whorl Snail - <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> 	
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Adjacent to the boundary	<p>Annex I - priority habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] – Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] – Alkaline fens [7230] <p>Annex II- species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> [1013] – <i>Vertigo angustior</i> [1014] – <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016] – Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] – Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] – Alkaline fens [7230] 	<p>Generic Conservation Objective:</p> <p>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.</p>
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	c. 2km	<p>Annex I - priority habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Active raised bogs [7110]; <p>Annex I -habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]; and – Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]. 	<p>Generic Conservation Objective:</p> <p>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.</p>
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	12.5km	<p>Annex II- species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> [1016] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> <input type="checkbox"/> [1065] <i>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</i> <p>Annex I - priority habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> [7230] Alkaline fens 	<p>Generic Conservation Objective:</p> <p>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</p>

				selected.
000391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	11km	Annex I -habitats <input type="checkbox"/> [7110] * Active raised bogs <input type="checkbox"/> [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration <input type="checkbox"/> [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>	Generic Conservation Objective: 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.

2.3 Assessment

The screening assessment follows the proposed methodology outlined in the ‘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/EC’. A separate screening matrix has been completed for Pollardstown Fen (see Table 2). This matrix considers potential impacts of the proposed Amendment on the integrity of the site and the qualifying interest features (i.e. the species and habitats for which the site has been designated).

According to the EU Habitats Directive, favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- It’s 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 as defined below.

The favourable conservation status of a species is 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.

Table 2: Assessment Matrix Pollardstown Fen

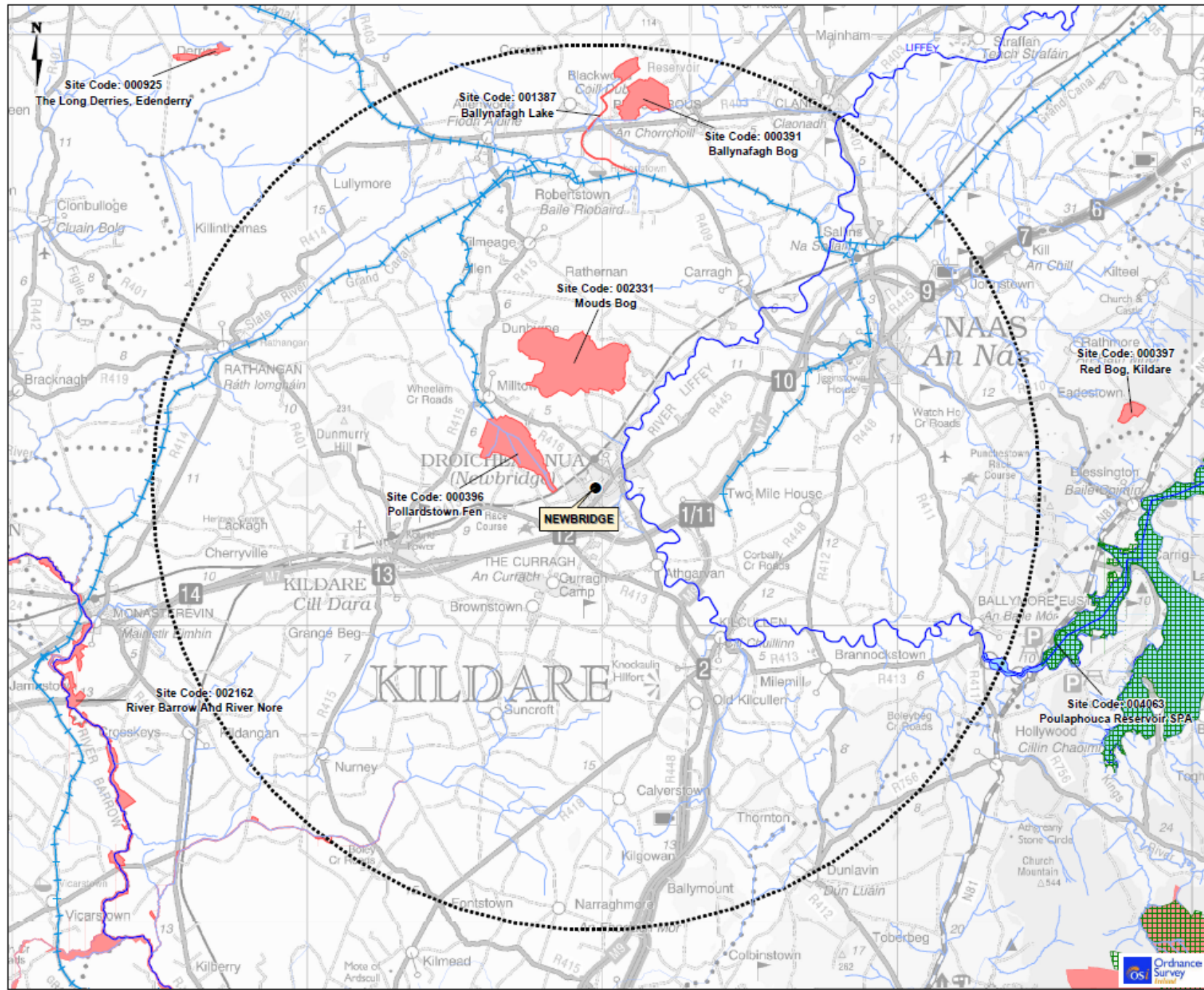
Brief description of the project or plan	See 2.2.1 above
Brief description of the Natura 2000 site	Pollardstown Fen is situated on the northern margin of the Curragh, approximately 14.5km from Monasterevin. About 40 springs provide a continuous supply of water to the fen. The Curragh Aquifer (also referred to as the Mid-Kildare Aquifer) lies beneath the Fen and is an extensive sand and gravel aquifer with an area of 202km ² . The aquifer is considered to be a regionally important sand/gravel aquifer with high vulnerability. The aquifer extends from

	<p>approximately 1km west of Kildare Town to the south western edge of Naas.</p> <p>Pollardstown den is the largest spring fed fen in Ireland and has a well developed flora and fauna. Owing to the rarity of this habitat and the numbers of rare organisms found there, the site is rated as of international importance.</p> <p>This cSAC supports many Annexed habitats as well as numerous Annex II animal species. Of particular conservation importance is the occurrence of all three of the Whorl Snails that are listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. Also listed as an Annex II species and occurring in Pollardstown Fen are the otter and brook lamprey. Annex I bird species are also present along with a range of rare and scarce plants and invertebrates.</p>
<p>Assessment Criteria</p>	
<p>Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.</p>	<p>The proposed Amendment (and four sites therein) are located between a minimum of 700m (site 1D) and a maximum 2km (site 1A) of the SACs. There are unlikely to be any direct impacts on the Natura 2000 sites, any reduction in area or deterioration in condition of qualifying interests for which the site is designated.</p> <p>Any development proposals will also be screened at application stage in terms of impact on the SACs.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Size and scale; · Land-take; · Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site; · Resource requirements (water abstraction etc); · Emission (disposal to land, water or air); · Excavation requirements; · Transportation requirements; · Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc; · Other. 	<p>The proposed Amendment is unlikely to result in adverse impacts on Pollardstown Fen or Mouds Bog.</p> <p>The sites are relatively small while two of the proposed sites (sites 1A and 1D) are reflecting established uses on site. The two remaining sites (1B and 1C) cumulatively have an area of 0.031ha which is insignificant in terms of potential excavation in the event of development.</p>

<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · reduction of habitat area; · disturbance to key species; · habitat or species fragmentation; · reduction in species density; · changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc) 	<p>Given the distances involved and the scale and nature of proposed Amendment, no impacts on the site are anticipated.</p>
<p>Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site; · interference with key relationships that define the function of the site. 	<p>Given the distance of the sites under the proposed Amendment from the SACs, the scale and nature of proposed Amendment, no impacts on the site are anticipated.</p>
<p>Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · loss · fragmentation · disruption · disturbance; · change to key elements of the site (eg water quality etc) 	<p>No potential adverse impacts have been identified.</p>
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts are not known.</p>	<p>As no adverse impacts have been identified, it is not anticipated that there will be any in-combination effects from other projects or plans.</p>

3 Screening Conclusion statement

On the basis of the findings of this screening for Appropriate Assessment and by applying the precautionary principle it is concluded that the proposed Amendment to the Newbridge LAP is not directly connected to the management of a Natura 2000 site and will not have significant effects on the Natura 2000 network. As such a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required. A finding of No Significant Effects Matrix has been completed and is contained in Appendix 3.



Legend

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Main River
- Small River/Stream
- Grand Canal
- Newbridge
- Buffer (15km)

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

Client
 Kildare County Council

Project
 Appropriate Assessment of Newbridge Small Town Plan

Title
 Natura 2000 Designated Areas

Figure 2.1

West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland
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 F +353 (0)1 2835678
 E Ireland@rpggroup.com
 W rpgroup.com/ireland

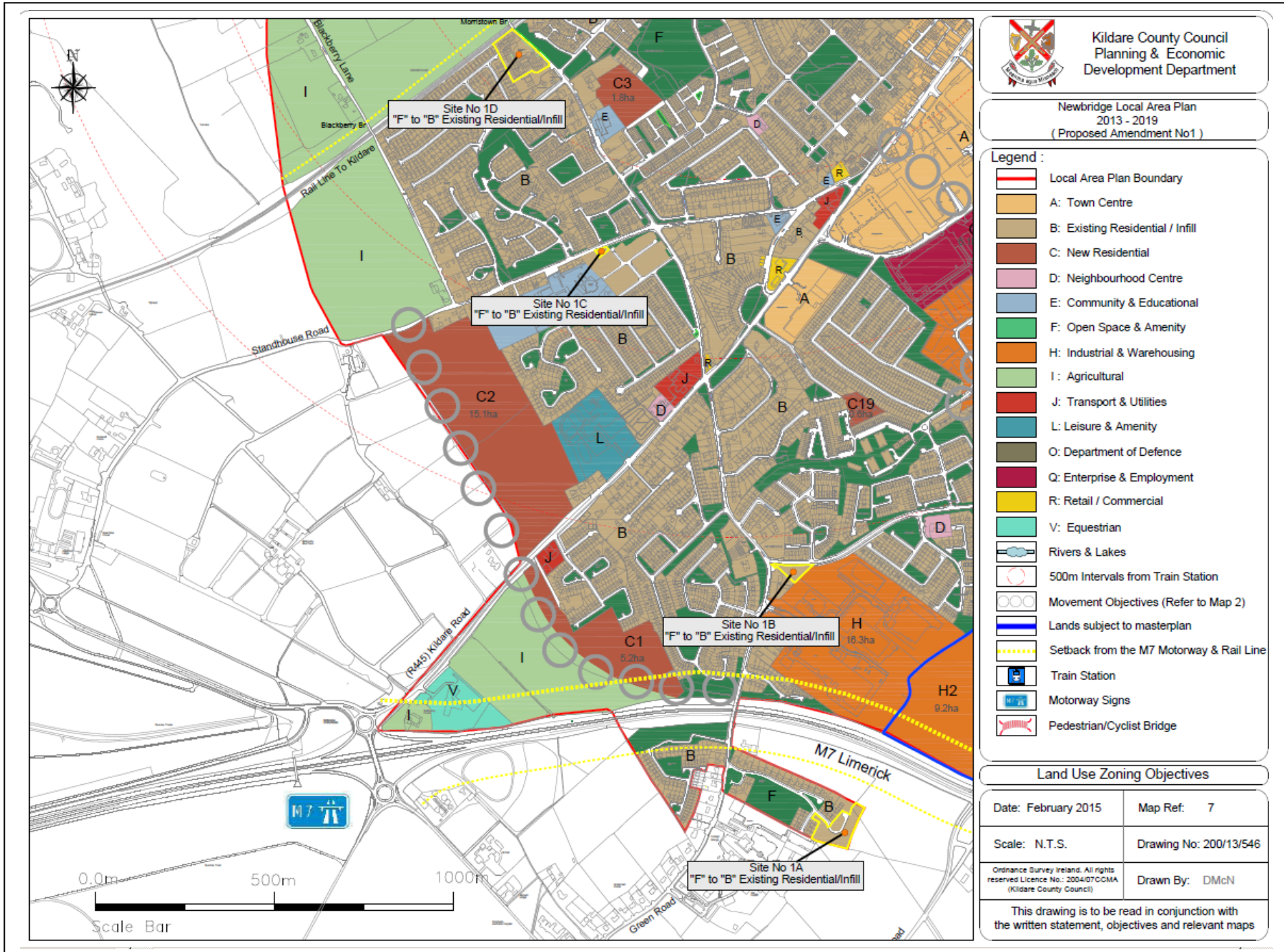
Issue Details

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Scale: 1:120,000 @ A3	Drawing No. M0019
Date: 20/06/2011	Rev. D01

Notes

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Appendix 2 – Location of Sites under Proposed Amendment No. 1



Appendix 3 Finding of No Significant Effects Report Matrix

Name of project or plan	Proposed Kildare ACA variation to the CDP 2011-2017
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	River Barrow/Nore SAC; Mouds Bog SAC; Pollardstown Fen SAC; Ballynafagh Lake SAC; and Ballynafagh Bog SAC.
Description of the project or plan	
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?	No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?	No
The Assessment of Significance of Effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.	The proposed development is not likely to affect Natura 2000 sites.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant.	<p>The SACs are water dependent ecosystems, and therefore, any changes to the groundwater regime or surface water quality as a result of the Proposed Amendment could have adverse effects on the habitats and species for which the SAC's are designated. The Newbridge LAP and Kildare CDP contains specific policies relating to the protection and maintenance of both the groundwater regime and surface water quality.</p> <p>Barrow/Nore SAC The Tully Stream is a small tributary of the River Barrow, rising 11km southwest of Newbridge Town and flowing south-westwards to join the River Barrow near Vicarstown on the Laois/Kildare Border. The Tully Stream rises 11km from the LAP boundary and joins the River Barrow/Nore SAC 16km from Newbridge. Therefore any potential development is unlikely to impact on the integrity of the Barrow/Nore SAC or the habitats and species for which it is designated.</p> <p>Mouds Bog SAC Mouds Bog SAC is located approximately 2km northeast of the LAP boundary. Mouds Bog SAC is a ground water dependent ecosystem, and</p>

	<p>therefore, any changes to the groundwater regime as a result of the LAP could have adverse effects on the habitats and species for which the SAC is designed.</p> <p>Pollardstown Fen SAC Pollardstown Fen SAC is located adjacent to the LAP. The closest site under this amendment is 700m west of the SAC. Pollardstown Fen SAC is a groundwater dependent ecosystem, and therefore, any changes to the groundwater regime as a result of the LAP could have adverse effects on the habitats and species for which the SAC is designed.</p> <p>The LAP contains policies and objectives which seek to protect and enhance the groundwater around Newbridge town, and have specific policies to ensure the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. Such policies and measures would ensure that all proposed developments within this proposed Amendment will not impact on the groundwater regime including the groundwater regime of Pollardstown Fen SAC and therefore will not impact on the integrity of the SAC or the habitats and species for which it is designated.</p> <p>Ballynafagh Lake SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC Both SAC's are located 12.5km and 11km respectively from the LAP. The LAP contains policies and objectives which seek to protect and enhance the groundwater around Newbridge town, and have specific policies to ensure the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. Given the distances involved and the limited nature of the proposed Amendment, there is unlikely to be any impact on the integrity of these sites.</p> <p>In addition Policy NH 8 ensures all proposals/projects are screened to avoid significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address.	N/A

Response to consultation.	N/A
Data Collected to Carry Out the Assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	Bridget Loughlin, Heritage Officer
Sources of data	NPWS database, Newbridge LAP Appropriate Assessment Screening and Newbridge LAP 2013-2019.
Level of assessment completed	Desktop
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?	Kildare County Council Planning and Economic Department
Overall Conclusion	Stage 1 Screening indicates that the proposed Amendment will not have a significant negative impact on the Natura 2000 network. Therefore, a Stage 2 'Appropriate Assessment' under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC is not required.