

**Kildare County Council**

# Town Renewal Master Plan Monasterevin, County Kildare

AA Screening Report

February 2023



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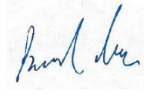

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by Arup on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC). It provides information on and assesses the potential for the Town Renewal Master Plan Monasterevin, County Kildare, (hereafter referred to as ‘the Plan’) to impact on European sites within the Natura 2000 network.

The new Plan will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of Monasterevin Town. It will guide the sustainable growth of Monasterevin and enable it to be a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and prosper, while leveraging the town’s unique assets as an exciting place to visit, explore and remember.

The purpose of the Screening Report is to inform KCC, the competent authority, of the likelihood of significant effects on European sites arising from the Plan.

## 1.2 Legislative Background

The preparation of the AA Screening Report has regard to Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Directive). This is transposed in Ireland primarily by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for AA, i.e., an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect European sites, namely Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protected Areas (SPA). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (i.e., Stage 2 AA):

Article 6(3) states that:

*“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 an 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.”*

The subsequent paragraph allows proposed plans and projects to be approved in certain conditions as Article 6(4) states that:

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

*It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”*

This AA Screening report provides information to KCC, the competent authority, to make a determination as to whether likely significant effects on any European Designated Sites arising as a result of the Plan can be screened out, or if a further assessment of the likely significant effects is required through an Appropriate Assessment.

### 1.3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Process

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 European Designated Site. This screening assessment follows European Commission (2001) guidance (referenced below) which recommends that screening follow a four-step process as outlined below:

- Step one: Determine whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site. If it is, then no further assessment is necessary.
- Step two: Describe the plan and other plans and projects that, ‘in combination’, have the potential to have significant effects on a European site.
- Step three: Identify the potential effects on the European site.
- Step four: Assess the significance of any effects on the European site.

The AA Screening report follows the source-pathway-receptor model, which dictates that in order for an effect to be established, then all three elements must be present and functioning. If one aspect of this chain is absent, then the potential effect is likely to be of little significance on the designated site.

This AA Screening report has taken into account guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting European sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive;
- Managing European sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat’s Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000;
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007); and
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011).

### 1.4 Sources of Information Used

Information relied upon for the AA Screening report included the following information sources, which includes maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie);
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie);
- Land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie>;
- Water quality data available from [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie);
- Ireland River Basin District data from [www.wfdireland.ie](http://www.wfdireland.ie);
- Soils, geology and hydrogeology data available from [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie);

- Article 17 Reporting on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland available from National Parks and Wildlife Service website<sup>1</sup>;
- Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020 – 2026 available at BirdWatch Ireland website<sup>2</sup>
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 available on Kildare County Council website<sup>3</sup>
- Various Local Area Plans within Kildare County available on Kildare County Council website<sup>4</sup>
- Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2016-2022 and Monasterevin Habitat Survey and Green Infrastructure Mapping 2014, both available on Kildare County Council website<sup>5</sup>

## **1.5 Consultation Strategy**

A public consultation was held from November to December 2018 at Monasterevin Community Centre. Additional public consultation alongside the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) team was hosted through May and June of 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic limited opportunity for in-person engagement due to physical restrictions, the questions presented and summarised over this section were presented using an online platform for ease of public use and engagement. Three core headings were addressed within this single and consolidated questionnaire, a framework that focused on the themes of Living, Shopping and Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019>

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://birdwatchireland.ie/birds-of-conservation-concern-in-ireland/>

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/KildareCountyDevelopmentPlan2017-2023/>

<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/LocalAreaPlans/LocalAreaPlans/>

<sup>5</sup> Available at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/LocalAreaPlans/LocalAreaPlans/MonasterevinLocalAreaPlan2016-2022/>

## 2. Scope and Description of the Plan

### Town Renewal Master Plan January 2022

The new Plan will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of Monasterevin town. The review has come at a time of significant and unprecedented challenges arising from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit and Climate Change. It is essential that the Monasterevin Town Plan responds to these challenges and identifies opportunities to support economic recovery and improve quality of life for the people of Monasterevin.

The plan states that in response to a range of changing needs, growing demands and increasing challenges faced by towns and villages across modern Ireland, a number of responses are being examined and delivered to safeguard the livelihoods, successes, safety and futures of those who live in, work in and visit these special places. Monasterevin in County Kildare is a unique town with a rich history, a vibrant and diverse community, and an exciting heritage setting. As a town facing these demands and challenges, Monasterevin also presents a strong and unique opportunity to secure a thriving future.

### 2.1 Town Renewal Master Plan

As mentioned above, the plan addresses the response to changing needs, demands and challenges of Monasterevin and identifies opportunities for the town's growth. The Plan will follow the three core pillars or Design Principles:

- *Connectivity: Linking people, places, spaces and stories, at both a local and a regional scale;*
- *Activity: Enlivening the town and region: leveraging its waterways, buildings and public spaces; and*
- *Identity: Shaping a compelling, coherent and unique character of place: putting Monasterevin on the map.*

The Master Plan consists of six chapters (Introduction, analysis, consultation, vision, proposals and action plan) with appendices. There are twelve proposals under three schedules; History & Heritage, Visiting & Learning and Living & Thriving. The proposals are individual actions within the Master Plan. Each proposal is recognised as playing a unique and important role in fulfilling the town's Master Plan principles; connectivity, activity and identity. However, the proposals interactions with adjacent project will be important to determining the success of each proposal.

#### Proposal A: Market Square

The Market Square aims to provide a flexible and multi-functional civic space in the town centre with a balance between vehicle and pedestrian activity. This will involve the creation of new dining spaces, expanded public spaces, resurfacing, signage, seating and lighting.

#### Proposal B: Drogheda Street

The Drogheda Street proposal aims to promote a safe space for active travel modes along this critical transport spine. The proposal will require resurfacing, paving works, public lighting, on-street vegetation, signage.

#### Proposal C: Mid-Block Route Network

Many of Monasterevin's larger urban blocks throughout the historic centre present an opportunity to improve neighbourhood connections, school journeys and access to shops through improved pedestrian permeability.

#### Proposal D: Active Trail, Moore Abbey

An opportunity to celebrate the origins of Mainister-Eimhin in the grounds of Moore Abbey, where a woodland trail offers an off-road experience for explorers, connecting back to the Barrow Blueway at the town's Market Square.

### **Proposal E: Canal Harbour Area**

The Canal Harbour Area proposal includes traffic-calming measures, the streetscape is transformed into a thriving pedestrian-friendly environment with accessible points along the waterfront, increased vegetation as buffers, architectural upgrades to heritage shop frontages, local play points next to the historic Wharf area, and a safe pedestrian connection underneath the existing rail bridge, towards the regional train station.

### **Proposal F: Waterfront Access and Activity**

Increasing access to the barrow Blueway that runs through Monasterevin Town. Working with local community, education and sports groups, the proposed hub will offer outdoor activities combined with heritage engagement opportunities. It is envisaged that project delivery will require Appropriate Assessment (AA).

### **Proposal G: Canal Aqueduct Crossing**

Creation of a waterway crossing offers a dual-aspect of views and interpretation opportunities - relating to each of the built and natural environments.

### **Proposal H: Moore Street**

This Proposal will link back to the town's Georgian architectural heritage with the proposed Market Square plaza at its south, and to the wider Barrow Blueway that is planned to weave into Monasterevin along this historic and generously-proportioned thoroughfare. The street is envisaged as a boulevard of street trees, simplified wayfinding and signage, opportunities for public seating, widened footpaths at active edges, and raised traffic tables at junctions - offering greater safety for all street visitors, alongside bicycle lanes that tie into the Barrow Blueway.

### **Proposal I: Town connections**

Critical to ensuring a socially vibrant, economically active and environmentally resilient future for the town is to allow for safe, accessible and active links between these centres, with comprehensive links to attractions and neighbourhoods across the wider region. Town-wide investment in active travel infrastructure through 2021 has seen a rise in those opting to cycle and walk to school or work - the reality of which has reduced car dependency across many villages, towns and cities in Ireland. This phenomenon of traffic evaporation is encouraged by balanced traffic management schemes, increased investment in active travel infrastructure, and incentives to opt for travel modes that are less spatially-dominant and more environmentally-friendly than the private motor car. Given the advantageous space offered between the town's urban centres along each of the Togher Road, Drogheda Row, Drogheda Street, the Dublin Road, Moore Street (Main Street) and Canal Harbour, a variety of travel incentives can be developed through improved infrastructure - safely linking into the wider regional transport links of the train line.

### **Proposal J: Train Station Access**

Public realm improvements to the existing access routes towards and into Monasterevin station as well as opportunities to develop more direct and safe access directly from neighbourhoods to the east are considered, so as to ensure universally safe access to and from the town's residential areas, employment centres, regional attractions and touristic destinations. These upgrades are to include legible signage, guidance and station information, surface widening and upgrades, and improved street lighting and at station approaches.

### **Proposal K: Neighbouring Greenways**

An inter-neighbourhood network of active travel pathways can offer residents and visitors a wide variety of direct connections with reduced carriageway crossings, less traffic and more ecological engagement. These routes will function as viable and exciting alternatives to pedestrians and cyclists, offering quieter and safer routes with the provision of wayfinding, lighting, seating and bins dedicated to the network. Accommodating active SuDS measures along these routes will contribute to wider flood risk mitigation measures, while also offering local opportunities for environmental engagement, education and physical interaction.



## **Proposal L: The Distillery**

Dating from the late 19th century, Cassidy's Distillery on Dublin Street is ideally located in the centre of Monasterevin and presents a great opportunity for a range of flexible new uses including residential space and office areas. While currently vacant, this historic cluster and the adjacent lands have capacity to become a mixed-use centre for living in, working at, and visiting. It is seen as a community hub, with ties to other local community and educational facilities - a platform for local performance, exhibition and public events. It is recommended by An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland) that - though this impressive building currently requires extensive works to address conservation problems - it also presents a unique opportunity for the wider town, and has recommended uses including residential, community, commercial, and educational.

## 3. Ecological Overview

### 3.1 General Ecological Site Description

The area surrounding Monasterevin town encompasses a rich array of natural habitats such as grassland, woodland, peatland, hedgerows, canals and rivers. Kildare County is characterised by low-lying fertile soils, resulting in prominent agriculture land use. There are three major rivers that flow through Kildare the Barrow, Liffey and Boyne. These river networks, along with tributaries and canals support riparian habitats and freshwater aquatic species of national importance. The town itself supports wildlife through parkland, stone walls, waterways (River Barrow), private gardens, pockets of woodland and agricultural fields. A full description of the ecological baseline of Monasterevin is provided in the Monasterevin Habitat Survey and Green Infrastructure Mapping (2014).

### 3.2 Baseline Data

#### 3.2.1 Introduction

Online species records and a record of site walkover habitat and species provides, when considered in combination with other available data, an indication of the general ecological baseline for the site. Whilst most of the habitat and species listed below will not be qualifying interests of relevant sites, records of their presence does provide a picture of the ecological baseline and therefore whether there are any pathways for effects on a site or qualifying interest or the conditions that support the conservation objectives of a site.

#### 3.2.2 National Biodiversity Data Centre

The National Biodiversity Data Centre<sup>6</sup> species records were consulted. Species recorded within grid squares (2km<sup>2</sup>) N60J and N61J (encompassing Monasterevin) were reviewed with a species list was compiled and shown in Table 1. Species records over 10 years old were omitted as they were considered not likely to reflect current species composition.

**Table 1: Species recorded through the NBDC within grid squares N60J and N61F over the past 10 years**

Common Name	Latin Name	Designation and Protection*
<b>Aquatic</b>		
freshwater, white-clawed crayfish	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	EU Habitats Directive (Annex II & V), Wildlife Act 1976.
<b>Bird</b>		
blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	EU Birds Directive (Article 1), Wildlife Act 1976, Green (BOCC)
common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	EU Birds Directive (Article 1), Wildlife Act 1976, Green (BOCC)
common chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	EU Birds Directive (Article 1), Wildlife Act 1976, Green (BOCC)
Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	EU Birds Directive (Annex II), Wildlife Act 1976, Green (BOCC)
yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	EU Birds Directive (Article 1), Wildlife Act 1976, Red (BOCC)
<b>Mammal</b>		

<sup>6</sup> National Biodiversity Data Centre Maps. <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map>. Accessed 27/05/2022.

Common Name	Latin Name	Designation and Protection*
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	EU Habitats Directive (Annex IV), Wildlife Act, Least Concern (Red List Status), All Ireland Species Action Plan – bats.
Eurasian badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	Wildlife Act, Least Concern (Red List Status)
Eurasian red squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Wildlife Act, Least Concern (Red List Status), All Ireland Species Action Plan – red squirrel
European otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	EU Habitats Directive (Annex II and IV), Wildlife Act, Least Concern (Red List Status), Threat Response Plans
pine marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	EU Habitats Directive (Annex V), Wildlife Act, Least Concern (Red List Status)
<b>Invertebrate</b>		
buffish mining bee	<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	Vulnerable (Red List Status)
Gooden's nomad bee	<i>Nomada goodeniana</i>	Endangered (Red List Status)
<b>Invasive</b>		
crayfish plague <sup>7</sup>	<i>Aphanomyces astaci</i>	High Impact Invasive (NBDC)
Eastern grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	EU Union of Concern, Third Schedule list of the European Communities Regulations and High Impact Invasive Species (NBDC)
greater, white-toothed shrew	<i>Crocidura russula</i>	Medium Impact Species (NBDC)
Jenkins' spire snail	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Species (NBDC)

\*EU Habitat Directive - Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. EU Birds Directive - Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, Wildlife Act, 1976., Irish List of Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC), Red List Status, National Biodiversity Datacentre Invasive Species List (medium risk list and High risk list), Invasive Alien Species of Union concern (Union of Concern), Third Schedule list of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, Threat Response Plans are being prepared by NPWS as part of Ireland's response to the judgement of the European Court of Justice in case C-183/05, All Ireland Species Action Plans.

### 3.2.3 Site Walkover

A site walkover was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 by Donncha Madden, an experienced field ecologist. Areas visited included the Grand Canal, River Barrow, the aqueduct, Canal Harbour and agricultural fields with a variety of habitats recorded. Aside from bird species there were no other signs of protected species in the area although the walkover only considered the general setting of the proposals within the Monasterevin Town Masterplan and how or whether they might result in any likely significant effects on any European site.

<sup>7</sup> Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*) is a highly infectious disease of all crayfish of non-North American origin. The causal agent is an Oomycete. Concerns over the potential impact to native species. More information available on <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/crayfish-plague/>. Accessed 30/05/2022.

### 3.2.3.1 Habitats

Whilst the site walkover was not a comprehensive habitat survey of Monasterevin Town the habitats that were in proximity to the River Barrow and Monasterevin Harbour in particular were recorded according to Fossitt (2000)<sup>8</sup> with habitat codes are provided for each habitat recorded. Prior to the site walkover and following initial desktop review of the proposals within the Monasterevin Town Masterplan, it was considered that any proposals in proximity to the River Barrow and Monasterevin Harbour (primarily Proposals E, F and G) had the greatest potential for likely significant effects on European sites and the site walkover effort was focused in these areas.

Habitat recorded during the walkover include:

- Amenity grassland (GA2) and Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3) built land;
- Broadleaved woodland (WD1) habitats recorded along the River Barrow included mature specimens of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Areas of early successional scrub woodland were also recorded including yew (*Taxus baccata*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Unmanaged mature hedgerows (WL1) were recorded containing hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*);
- Grazed improved agricultural grasslands (GA1) was the main habitat within fields at the eastern side of the river dominated by perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) with areas of dock (*Rumex* sp.);
- Neutral, nutrient rich floodplain wet grassland (GS4) was recorded along the eastern bank of the River Barrow in the vicinity of Monasterevin Harbour. Species recorded included reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), nettles (*Urtica dioica*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*); and
- The River Barrow can be classified as large depositing/lowland river (FW2) with areas of *Ranunculus* sp.

There were no habitats list as qualifying interest for any European sites mentioned below in Section 4. However, there were a number of semi-natural habitats that may be utilised by mobile qualifying interests listed in Section 4. Several of these species prefer riparian and wetland habitats. Species such as otter are semi-aquatic and will use watercourses to commute. Molluscs species prefer wetland habitats and can be found bordering lakes or rivers. Therefore, qualifying interest species may forage or commute through areas of riparian habitats identified during the site walkover.

### 3.2.3.2 Species

Bird species recorded during the site walkover included mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*), chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*).

No otter (*Lutra lutra*) holts or signs were identified .

Mature beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) trees recorded immediately adjacent to the River Barrow had moderate bat roost potential.

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<sup>8</sup> A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. Fossitt, 2000. The Heritage Council.

## 4. European Designated Sites

### 4.1 European Designated Sites under Consideration

In accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010)<sup>9</sup>, an initial distance of 15km from the boundary of Monasterevin town was selected for consideration of European Sites, with extension of this area where there are hydrological linkages or other pathways that extend beyond 15km. This distance was deemed to be sufficient to cover all likely significant effects which may arise from the implementation of the Plan on European Sites. Spatial boundary data on the European network were extracted from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) website in May 2022.

Based on this approach, four European sites, comprising four SACs have been considered in this AA screening. No SPA sites were recorded within the 15km buffer zone or at a greater distance that might be subject to likely significant effects. In order to identify those sites that could be potentially affected, it was necessary to describe the European Designated Sites in the context of why it has been designated i.e., its “Qualifying Interests”. All European sites which fall either within Monasterevin town or within 15km of the town boundary are detailed in Table 2.

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<sup>9</sup> Environment, Heritage and Local Government (11 February 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Accessed <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities> 11/01/2022.

**Table 2: European Sites (including Qualifying Interests) within 15km (and extended for hydrologically connected sites) of the boundary of Monasterevin town**

Site Code	Site Name	Approximate distance from Monasterevin (km)	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Intersects Monasterevin Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Reefs</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> <li>• European dry heaths</li> <li>• Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels</li> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail)</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel)</li> <li>• <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish)</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey)</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey)</li> </ul>	<p>The site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site which for this site is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species for which River Barrow and River Nore SAC is designated.</p> <p>A series of attribute, measures and targets which are available at:  <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002162.pd">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002162.pd</a></p>

Site Code	Site Name	Approximate distance from Monasterevin (km)	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad)</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon)</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter)</li> <li>• <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern)</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i> (Nore Pearl Mussel)</li> </ul>	
002141	Mountmellick SAC	12.8	<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail)	<p>The site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.</p> <p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Desmoulin's Whorl Snail in Mountmellick SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets.</p> <p>Site-specific conservation objectives are available at: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002141.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002141.pdf</a></p>
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	12.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i></li> <li>• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)</li> <li>• Alkaline fens</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail)</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail)</li> <li>• <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail)</li> </ul>	<p>The site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site which for this site is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species for which Pollardstown Fen SAC is designated.</p> <p>A series of attribute, measures and targets which are available at: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000396.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000396.pdf</a></p>

Site Code	Site Name	Approximate distance from Monasterevin (km)	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	14.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active raised bogs</li> <li>• Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul>	<p>The site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site which for this site is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species for which Mouds Bog SAC is designated.</p> <p>A series of attribute, measures and targets which are available at:  <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002331.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002331.pdf</a></p>



## 4.2 Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives for each European site focus primarily on maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of the habitats and species of interest (i.e., the qualifying features). Many of the European sites have site-specific conservation objectives, which focus on a particular habitat or species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes. The maintenance of habitats and species within European sites at favourable conservation condition 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 is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- the specific structure and functions which 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.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is 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.

# 5. Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on European Designated Sites

## 5.1 Checking for the Likelihood of a Significant Effect

### 5.1.1 Introduction

The below sections firstly clarify whether the Plan is connected to the management of a European site, secondly proceeds to checks whether the Plan would be likely to have an effect and then whether that effect could be significant.

This assessment of LSE also sets out existing threats and pressures

### 5.1.2 Initial Assessment on Connection to Management of a European Site

The plan's purpose is to set out a guide for the sustainable growth of Monasterevin and enable it to be a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and prosper, while leveraging the town's unique assets as an exciting place to visit, explore and remember and therefore the Plan is not connected to the management of a European site.

### 5.1.3 Threats and Pressures

Under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, member states are obliged to identify threats and pressures to qualifying interests using a standard set of criteria. A threat is defined as an "Activity expected to have an impact on a species/habitat type in the future", and a pressure is defined as an "Activity impacting a species/habitat type during the reporting cycle".

Threats and pressures thought to be most relevant to the Plan are considered to be:

- Agriculture;
- Biological resource other than agriculture & forestry;
- Climate change.
- Disturbance due to human activities;
- Forestry;
- Industry
- Invasive and introduced species;
- Leisure
- Mining, quarrying and energy production;
- Modification of natural conditions; and
- Pollution;
- Transportation and service infrastructure;
- Urbanisation, residential and commercial development;

### 5.1.4 The Master Plan

Following a review of the plan's proposals alongside the sensitivities of each European Site, the potential for likely significant effects has been assessed. European sites were screened out, where appropriate, based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Where the European site is located at such a distance that impacts are considered highly unlikely and there are no clear impact pathways such as hydrological links; and

- Where known threats or vulnerabilities of a European site, as listed in their site documents, cannot be linked to any potential impacts that may occur through the implantation of the Plan.

The outcome of this screening assessment on each European site is shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Screening Assessment of European Designated Sites**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Monasterevin	Potential for LSE	Screened in for Further Assessment
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Intersects Monasterevin Town	Based on the location of the SAC and the presence of hydrological pathways; the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan may have the potential to impact upon the SAC. The potential for LSE on this European site needs to be considered further.	Yes
002141	Mountmellick SAC	12.8km	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	12.9km	<p>Water flows north from the SAC through the Milltown stream until it meets the Slate River. The Slate River flows west until it joins the Cushina River to form the Figile, that flows south into Monasterevin. The hydrological link is approximately 25 km.</p> <p>However, given the direction of flow, any discharges to the Figile River would flow south and not be transported to the Pollardstown Fen SAC. Therefore there is no aquatic pathway for likely significant effects.</p> <p>Given the scale and distance between the Proposed Scheme and the Pollardstown Fen SAC it is considered that there is no aerial pathway for likely significant effects.</p>	No
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	14.9km	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No

## 5.2 In-combination Plans and Projects

### Plans

A wide range of international legislation, plans and programmes outlined below, cover aspects relevant to the draft Plan, such as nature, climate, water, air and waste.

- Floods Directive
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- EU Green Deal
- 2020 Climate and Energy Package
- 2030 Climate and Energy Framework
- Floods Directive
- UN Air Convention (also known as the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution)
- Convention on Biological Diversity and associated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- Bonn Convention
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

- UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 Landscape Convention

Relevant plans are listed in Table 4 according to a National, Regional/Local Projects and Plans.

The Plan considered to be of the most relevance in assessing the potential for the impacts of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC is the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029. The Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report (NIR) stated,

*'This NIR has considered the potential of the Plan to give rise to likely significant effects which could adversely affect any European site, with regard to their qualifying interests, associated conservation status and the overall site integrity. In considering the potential for adverse effects, it has been noted that the Plan is largely a strategic and high-level plan, which will inform the preparation of project level design and assessment. In light of this, and where necessary, a precautionary approach has been adopted by the NIR to ensure that the policies and objectives proposed and supported by the Plan are underpinned by the principles of sustainability of which the protection of European Sites forms part of. Where necessary, the requirement for project level environmental assessment is emphasised in mitigation. As such, the Plan itself, subject to it securing the mitigation detailed in this report, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects'*

## **Projects**

The KCC Planning Portal<sup>10</sup> was reviewed to consider other projects that might, in combinations with the Plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Designated sites. The relevant projects are listed in Table 5.

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<sup>10</sup> Kildare County Council Planning Portal. <http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/planningenquiry>. Accessed 24/05/2022.

**Table 4: Plans of National and Regional significant to the Monasterevin Master Plan (MMP)**

Hierarchy	Plan/Project	Significance to the Plan
National	River Basin Management Plan 2018 - 2021	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
National	River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027	The department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage accepts the recommendation of the AA Screening Report that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required to prevent adverse impacts on site integrity
National	National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021	Has not undergone an AA but the nature of the Biodiversity Plan is to conserve biodiversity including European sites that make up the European Designated Sites. Plan states an AA for any plan or project which may have a likely significant effect on any European Site. No in-combination impacts with the plan are predicted as a result of implementation
Regional	Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022)	The RPGs have undergone an AA and it recommended specific conditions to protect European sites. These were incorporated into the RPGs where appropriate. No in-combination impacts with the plan are predicted as a result of implementation.
Regional	Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 - 2035	This 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. No in-combination impacts with the plan are predicted as a result of implementation.
National	River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2022-2027	A full AA was required. As such a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared to further inform the development of the draft Plan. The draft RBMP itself, subject to it securing the mitigation, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
Regional	Kildare County Heritage Plan 2019 -2025	This plan AA screening report concluded that the plan would have no significant adverse impacts on European Designated Sites and that no further assessment was necessary. No in-combination impacts with the plan are predicted as a result of implementation.
Regional	Kildare County Biodiversity Plan 2009 - 2014	While this Plan does not seem to have undergone an AA 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. Also, the nature of the Biodiversity Plan is to conserve biodiversity including European sites that make up the Natura 2000 Site network. No in-combination impacts with the plan are predicted as a result of implementation.
Local	Draft Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023	This Plan has undergone AA which concluded that the LAP is not likely to have any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site within, or adjacent to the Plan area. This includes the Rye Valley Water/Carton SAC which is located within the Leixlip LAP area and therefore was the main focus of the NIR associated with the LAP. No in-combination impacts with the plan are predicted as a result of implementation.
Local	Draft Clane Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.

Hierarchy	Plan/Project	Significance to the Plan
Local	Sallins Local Area Plan 2016 – 2022	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2016-2022	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Kilcock Local Area Plan 2015 - 2021	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Kilcullen Local Area Plan 2014 – 2020	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2019-2025.	Until a new plan has been adopted to replace the 2012 - 2018 LAP, any planning decisions will be based off of the 2012 -2018 plan. This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Athy Local Area Plan 2021 - 2027	After mitigation and AA carried out for further projects as part of the plan it was concluded that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017 - 2023	This Plan was subject to AA Screening which conclude that it will not have a significant effect on the European sites.
Local	Monasterevin Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 - 2025	Has not undergone an AA but the nature of the Biodiversity Plan is to conserve biodiversity including European sites that make up the Natura 2000 network. No in-combination impacts with the plan are predicted as a result of implementation.

**Table 5: Relevant Projects With Potential for In-combination Effects**

File Number	Location	Date	Decision	Description	Significance to the Plan
211414	Ballykelly, located 1.5 km north of rail station and 0.12km from the River Barrow	01/10/2021	Grant	Refurbishment, demolition and construction. Specifically, the construction of 3no. new warehouses for the purpose of whiskey maturation.	Natura Impact Statement (NIS) states: when mitigation and measures are adopted it can be concluded that the proposed project will not adversely affect Natura Sites
20217	Old Grangewood, approximately 1km north east of rail station	04/03/2020	Grant	The Hawthorns: The construction 28 No. dwellings and all associated ancillary site-works. Consisting of 20 two-storey semi-detached dwellings on sites 1-8 and 13-24 The Hawthorns, with option for attic accommodation on site 13, and construction of 8 No. terraced houses on sites 9-12 and 25-28 The Hawthorns, (permission was previously granted for 28 No. dwellings under planning file 04/1043 but now withered), and all associated ancillary site-works	Appears to be in construction phase. No AA was undertaken as part of the development.
2071	Ballykelly, located 2.2 north east of railway station and adjacent to the River Barrow.	31/01/2020	Incomplete Application	Development within an application area of ca. 10.05 ha will consist of: (1) Establishment of an inert soil waste recovery facility (2) The continued use of the existing entrance from the L7049; (3) Continued use of internal access routes; (4) Construction of overburden storage and screening areas/mounds; (5) Continued use of temporary site office facilities; (6) Continued use of the existing wheel wash; (7) Continued use of staff welfare facilities; (8) New car parking facilities; (9) New quarantine area; (10) Fuel storage container; (11) All ancillary site works and (12) The progressive and phased restoration throughout the life of the development.	Natura Impact Statement will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application.
19997	Ferns Bridge, Ferns Green Road. Located 375m north east of railway station and adjacent to the River Barrow.	05/09/2019	Grant	The development of 69 No. 2 storey houses which will form part of an overall development known as Ferns Bridge located in Monasterevin. The proposed development also provides for landscaping, open spaces, drainage, car parking and all associated site development works	No AA was undertaken as part of the development. No objections stated with the Environment Section Planning Report.

File Number	Location	Date	Decision	Description	Significance to the Plan
21266	Brocan Wood, Cowpasture Lane. Located approximately 1km south east of the rail station.	05/03/2021	Grant	<p>Extension of Duration of Planning Ref. No. 15/257 - for development of 113 dwellings at the unfinished housing estate at Brocan Wood, Cowpastures Lane.</p> <p>The proposed development will consist of (i) 33 No. 4 x bedroom detached dwellings, 22 No. 4 x bedroom semi-detached dwellings, 34 No. 3 x bedroom semi-detached dwellings, and 24 No. 3 x bedroom terrace dwellings (all two storey), (ii) crèche (single storey), pumping station, (iii) 2 No. pedestrian access points from Cowpastures Lane and 1 No. from Dublin Road, (iv) cycle lane and footpath along Cowpastures Lane and Dublin Road, (v) landscaping and new site boundaries and (vi) upgrade of existing Dublin Road and Cowpastures Lane junction and (vii) services and all associated and ancillary works. Vehicular access will be via the existing access on Cowpastures Lane</p>	Original planning ref 15/257 had no objections stated with the Environment Section Planning Report.
20300	Cowpasture (Td.). Located approximately 1.1km south east of the rail station.	23/03/2020	Grant	The development of a serviced business park with a new vehicular access provided from the R445 regional road at a site of 12.8 Hectares Cowpasture (Td.), Monasterevin. The proposed development comprises an infrastructure only application associated with the roads and water services infrastructure and as to provide for serviced business sites and units which would be subject to later detailed planning permission	Natura Impact Statement states that when mitigation and measures are adopted it can be concluded that the proposed project will not adversely affect the integrity of European Designated Sites
191393	Oldgrangewood, located 0.6 km north east from rail station.	16/12/2019	Grant	Constructing 16 no. two-storey semi-detached dwellings on site 19-34 and all associated ancillary site works: The Birches. permission was previously granted for 16 no. dwellings under planning file 04/1043 but now withered)	No AA was undertaken as part of the development
211729	Ferns Bridge, 0.1 from rail station. Adjacent to the Barrow	08/12/2021	Further Info	Development of 77 no. dwellings. The proposed development also includes for landscaping, boundary treatments, public open spaces, drainage and infrastructure, car and bicycle parking, bin storage, and all associated site development works: Fern Bridge	AA states the possibility may be excluded that the proposed development will have a significant effect on European Designated sites.



The assessment in Table 6 considers whether the potential changes brought about by the Plan are likely to cause a direct, indirect or secondary impact on one or more of the European sites listed in Table 2. It should be noted that the Plan is primarily strategic and high level, only allowing for a generalised impact assessment.

The main body text of the Plan is considered to be of a general and strategic nature and cannot be linked to any potential likely significant effects.

Section 2.6 of the Plan provides an analysis of the environment and green infrastructure of the town. The following text within the Plan avoids the potential for likely significant effects by placing an emphasis on screening Appropriate Assessment to be carried out for projects assessing from proposals within the Plan: *“Given that the River Barrow and River Nore SAC flows through the town any projects arising from proposals identified in this Master Plan will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to determine the potential for likely significant effects on the SAC. If mitigation is necessary then a Stage 2 AA will be required”*. It is also considered that screening plans or projects for LSE on protected sites is a statutory obligation. Furthermore, by way of the italicised text above, this plan commits to ensuring that project level screening for Appropriate Assessment occurs for any associated projects in the future. On the basis of these two points additional screening for Appropriate Assessment at a project level is considered an essential, intrinsic future component of this plan.

Each proposal, A to L, was considered individually for how it might align with the potential threats and pressures as listed in Section 5.1.3 and whether the proposal in question had the potential to cause likely significant effects. Whilst a pathway for potential likely significant effects is identified for each proposal it is concluded that those likely significant effects would not arise as each project arising from the Plan would be subject to AA Screening.

**Table 6: Screening Assessment of European sites**

Proposal	Description	Source-Pathway-Receptor	LSE	Potential for In combination Effects	Screened in for Further Assessment
Proposal A: Market Square	Change of current use to a multi-functional civic space. Pedestrian friendly space. Will require construction activities such as resurfacing. When operational, lighting will be required.	The proposal location is approximately 70m from the River Barrow. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for pathway of pollutants to the SAC.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No
Proposal B: Drogheda Street	Improvements to active travel facilities. Will require construction activities such as resurfacing. When operational lighting will be required.	The proposal location is approximately 250m from the River Barrow. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for pathway of pollutants to the SAC.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No
Proposal C: Mid-Block Route Network	Improve neighbourhood connections, school journeys and access to shops through improved pedestrian permeability. Will require construction activities such as resurfacing. When operational lighting will be required.	The proposal location is approximately 200m from the River Barrow. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for pathway of pollutants to the SAC.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No
Proposal D: Active Trail, Moore Abbey	Creation of a woodland trail offers an off-road experience for explorers, connecting back to the Barrow Blueway at the town's Market Square. Will require vegetation clearance and surfacing.	The proposal location is approximately 50m from the River Barrow at its closest point although a more defined project arising could be closer when proposed. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for pathway of pollutants and visitors to the SAC.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No
Proposal E: Canal Harbour Area	The historic town centre is re-imagined as a unique heritage trail. Will require traffic calming, streetscaping, planting, shop	The proposal location is in close proximity to the River Barrow. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be	No	No

Proposal	Description	Source-Pathway-Receptor	LSE	Potential for In combination Effects	Screened in for Further Assessment
	frontage upgrades, play points and resurfacing.	pathway of pollutants and visitors in proximity to the SAC.	subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.		
Proposal F: Waterfront Access and Activity	Creating a waterfront access and watersports hub. Work will require construction of hub and facilities.	The proposal location is immediately adjacent to the River Barrow. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for a number of types of impacts to the SAC including pollution and increased disturbance from visitors next to and on the River Barrow.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan. There is further specific reference to AA within this proposal.	No	No
Proposal G: Canal Aqueduct Crossing	Creation of aqueduct crossing over River Barrow and Grand Canal. Will require construction over the waterways.	The proposal location is in immediate proximity to River Barrow and Canal. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for a number of types of impacts to the SAC including pollution and increased disturbance from visitors next to and on the River Barrow.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No
Proposal H: Moore Street	The historic Main Street of Monasterevin is Moore Street, and presents an exciting opportunity to tie the town's Georgian architectural heritage assets. Will require street planting, simplified way finding, signage, public seating, widening of footpath at active edges, and raised traffic tables at junctions - offering greater safety for all street visitors, alongside bicycle lanes that tie into the Barrow Blueway.	The proposal location is approximately 50m from the River Barrow at its closest point although a more defined project arising could be closer when proposed. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for pathway of pollutants and visitors to the SAC.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No

Proposal	Description	Source-Pathway-Receptor	LSE	Potential for In combination Effects	Screened in for Further Assessment
Proposal I: Town connections	The creation of safe, accessible and active links between these centres, with comprehensive links to attractions and neighbourhoods across the wider region. Will require balanced traffic management schemes and active travel infrastructure.	The proposal location is approximately 250m from the River Barrow. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for pathway of pollutants to the SAC.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No
Proposal J: Trian Station Access	To ensure universally safe access. Will require legible signage, guidance and station information, surface widening and upgrades, and improved street lighting and at station approaches	The proposal location is approximately 250m from the River Barrow at its closest point although a more defined project arising could be closer when proposed. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for pathway of pollutants and visitors to the SAC.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No
Proposal K: Neighbouring Greenways	The creation of an inter-neighbourhood network of active travel pathways. Will require the provision of wayfinding, lighting, seating and bins dedicated to the network. Accommodating active SuDS measures along these routes will contribute to wider flood risk mitigation measures, while also offering local opportunities for environmental engagement, education and physical interaction.	The proposal location is approximately 250m from the River Barrow at its closest point although a more defined project arising could be closer when proposed. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however there is potential for pathway of pollutants and visitors to the SAC.	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.	No	No
Proposal L: The Distillery	Converting the vacant distillery to flexible new uses including residential space and office areas. Will require refurbishments as the building currently requires	The proposal location is approximately 250m from the River Barrow at its closest point although a more defined project arising could be closer when proposed. There is no detailed design available in the masterplan however	No LSE foreseen at this stage as any associated projects brought forward to design and development stage will be subject to further AA	No	No

Proposal	Description	Source-Pathway-Receptor	LSE	Potential for In combination Effects	Screened in for Further Assessment
	extensive works to address conservation problems.	there is potential for pathway of pollutants to the SAC.	Screening as outlined in Section 2.6 of the Plan.		

## 6. Conclusion

This report assess the potential for likely significant effects arising from the Town Renewal Master Plan Monasterevin, County Kildare. The European sites listed in Table 2 includes all European sites located within 15km of Monasterevin, were screened for likely significant effects.

There are four European sites, comprising of four SACs that required consideration. Possible effects of the Plan, its objectives and potential actions were considered in relation to their possible impacts on these and their qualifying interests. Given the distance and lack of impact pathway such as a hydrological link, the Mouds Bogs SAC, Mountmellick SAC and Pollardstown Fen SAC were screened out without need for any further review.

Due to the proximity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC to the proposals outlined within the Master Plan there is a potential risk of likely significant effects arising from implementation of the Plan. However the Plan states that all projects arising from the Plan will be subject to AA screening and states, *“Projects brought forward to design, and development stage will be subject to further AA Screening as development proposals may have potential impacts on the conservation objectives of the River Barrow.”* At this stage the River Barrow and River Nore SAC is screened out as there is no further detail available for which mitigation can be developed and with the understanding AA screening will be conducted for individual projects at the design and development stage and is seen to be an essential component of this plan. These AA screening exercises will give the opportunity to avoid and minimise any potential impacts upon the River Barrow and River Nore SAC site, once more project-specific details are known.

# Appendix A Figures

## A.1 Designated sites within 15km of Monasterevin





**LEGEND**

- Monasterevin town
- Buffer around Monasterevin town (15km)
- Special Conservation Areas (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

0 1.3 2.5 5 Kilometers

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Client:  
 Kildare County Council

Project Title:  
 Town Renewal Master Plan  
 Monasterevin

Drawing Title:  
 Figure 1: Designated sites within 15km of the Plan

Scale of AS: 1:130,000  
 App Job No: 279533-00

Substage	WORK IN PROGRESS			
No.	Start	Check	Approved	Authorised
	AS	HS	DM	FM
<b>P01.1</b>	Date: 10/05/22	Date: --	Date: --	Date: --

Drawn: \* \* \* \* \*

