

2021- 2027



LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN VOLUME IV ENVIRONMENTAL & FLOOD REPORTS

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SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR THE

LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

for: Longford County Council

Great Water Street
Longford
County Longford



by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin



NOVEMBER 2021

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List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
CAFE	Cleaner Air for Europe
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
CORINE	Co-ORdinated INformation on the Environment
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
DCCA	Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
DCHG	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard
EU	European Union
FPO	Flora Protection Order
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NTA	National Transport Authority
OPW	Office of Public Works
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
PAS	Priority Action Substance
RAL	Remedial Action List
RBD	River Basin District
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPA	Register of Protected Areas
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SI No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
TPOs	Tree Preservation Orders
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA) derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European Site in view of its conservation objectives.

Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992).

Flora is all of the plants found in a given area.

Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.

Environmental Problems

Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain Plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse.

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.

Environmental Vectors

Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported, coming into contact with human beings.

Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

In the context of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, mitigation measures are clearly distinguished from compensatory measures. Compensatory measures are intended to offset the negative effects of the plan or project so that the overall ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 Network is maintained.

Natural Heritage

The Heritage Act (1995) defines natural heritage as including flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland waterways, heritage gardens and parks.

Protected Structure

Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations (as amended) to define a structure included by a planning authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the planning authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.

Recorded Monument

A monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places that is set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months' notice to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

Scoping

Scoping is the process of determining what issues are to be addressed, and setting out a methodology in which to address them in a structured manner appropriate to the plan or programme. Scoping is carried out in consultation with appropriate environmental authorities.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it.

Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives were evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027. It has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Longford County Council. The purpose of this report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan.

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before such decisions are made. *Environmental Impact Assessment*, or EIA, is generally used for describing the process of environmental assessment for individual projects, while *Strategic Environmental Assessment* or SEA is the term which has been given to the environmental assessment of plans and programmes, which help determine the nature and location of individual projects taking place. SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan or programme, in order to ensure that these effects are adequately addressed at the earliest appropriate stages of decision-making in tandem with economic, social and other considerations.

The SEA has been undertaken in order to comply with European SEA Directive¹, which introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes that are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning.

1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority

SEA identifies the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan. The findings of the SEA are expressed in

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities

this Environmental Report, an earlier version of which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display and has been updated following consultation, and identifies how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how alternatives for the Plan were considered.

The planning authority has taken into account the findings of this report and other related SEA output during the Plan preparation process.

Following adoption of the Plan, an SEA Statement is prepared that summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits

SEA is the planning authority's and the public's guide to what are generally the best areas for development in the County.

SEA enables the planning authority to direct development towards robust, well-serviced and connected areas in the County – thereby facilitating the general avoidance of incompatible areas in the most sensitive, least well-serviced and least well-connected areas.

SEA provides greater certainty to the public and to developers. Plans are more likely to be adopted without delays or challenges and planning applications are more likely to be granted permission. Environmental mitigation is more likely to cost less.

An overlay of environmental sensitivities in County Longford are shown on Figure 1.1.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is

(Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011), and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- The County's western and south western boundaries, reflecting the sensitive nature of the River Shannon and its Lough Forbes and Lough Ree, which are subject to various designations (including those relating to water, ecology and landscape), heavily protected and sources of flood risk;
- Other lakes and rivers throughout the County including Lough Kinale, Derragh Lough and Lough Gowna and the Rivers Camlin and Inny – as a result of water status, nutrient sensitivity, drinking water source, ecological designations and/or sources of flood risk;
- Peatland areas, due to their ecological, hydrological and amenity characteristics, such as Clooneen Bog, Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog and Brown Bog; and
- Areas throughout the County on account of areas of elevated groundwater vulnerability.

The Plan directs incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focuses on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services.

Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

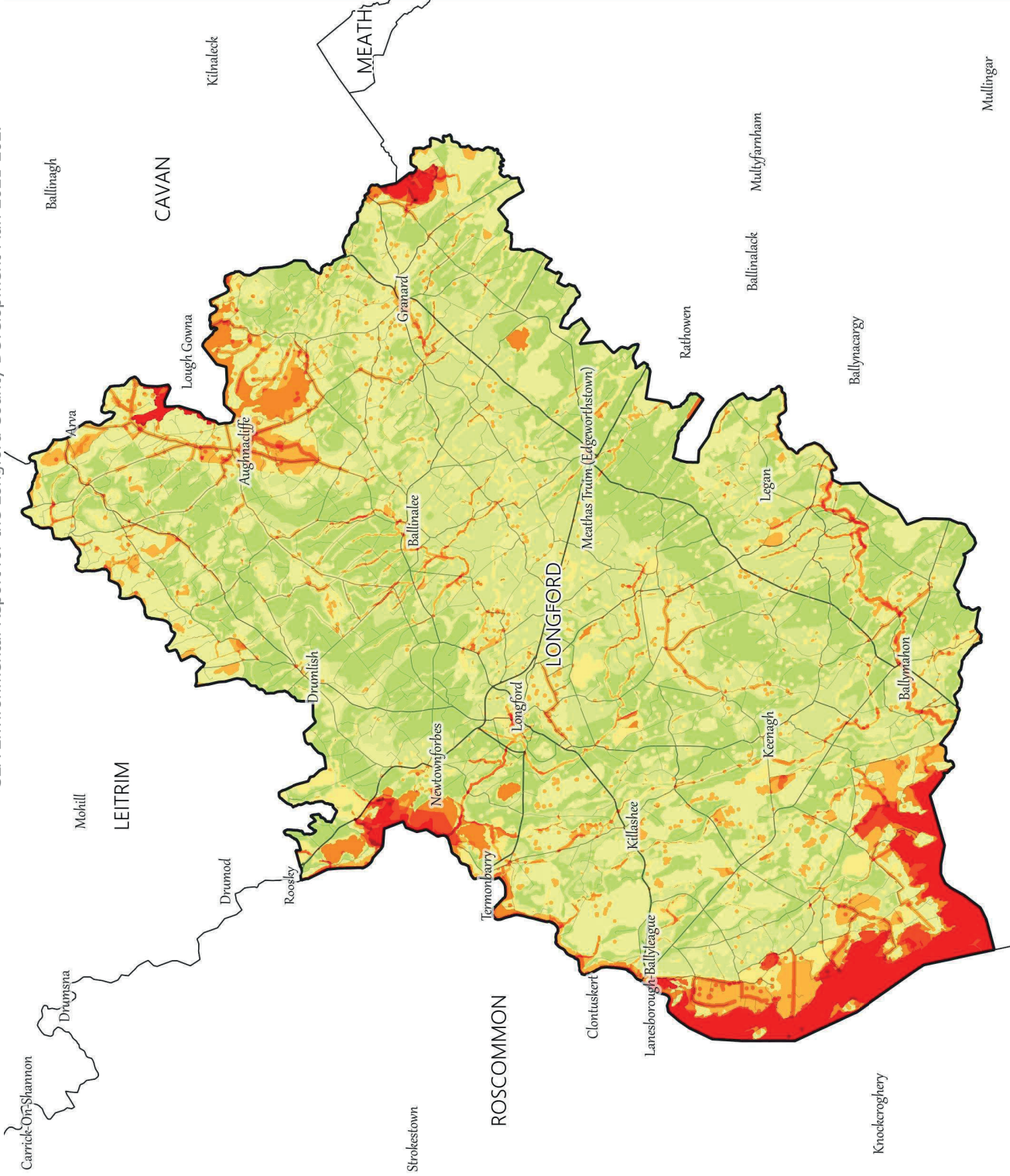


Figure 1.1 Environmental Sensitivities that the County Development Plan directs incompatible development away from
CAAS for Longford County Council

Section 2 The Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Longford County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Longford over the six-year period 2021-2027. Not later than four years after the adoption of the Plan, the Council is required to review it and commence the preparation of a new Plan.

It is a policy objective of the Council to prepare a Local Area Plan (LAP) for Longford Town.

2.2 Content of the Plan

The Plan includes a Written Statement, that provides the development policies, Core Strategy and mandatory and discretionary objectives for different policy areas addressed by the Development Plan. The Written Statement is divided into 16 separate chapters setting out various policies and objectives under the headings of:

- Chapter 1: Introduction and Strategic Context
- Chapter 2: County Profile
- Chapter 3: Climate Change
- Chapter 4: Core, Settlement and Housing Strategies
- Chapter 5: Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications
- Chapter 6: Regeneration
- Chapter 7: Placemaking
- Chapter 8: Economic Development
- Chapter 9: Rural Economy
- Chapter 10: Tourism
- Chapter 11: Built and Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 12: Natural Heritage and Environment
- Chapter 13: Green Infrastructure
- Chapter 14: Landscape Character
- Chapter 15: Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation
- Chapter 16: Development Management Standards

The Plan includes, at Appendix I, Land Use Zoning for Longford Town, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard, Lanesborough, Aughnacliffe, Ballinalee, Drumlish, Keenagh, Legan, Newtownforbes, Abbeyshrule, Ardagh, Ballinamuck and Clondra. For full detail on zonings and settlement provisions please refer to the main Plan document. The Plan also includes development envelopes for 27 Rural Settlement Clusters.

2.3 Overall Vision and Aims

The Vision of the Plan is: 'to set out a framework for the sustainable physical development of the County, ensuring the conservation and protection of the built and natural environment, while providing in an equitable manner for all our people within the County'. As such the Plan provides for an overall strategy for the social, economic, cultural and physical development of the County. In order to achieve this, the Plan aims to:

1. Implement relevant national and regional development policy provisions at a County level;
2. Strengthen and develop the economic, social and cultural life of the county in a way that can be sustained to safeguard the quality of life for future generations;
3. Provide a development framework which defines acceptable forms of development and appropriate locations.

2.4 Core Strategy Strategic Aims

The Plan identifies the following eight Core Strategy Strategic Aims:

- Aim 1: To provide a framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Longford over the plan period.
- Aim 2: To demonstrate that the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional policy objectives set out in the National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and other national guidelines and policies.
- Aim 3: To identify the appropriate quantum, location and phasing of development considered necessary to provide for future population growth over the plan period in accordance with National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.
- Aim 4: To provide alignment and integration between strategic planning and settlement policy and the prioritisation of physical infrastructure investment.
- Aim 5: To secure future growth opportunities within County Longford through optimising the County's economic, social and physical development.
- Aim 6: To coordinate the development of land identified in this Core Strategy in a manner that supports public transport and existing services

and to prioritise sequential development of settlements, including the development of infill and brownfield lands.

- Aim 7: To provide a framework for determining the scale, phasing and location of new development having regard to existing services and planned infrastructural investment over the coming years.
- Aim 8: To provide a framework within which the provision of sustainable infrastructure, amenities, economic investment and development can take place to maximise the use of resources in the plan area.
- Aim 9: To maintain the strategic function, capacity and safety of the national roads network and to ensure that the existing extensive transport networks, which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, safety, accessibility and connectivity to transport users.

- Settlement Strategy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Retail Strategy;
- Sustainable mobility provisions;
- Infrastructure and Green Infrastructure provisions;
- Provisions for Sustainable Mobility.
- Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Landscape Designations;
- Economic Development; and
- Climate Action.

The undertaking of this SEA process and associated Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment processes were part of this strategic work and contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed in Section 9 of this report.

2.5 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan on public display, Longford County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Appropriate Assessment;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- Core Strategy;

2.6 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

It is acknowledged that many of the major issues affecting the County's development are contingent on national policy and government funding.

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix I² (see also, Section 4 "Environmental Baseline", Section 5 "Strategic Environmental Objectives", Section 6 "Description of Alternatives" and Section 9 "Mitigation Measures"). These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies

² Appendix I is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

(RSESs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Eastern and Midlands Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSES for the Eastern and Midlands Region. The County Development Plan may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions, such as the Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the County Development Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Section 3 SEA Methodology

3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

Figure 3.1 provides an overview of the integrated Plan preparation, SEA, Appropriate

Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the SEA, AA and SFRA have informed the Plan.

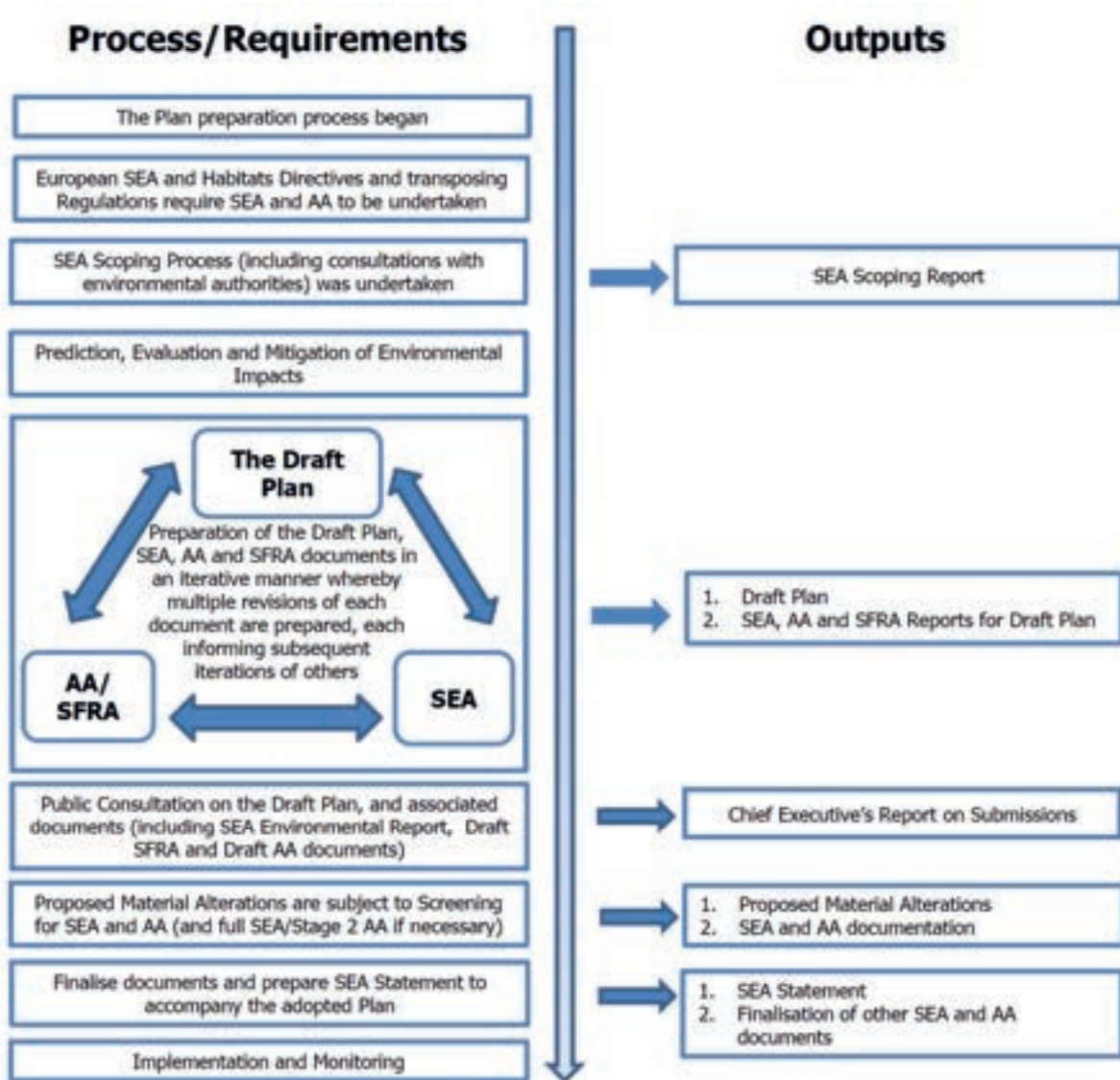


Figure 3.1 Overview of the SEA/AA/SFRA Plan-preparation Processes

3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.³

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Many elements of Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment as detailed in the EPA's (2013) Practitioner's Manual have been aligned with in the undertaking of the SEA for the Plan. These include:

Scoping

- Biodiversity-relevant issues were identified for consideration at scoping stage and these are now detailed in Section 4.
- Reference to a zone of influence is provided at Section 4.

Baseline

- Biodiversity data sources relevant for this local level assessment have been identified and datasets collated/gathered.
- The biodiversity baseline addresses designated sites and other habitats and species of ecological value.
- AA information has been incorporated into the SEA baseline.

Alternatives

- Impacts upon biodiversity are considered under each of the alternatives and potential conflicts can be mitigated.

Impact assessment

- Effects on biodiversity are identified and assessed and the AA considers the interrelationship between biodiversity and potential effects on European Sites.

Mitigation and monitoring

- Taking into account all measures contained within the Plan, all the proposed mitigation measures deriving from the various processes were generally consistent and compatible.
- Indicators and associated targets have been included in SEA for monitoring European Sites.

Reporting

- This SEA ER addresses all biodiversity-related considerations relevant for this level of assessment.
- This SEA ER contains all biodiversity-relevant information, data, figures and maps relevant for this level of assessment.
- This SEA ER has been informed by the AA findings.

Communication and consultation

- Submissions received have been taken on board.
- The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan.

3.4 Scoping

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues

³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
(a) no alternative solution available,

(b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive⁴.

All relevant environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Council indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council⁵.

Submissions made by⁶ the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Meath County Council, Monaghan County Council, and Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine influenced the scope of the assessment undertaken, the findings of which are included in this report.

3.5 Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. In accordance with this requirement, alternatives for the Plan are identified and assessed in Sections 6 and 7.

3.6 Environmental Report

This SEA Environmental Report predicts and evaluates the likely significant effects of the Draft Plan and the alternatives. The Environmental Report provides Longford County Council, stakeholders and the public with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of implementing the Draft Plan. Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by the Draft Plan are identified in Section 9 – these have been integrated into the Plan. An earlier version of this report was updated in order to take account of relevant recommendations contained in submissions

⁴ These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

⁵ The following authorities were notified (the names of some of the relevant authorities have changed since notification was provided): Department of Agriculture, Food

and in order to take account of changes that were made to the original, Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

The Environmental Report is required to contain the information specified in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended (see Table 3.1).

No significant difficulties have been encountered during the undertaking of the assessment. There was limited water services information available for some settlements within the County however objectives requiring the provision of appropriate levels of water services alongside new development have been integrated into the Plan. There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term “unassigned status” applies in respect of these waterbodies. The SEA ensured that the Plan contains measures that will contribute towards the maintenance and improvement of status of all water bodies within the zone of influence.

3.7 SEA Statement

On finalisation of the Plan, an SEA Statement is prepared that includes information on:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan, highlighting the main changes to the Plan that resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as adopted was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Plan.

and the Marine; Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht; Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Environmental Protection Agency; Meath County Council; and Monaghan County Council.

⁶ The names of some of the relevant authorities have changed since submissions were made.

Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report

Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report	Corresponding Section of this Report
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4
I Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 4
(E) List of environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8, 9 and Appendix I
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 3, 6, 7, 8 and Appendix II
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Appendix III Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

Section 4 Environmental Baseline

4.1 Introduction

Reflecting the specifications in the SEA Directive, the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment for the following environmental components are described in this section: biodiversity and flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

This description includes information that is relevant to lower tier planning, environmental assessments and decision-making⁷.

Given the potential for impacts beyond the County boundary, the spatial scope of the SEA takes into account the zone of influence (15km or greater where relevant) of the Plan area.

4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

The EPA's "*Ireland's Environment – An Assessment 2020*" report provides an integrated assessment of the overall quality of Ireland's environment, the pressures being placed on it and the societal responses to current and emerging environmental issues. This report has informed various parts of the environmental baseline provided below. The key environmental challenges or messages identified by the report are:

Environmental Policy Position

A national policy position for Ireland's Environment.

Full implementation

Full implementation of existing environmental legislation and a review of the governance around the coordination on environmental protection across public bodies.

Health and Wellbeing

Protecting the Environment is an Investment in Our Health and Wellbeing.

Climate

Systemic change is required for Ireland to

become the climate-neutral and climate resilient society and economy that it aspires to be.

Air Quality

Adoption of measures to meet the World Health Organization air quality guideline values should be the target to aim for in the Clean Air Strategy.

Nature

Safeguard nature and wild places as a national priority and to leave a legacy for future generations.

Water Quality

Improve the water environment and tackle water pollution locally at a water catchment level.

Marine

Reduce the human-induced pressures on the marine environment.

Clean Energy

Ireland needs to move rapidly away from the extensive use of fossil fuels to the use of clean energy systems.

Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

An agriculture and food sector that demonstrates validated performance around producing food with a low environmental footprint.

Water Services

Drinking water and wastewater infrastructure must meet the needs of our society.

Circular Economy

Move to a less wasteful and circular economy where the priority is waste prevention, reuse, repair and recycling.

Land Use

Promote integrated land-mapping approaches to support decision-making on sustainable land use.

The report highlights that high-quality green and blue spaces are not just for nature but are for peoples' health and wellbeing, particularly in the context of an increasingly urban society and increasing settlement densities.

4.3 Sustainable Development Goals

Implementation of the Plan will contribute towards efforts to achieve a number of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which

⁷ Note that Article 5 of the SEA Directive, in accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, requires that the Environmental Report includes the information that may reasonably be required taking into account, inter alia,

the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

were adopted by world leaders in 2015 at a United Nations Summit and came into force in 2016. These Goals include:

- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

4.4 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of a new Plan

In the absence of a new Plan it is uncertain how permission for new development would be applied for and considered.

The 2015-2021 Plan has contributed towards environmental protection within County Longford. If the 2015-2021 Plan was to expire and not be replaced by the 2021-2027 Plan, this would result in a deterioration of the County's planning and environmental protection framework. Although higher level environmental protection objectives – such as those of various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the deterioration of this framework would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled.

As a result, there would be a decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive effects occurring, including:

- Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities

and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.

- Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.
- Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.
- Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.
- Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.
- Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond
- Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.
- Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.

- Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.
- Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.
- Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.
- Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.
- Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.
- Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart buildings, cities and grids.
- Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:
 - Sustainable compact growth;
 - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
 - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
 - Sectors including agriculture, residential heating and infrastructure;
- Sustainable infrastructure design solutions including energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure).
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.
- Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.

As a result, there would be an increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on all environmental components occurring, including:

- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
 - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
 - Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
 - Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
- Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.
- Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
- Potential for riverbank erosion.
- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Increases in waste levels.
- Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
- Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.
- Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.
- Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.
- Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.
- Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.

- Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services⁸

County Longford's **natural capital** comprises its renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of ecosystem services that provide benefits to people. These benefits can include clean air and water, a stable climate, protection from floods, food, resources for fuel, building materials, clothes and medicines, recreation. Managing natural capital so that it can continue to deliver the ecosystem services that give us these benefits is important in order to ensure sustainable development. Unmanaged natural capital risks the continued degradation and depletion of these assets, and in turn, of their capacity to provide the economy and society with the ecosystem benefits that they depend on. These services also regulate climate, regulate water flows (e.g. through wetlands and forests), sequester and store carbon in peatlands and improve soil quality for crops.

In recognition of the need to manage natural capital, provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will contribute towards management of air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, water quality and integrated catchment management.

Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing. There are four main types; provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Provisioning services are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines. Regulating services are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification and waste

management, pollination or pest control. Support services highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools. Cultural services include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values⁹.

In preparing the Plan and developing policy objectives, the Council have followed these ecosystem services approach principles:

- a) Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function (including at Plan Chapter 12: Natural Heritage and Environment);
- b) Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation (including at Plan Chapter 3: Climate Change and Chapter 5: Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications), resources for food, fibre or fuel (including at Plan Chapter 9: Rural Economy), or for recreation, culture and quality of life (including at Plan Chapter 7: Placemaking, Chapter 11: Built and Cultural Heritage, Chapter 13: Green Infrastructure and Chapter 14: Landscape Character);
- c) Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them. Public consultation has informed the preparation of the Plan, which was further refined before adoption, taking into account submissions/observations made on the Plan during public display.

The following natural capital and ecosystem services issues are relevant to this SEA and have been taken into account in the provisions of the Plan:

- Air quality;
- Noise pollution;
- Light pollution;
- Water quality and integrated catchment management including interactions with soil;
- Soil and vegetation carbon, which helps to regulate greenhouse gas emissions;
- Soil/geological storage of water, contributing towards flood control;
- Land supporting food production; and
- Natural resources supporting energy production and recreation.

⁸ This section includes content taken from the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly, 2019)

⁹ <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/ecosystem-services>

4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

4.6.1 Overview

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna that is relevant to project planning and development and associated environmental assessment and administrative consent of projects includes available information on designated ecological sites and protected species, ecological connectivity (including stepping stones and corridors) and non-designated habitats.

Ecological sensitivities located within the County include aquatic and terrestrial ecology, associated with the County's extensive network of wetlands comprising:

- Rivers, streams, canals and riparian zones (such as River Shannon, River Erne, River Inny, River Camlin and Royal Canal);
- Wet woodlands, marshes, lakes and ponds;
- Loughs (such as Lough Ree, Lough Forbes, Lough Gowna and Lough Glen); and
- Bogs and turloughs (such as Fortwilliam Turlough, Ardagullion Bog and Clooneen Bog).

These habitats support a variety of species and ecosystems that contribute to the biodiversity of County Longford.

Ecological designations in County Longford include:

- Special Protection Areas¹⁰;
- Special Areas of Conservation¹¹;
- Natural Heritage Areas¹² and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas¹³;
- Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas¹⁴;
- RAMSAR sites¹⁵;
- Flora Protection Order (FPO)¹⁶ sites;
- Important Stands of Trees¹⁷;
- Ecological connectivity and networks;
- CORINE Landcover¹⁸;
- Peatlands, lakes, canals, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, eskers and hedgerows data; and
- Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance¹⁹.

The zone of influence of the Plan beyond the County area with respect to impacts upon ecology via surface waters upon ecological resources – including designated ecology – can be estimated to be areas within 15 km of the County boundary and all downstream areas of catchments which drain the County.

Potential overlaps in designations and settlements/zoning and sites of importance to birds associated with the zoning of lands adjacent to these sites have been also considered by the SEA and AA.

4.6.2 European Sites

European Sites in the County occur in the greatest concentrations along the main waterways and wetlands. European Sites comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation²⁰ (SACs); and

¹⁰ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.2.

¹¹ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.2.

¹² For more details refer to Section 4.6.3.

¹³ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.

¹⁴ For more detail refer to Sections 4.6.6 and 4.9.7.

¹⁵ The Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984. The main aim of the Convention is to secure the designation by each contracting state of wetlands in its territory for inclusion in a list of wetlands of international importance for waterfowl. This entails the commitment of each contracting state to a policy of protection and management of the designated wetlands, and of formulating and implementing planning so as to promote the conservation of designated wetlands and, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in its territory. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Wetlands), with surface areas of 66,994 hectares. **There is one Ramsar site partially within the Plan area: Lough Glen (Site number: 849), as shown on Figure 4.3.**

¹⁶ The Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 (S.I. No. 356 of 2015) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). **There are three locations within the Plan area subject to FPOs for a type of moss (*Ephemerum cohaerens*): Elfeet; Lismacmanus; and Lough Gowna.**

¹⁷ For more detail refer to 4.13.4

¹⁸ Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface.

¹⁹ For more details refer to Section 4.6.5.

²⁰ SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

- Special Protection Areas²¹ (SPAs).

The SEA uses the same zone of influence cited in the AA; a 15 km buffer around the County (see sites within this zone mapped on Figure 4.1) and sites with potentially significant hydrological links beyond the 15 km buffer.

There are 12 European Sites (eight SACs and four SPAs) designated within and adjacent to the County, including:

- Ardagullion Bog SAC²² (002341);
- Brown Bog SAC²³ (002346);
- Clooneen Bog SAC²⁴ (002348);
- Derragh Bog SAC²⁵ (002201);
- Fortwilliam Turlough SAC²⁶ (000448);
- Lough Forbes Complex SAC²⁷ (001818);
- Lough Ree SAC²⁸ (000440);
- Mount Jessop Bog SAC²⁹ (002202);
- Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA³⁰ (004101);
- Glen Lough SPA³¹ (004045);
- Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA³² (004061); and
- Lough Ree SPA³³ (004064).

Other relevant European sites connected to the County via hydrological links but beyond the 15 km buffer (also shown on Figure 4.2.) include:

- Upper Lough Erne SPA (UK9020071)³⁴;
- Upper Lough Erne SAC (UK0016614)³⁵;
- Donegal Bay SPA (004151)³⁶;

- Lough Derg North-East Shore SAC (002241)³⁷;
- Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (004058)³⁸;
- Lower River Shannon SPA (002165)³⁹; and
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077)⁴⁰.

For more detail on European Sites please refer to the AA Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan and this SEA Environmental Report.

4.6.3 Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated.

There are six NHAs⁴¹ and seventeen pNHAs⁴² designated within, partially within or adjacent

²¹ SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

²² **Sensitive features include:** raised bog; degraded raised bog; and rhynchosporion vegetation.

²³ **Sensitive features include:** raised bog; degraded raised bog; and rhynchosporion vegetation.

²⁴ **Sensitive features include:** active raised bog; degraded raised bog; rhynchosporion vegetation; and bog woodland.

²⁵ **Sensitive features include:** degraded raised bog; and bog woodland.

²⁶ **Sensitive features include:** turloughs.

²⁷ **Sensitive features include:** natural eutrophic lakes; raised bog; degraded raised bog; rhynchosporion vegetation; and alluvial forest.

²⁸ **Sensitive features include:** natural eutrophic lakes; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; active raised bog; degraded raised bog, alkaline fens; limestone pavement; old oak woodlands; bog woodland; and otter.

²⁹ **Sensitive features include:** degraded raised bog; and bog woodland.

³⁰ **Sensitive features include:** Greenland white-fronted goose.

³¹ **Sensitive features include:** whooper swan.

³² **Sensitive features include:** pochard, tufted duck and wetland and waterbirds.

³³ **Sensitive features include:** little grebe; whooper swan; wigeon; teal; mallard; shoveler; tufted duck; common scoter; goldeneye; coot; golden plover; lapwing; common tern; and wetland and waterbirds.

³⁴ **Sensitive features include:** whooper swans.

³⁵ **Sensitive features include:** alluvial forests; otter; natural eutrophic lakes; and old sessile oak woods.

³⁶ **Sensitive features include:** great northern diver; light-bellied brent goose; common scoter; sanderling; and wetland and waterbirds.

³⁷ **Sensitive features include:** juniper scrub; cladium fens; alkaline fens; limestone pavement; alluvial forests; and yew woodlands.

³⁸ **Sensitive features include:** cormorant; tufted duck; goldeneye; common tern; and wetland and waterbirds.

³⁹ **Sensitive features include:** mudflats and sandflats; coastal lagoons; reefs; Atlantic salt meadows; alluvial forests; freshwater pearl mussel; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; salmon; common bottlenose dolphin; and otter.

⁴⁰ **Sensitive features include:** cormorant; whooper swan; light-bellied brent goose; shelduck; wigeon; teal; pintail; shoveler; scaup; ringed plover; golden plover; grey plover; wetland and waterbirds.

⁴¹ **Aghnamona Bog (000422); Rinn River (000691); Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough (000985); Cloonageeher Bog (001423); Forthill Bog (001448); and Mount Jessop Bog (001450).**

⁴² **Lough Ree (000440); Brown Bog (000442); Clooneen Bog (000445); Derrymore Bog (00447); Fortwilliam Turlough (000448); Lough Bannow (000449); Lough Gowna (000992); Lough Slawn (001443); Derry Lough (001444); Lough Naback (001449); Glen Lough (001687); Lough Forbes Complex (001818); Lough Bawn (001819); Cordara Turlough (001821); Carrickglass Demense**

to the County. These sites are also mapped on Figure 4.3.

4.6.4 Land Cover Mapping

CORINE⁴³ land cover mapping for the County is shown on Figure 4.4. The most dominant land cover types are pastures⁴⁴ and peat bogs.

Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for Annex I habitats (see Figure 4.5), include:

- Peat bogs;
- Natural grassland;
- Water bodies;
- Mixed forests;
- Coniferous forest;
- Broad-leaved forest;
- Inland marshes;
- Stream courses;
- Water bodies;
- Transitional woodland and scrub; and
- Land principally occupied by agriculture with areas of natural vegetation.

4.6.5 Other Sites of High Biodiversity Value

The wetland areas in County Longford include a range of high biodiversity value habitats, such as raised and cutover bogs, marshes, swamps, turloughs, fens, wet woodlands, lakes and ponds.

Turloughs are semi-natural habitats that are virtually unique to Ireland. They generally flood in winter and dry out in summer, but there may be other sporadic rises in response to high rainfall. Turloughs are considered to be of high conservation value for their plant, invertebrate (both terrestrial and aquatic) and bird communities. Some turloughs are located within priority habitats and accordingly are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. There are two turloughs of particular significance in the County: Cordara Turlough

pNHA (001821) and Fortwilliam Turlough SAC (000448).

A fen is a wetland system with a permanently high-water level at or just below its surface. Its principal source of nutrients is from surface or groundwater and the substrate is an alkaline to slightly acidic peat soil. The habitat occurs frequently in County Longford and is often associated with floodplains or cutover bogs.

Marshes are found on level ground near slow-flowing river banks, lake shores, and in other places where mineral or shallow peaty soils are waterlogged, and where the water table is close to ground level for most of the year and tend to be comparatively species-rich especially with herbs. Marsh areas are found throughout County Longford.

Peatlands are unique systems comprising of peat soil providing as significant carbon stores and supporting a range of unique species. Cutover bog is a variable habitat, or complex of habitats, that can include mosaics of bare peat and re-vegetated areas with woodland, scrub, heath, fen and flush or grassland communities. It occurs where part or all of the original peat has been removed through turf cutting, by the traditional hand method or mechanically, for either domestic or commercial purposes. The habitat is widespread surrounding industrially and traditionally cutover raised bogs in County Longford.

A survey of wetland sites undertaken in 2017 identified that the area of wetland sites mapped in Longford covered an area of 203 km² (18.6% of land area) with 29 wetland sites identified within areas designated for nature conservation and 252 outside of designated areas.⁴⁵

A further 2019 conservation evaluation of sites surveyed in 2017, found that the 18 of these wetland sites in County Longford are of 'county' or 'local importance'.⁴⁶ Two sites have been

(001822); Ardagullion Bog (002069); and Royal Canal (002103).

⁴³ The CORINE (Coordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type, covering almost one-fifth of the country.

While forested areas cover about one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural.

⁴⁴ Agriculture is the predominant land use in County Longford with approximately 7,273 hectares of farmed land.

⁴⁵ Foss, P.J., Crushell, P. and Gallagher, M.C. (2017) *Counties Longford and Roscommon Wetland Study*. Report prepared for Longford and Roscommon County Councils.

⁴⁶ These sites mapped on Figure 4.5 include: Lough Sallagh (LF44); Black Lough (LF53); Killeen Ponds (LF130); Killeen Lough (LF131); Ballin Lough (LF132); Killeen Bog (LF133); Aghagreagh Bog (LF134); Clonbroney Bog Woodland

ranked as being of a 'county conservation value' (Ballin Lough and Killeen Bog) and five sites were ranked as being of 'high local conservation value' (Lough Sallagh; Black Lough; Killeen Lough; Currygrane Lough; and Killeen Pond North-Ballin Lough). These sites are shown on Figure 4.5.

Hedgerows are also a valuable resource in the countryside, benefiting agriculture, wildlife, the environment, tourism, and the general community. The network of hedges across the country provides links between surviving fragments of other wildlife habitats, thereby allowing the movement and dispersal of species through otherwise hostile agricultural landscapes. The Longford Hedgerow Study (2006) identified 9,903 km of hedgerows in County Longford and it remains a valuable resource for identification and conservation of these habitats in the County.

The proposed Mid Shannon Wilderness Park covers area of Lough Ree, the Rivers Shannon, Inny and Camlin, the Royal Canal, Newcastle Wood and other forests and the future rehabilitated Bord na Móna bogs. The project aims to strengthen the integration of tourism and natural heritage, and to reconcile tourism development with conservation of biodiversity.

It is also proposed to create a dedicated Lough Ree Biosphere Reserve, due to rich natural heritage of the lake, raised bogs and wetlands. The proposed Biosphere Reserve project is a collaboration between the relevant Local Authorities including Longford County Council, Bord na Móna and the National Parks and Wildlife Services, Waterways Ireland and Fáilte Ireland. It is intended to achieve the UNESCO Biosphere status during the life time of the Plan.⁴⁷

(LF135); Cloonfin Lough (LF136); Knockmoody Bog (LF137); Currygrane Wet Woodland (LF182); Currygrane Lough (LF183); Cloonfin South (LF186); Ballybrien Wetland (LF254); Killeen Pond (North) – Ballin Lough (LF283); Listraghee Lough (LF284); Ballyreaghan Quarry Pond (LF288); and Drummeel Farm Pond North (LF289).

⁴⁷ Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

⁴⁸ Nutrient sensitive areas are those waterbodies listed in accordance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment (UWWT) Directive 91/271/EEC on Urban Wastewater Treatment and transposing Regulations. The waterbody containing the

4.6.6 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies that must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). Some of these are mapped on Figure 4.6. These designations include:

- WFD Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁴⁸ in the County including sections of rivers and lakes, such as Lough Ree on the River Shannon, the River Camlin and the River Hind (County Roscommon), as shown on Figure 4.6
- WFD Surface Water in Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁴⁹ in the County including lake and river waterbodies as shown on Figure 4.6
- WFD Groundwater in Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁵⁰ in the County; and
- WFD Drinking Water Surface Water Bodies⁵¹ including rivers (such as: Camlin; Inny; and Shannon Upper) and lakes (such as: Forbes; Gowna North; and Kinale) as shown on Figure 4.6. Groundwater beneath the entire County is also included.

There are a number of water dependent habitats in the County which have been listed on the Register – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.2).

4.6.7 Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Categories for

sensitive area is used to represent the nutrient sensitive area.

⁴⁹ Areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and and transposing Regulations.

⁵⁰ Groundwater bodies that intersect with areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and and transposing Regulations.

⁵¹ Various water bodies are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 278/2007).

pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species identified by the report comprise:

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources);
- Energy production processes and related infrastructure development;
- Development and operation of transport systems;
- Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas;
- Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry);
- Military action, public safety measures, and other human intrusions;
- Alien and problematic species;
- Mixed source pollution;
- Human-induced changes in water regimes;
- Natural processes (excluding catastrophes and processes induced by human activity or climate change);
- Geological events, natural catastrophes;
- Climate change; and
- Unknown pressures, no pressures and pressures from outside the Member State.

The Plan includes measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services.

Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with.

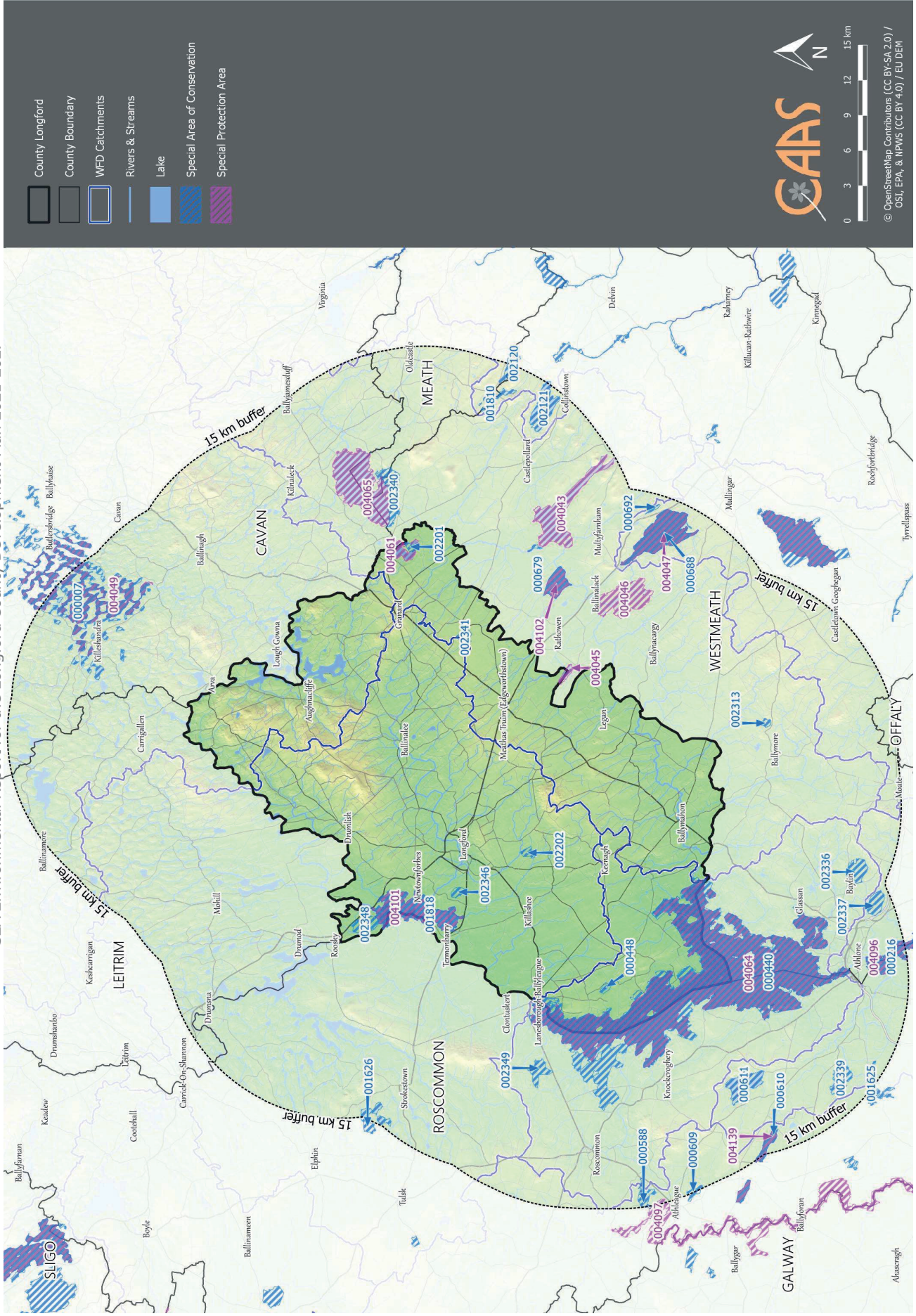


Figure 4.1 European Sites in and within 15 km of the County

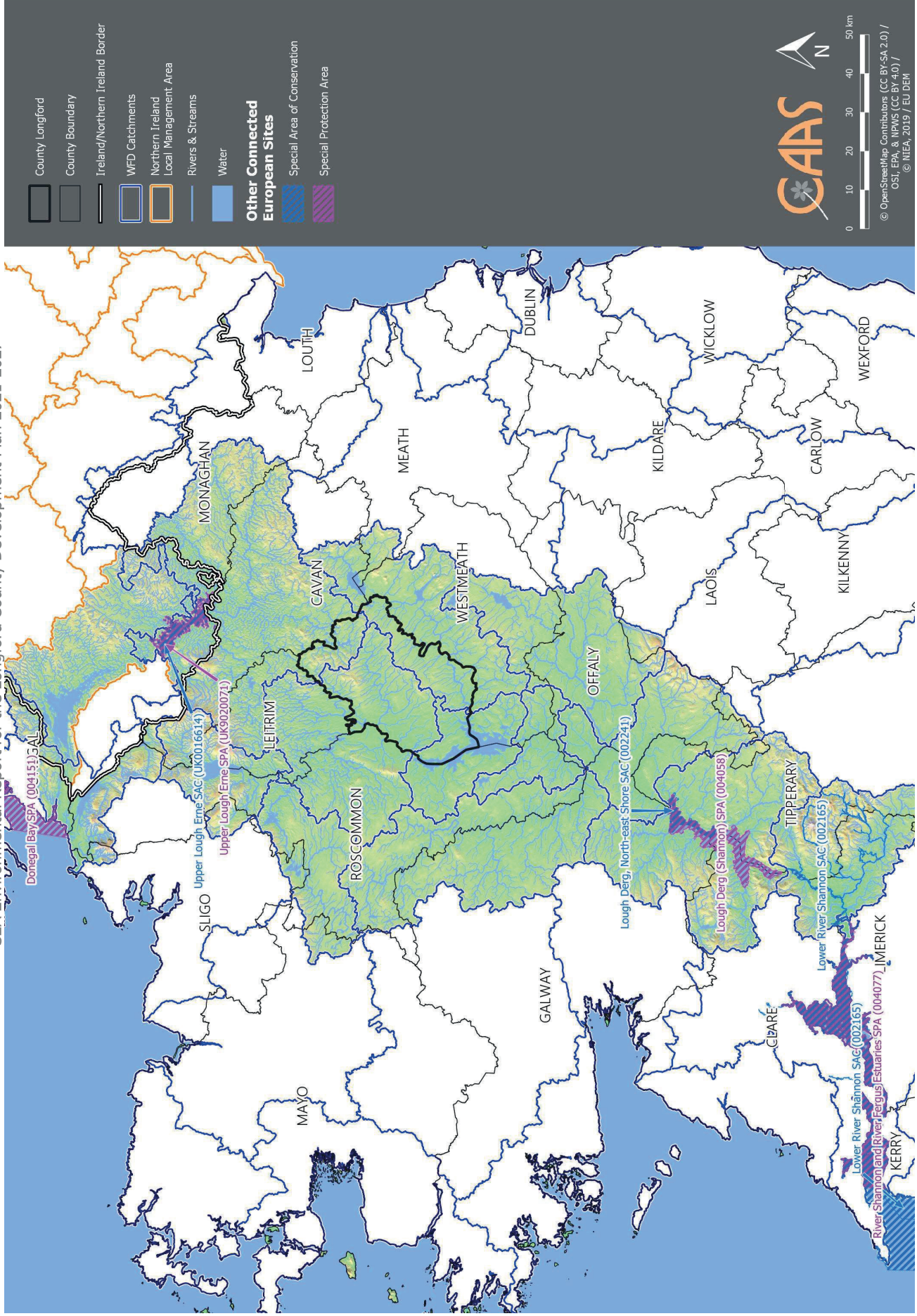


Figure 4.2 European Sites connected to the County but beyond 15 km of the County

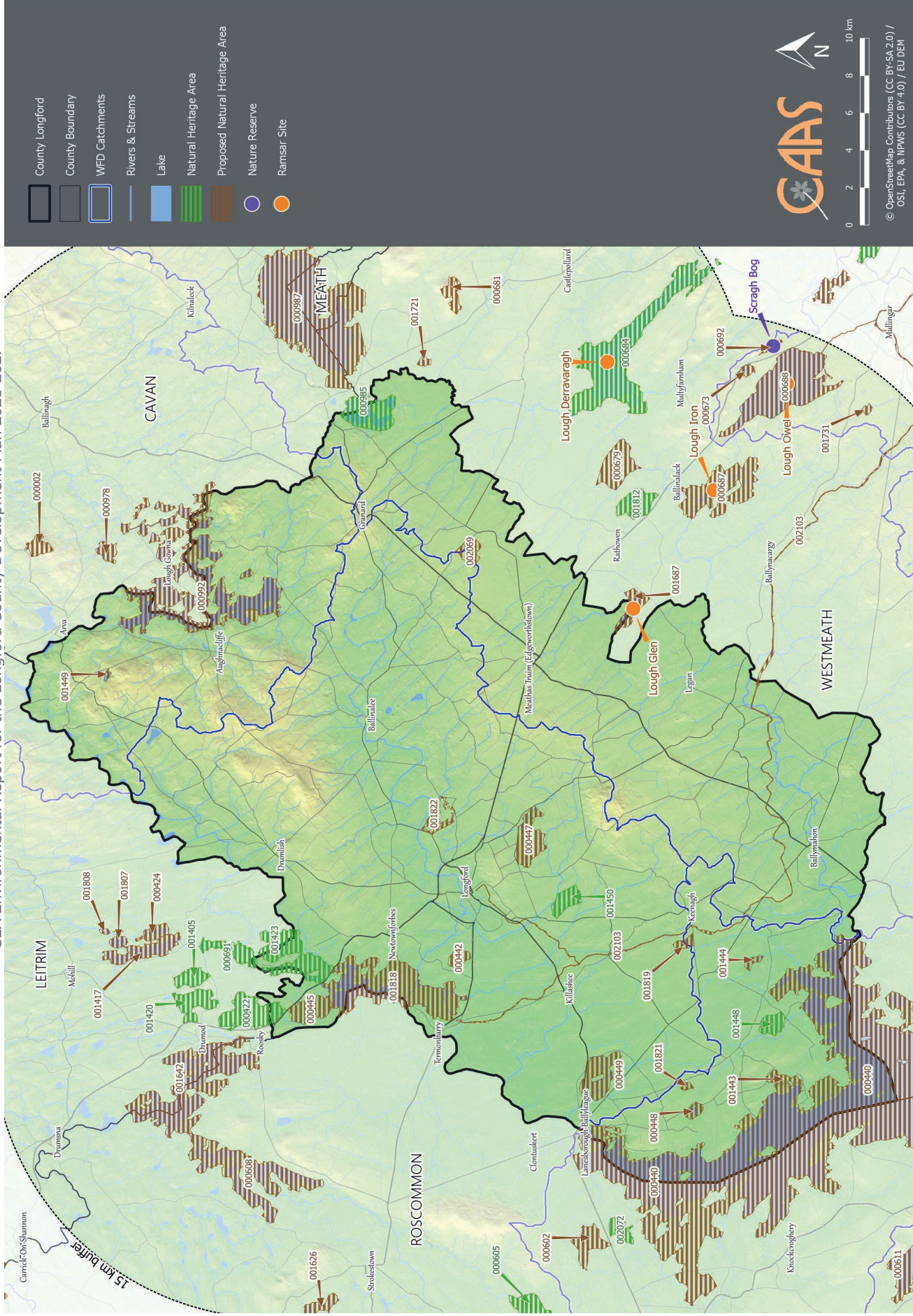


Figure 4.3 Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Other Designations

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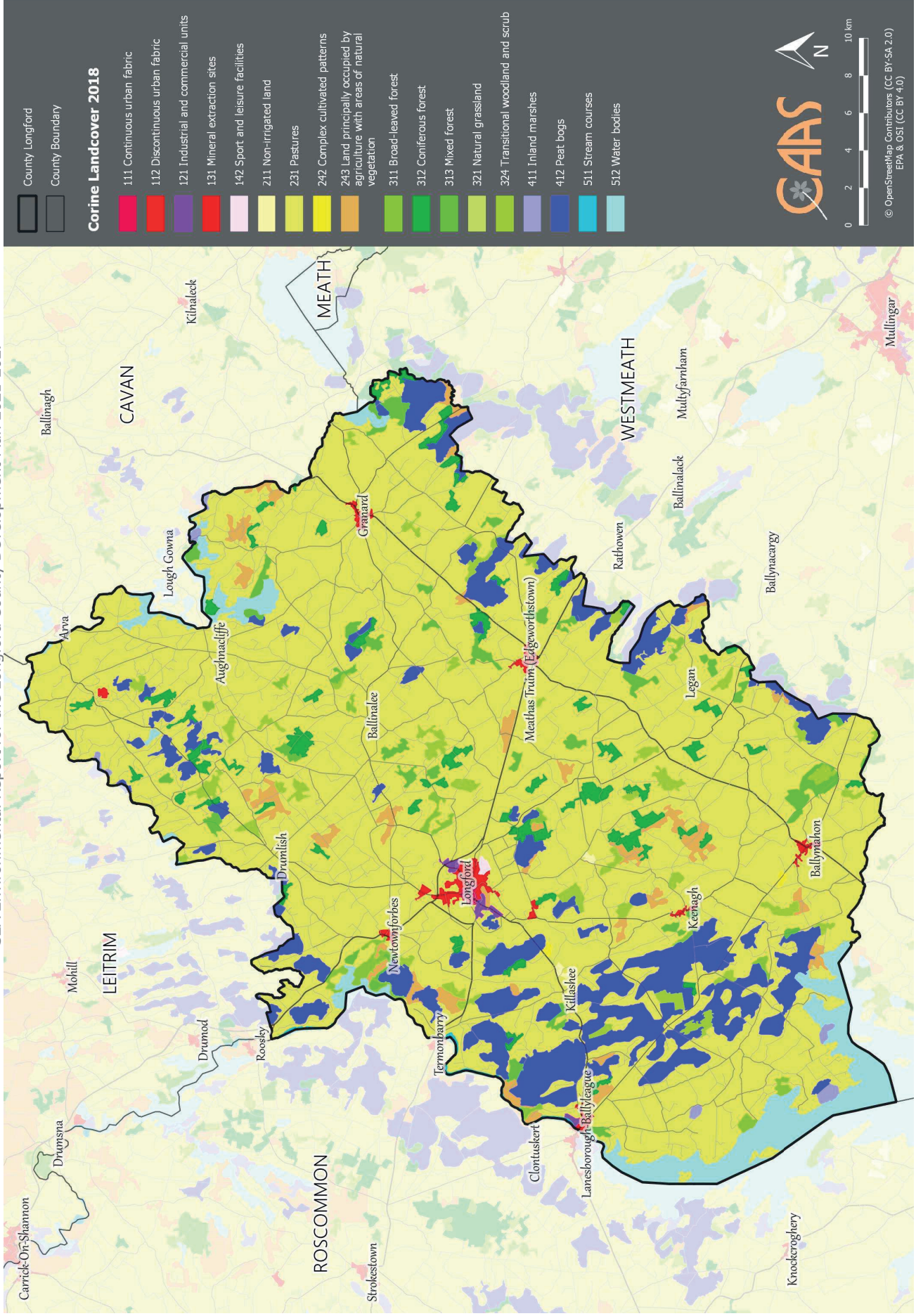


Figure 4.4 CORINE Land Cover 2018

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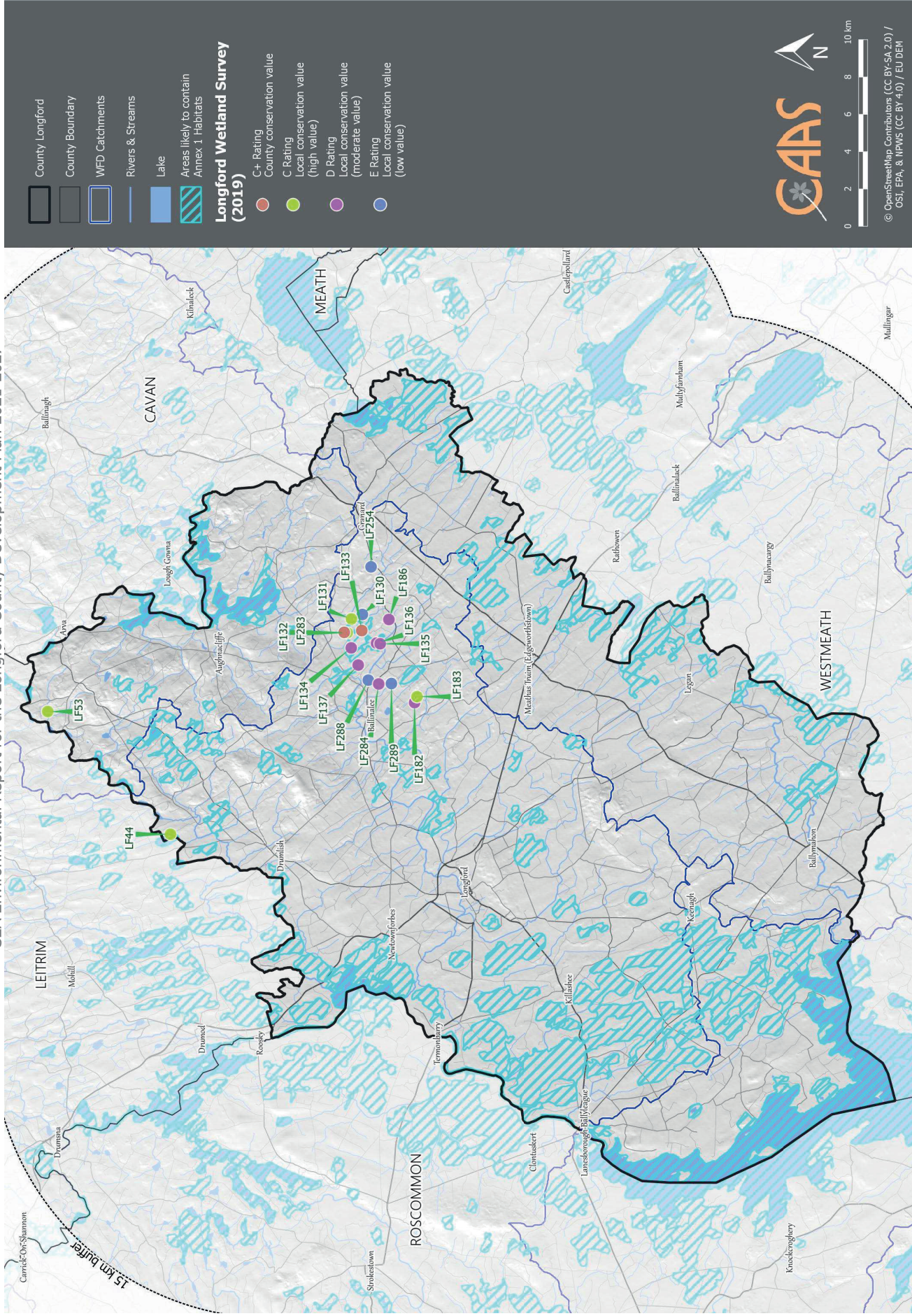


Figure 4.5 Wetland Survey (2019) sites and Areas with the potential for Annex I Habitats

CAAS for Longford County Council

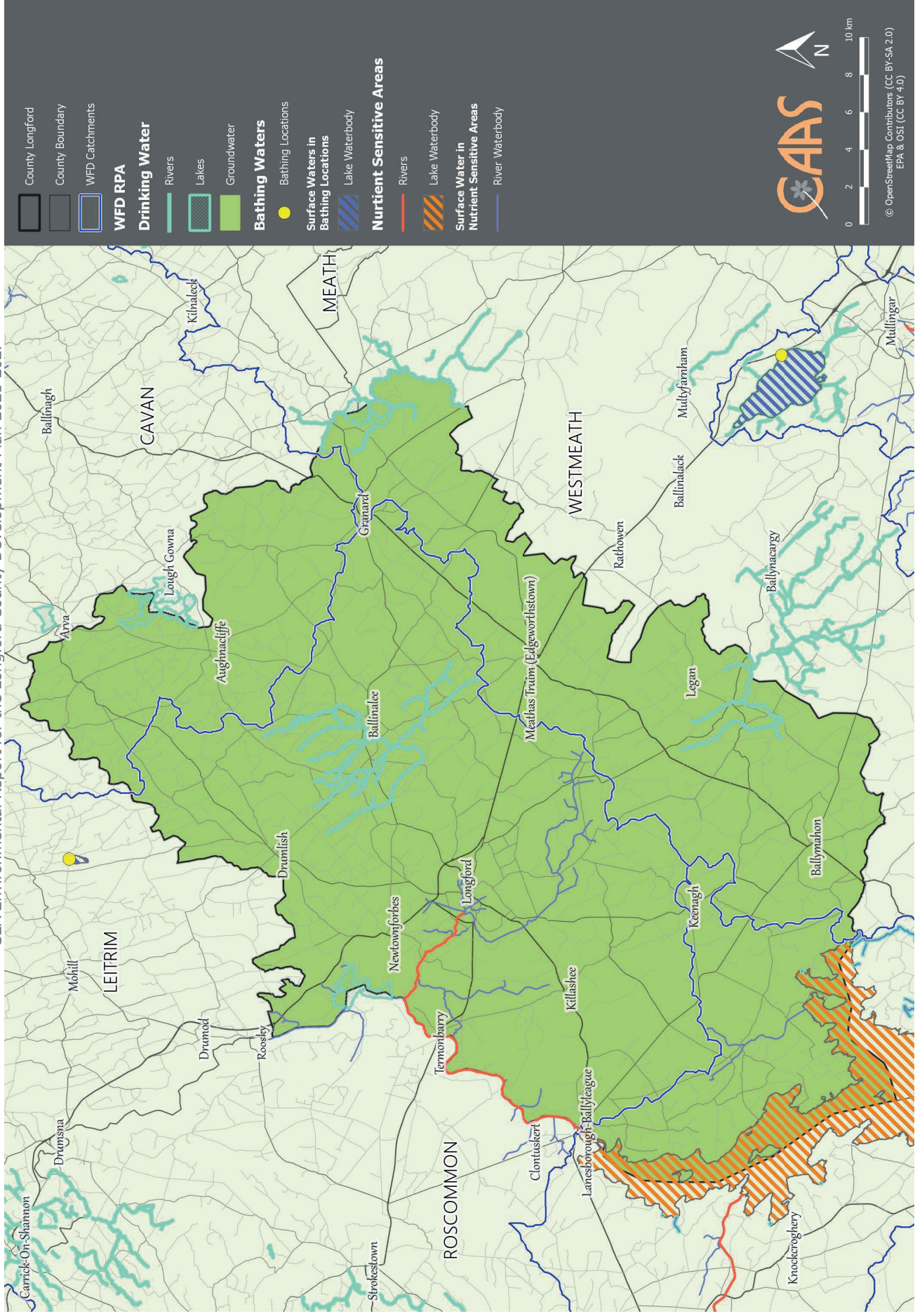


Figure 4.6 WFD Register of Protected Areas

CAAS for Longford County Council

4.7 Population and Human Health

4.7.1 Population

In the 2016 Census the total population of County Longford was identified as being 40,873 persons, showing the trends of an increase in total population in the County by c. 4.8% (1,873 persons) since the previous Census.

In the 2016 Census the population distribution across urban and rural areas in the County was identified as being 13,957 persons (34.2%) in urban settlements and 26,916 persons (65.85%) in smaller towns, villages and in the rural remainder of the County.

By 2031 the NPF Implementation Roadmap states that the population of County Longford is set to be in the range of 46,000-47,000. At the higher projected growth rate, this means that the population of the County will grow by approximately 6,120 people from its 2016 base (or 5,120 people at the lower rate). By 2026, it is envisaged that the population of County Longford will grow by 4,627 people at the higher projected rate to reach 45,500 (or 3,627 people at the lower rate).⁵²

The provision of additional housing over the Plan period is dictated by the Core Strategy that guides where new development should be allocated in accordance with national and regional strategies and policies, including the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for Eastern and Midland Region.

The Plan designates a hierarchy of the County's settlements as follows:

- Key Town (Longford);
- Self-Sustaining Growth Towns (Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon);
- Self-Sustaining Towns (Granard and Lanesborough);
- Towns and Villages (Aughnaccliffe; Ballinalee; Drumlish; Keenagh; Legan; and Newtownforbes); and
- Rural
 - Serviced Rural Villages (Abbeysrulle; Ardagh; Ballinamuck; and Clondra)
 - Rural Settlement Clusters (Abbeylara; Ballycloughan; Ballywillan; Barry;

- Bunlahy; Carrickboy; Carriglass; Colehill; Coolarty; Cullyfad; Derraghan; Dring; Drumhaldry; Enybegs; Forgney; Killashee; Kilnatraun; Legga; Lisryan; Melview; Moydow; Moyne; Mullinalaghta; Newtowncashel; Ratharney; Stonepark; and Taghshinny);
- Open Countryside.

Longford Town is identified as a Key Town by the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031. It acts as a key population and employment centre for the surrounding hinterland as well as a gateway to the Northern and Western Region. In the 2016 Census the total population of Longford Town was identified as being 10,008 persons and it is projected that it will grow by additional 1,938 persons by 2027. Longford Town is identified as the settlement targeted for the most growth over the Plan period, with sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional growth.

Both Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon form 'Self-Sustaining Growth Towns', functioning as centres of important retail, residential, service and amenity functions for these town and surrounding rural hinterlands, as well as their ability to support the Key Town of Longford Town and the Regional Growth Centre of Athlone. The 2016 Census recorded the populations of Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon as being 2,072 and 1,877 persons respectively, with both settlements firmly established as the second most populated towns in the County and considered as urban areas.

The new population provided for in the Plan will interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Increase in demand for wastewater treatment at the municipal level;
- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction from the rivers;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and
- Potential effects on water quality.

4.7.2 Human Health

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water

⁵² Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses for example. These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

4.7.3 Existing Problems

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations across the County (see information on Strategic Flood Risk Assessment at Section 4.9.8).

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. It accounts for more than half of the total radiation dose received by the Irish population. As a known carcinogen, in the same category as tobacco smoke and asbestos it is a cause of lung cancer. Exposure to radon for long periods or at high concentrations can lead to lung cancer. The number of homes within the County with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country⁵³.

Information on the status of groundwaters and surface waters is provided under Section 4.9 while compliance issues in relation to water services are detailed under Section 4.11.9.

4.8 Soil

Soil is the top layer of the earth's crust. It is formed by mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural

resource because it develops over very long timescales. It is an extremely complex, variable and living medium and performs many vital functions including: food and other biomass production, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon, and nitrogen. Soil has a role as a habitat and gene pool, serves as a platform for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. Such functions of soil are worthy of protection because of their socio-economic as well as environmental importance. Soils in any area are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action.

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. Although a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive was withdrawn in 2014, the importance of sustainable soil management was recognised in the Seventh Environment Action Programme, where sustainable land management is to be achieved by 2020.

Luvisols⁵⁴ and peat-based soils are the two most dominant soil types across the Plan area (see Figure 4.7). Other soil types identified include:

- Alluvial soils⁵⁵ (in the flood plains of rivers and streams);
- Brown podzol⁵⁶ (mainly in the north-east of the Plan area);
- Surface Water Gleys⁵⁷ (in depressions in the upper reaches of river valleys in both uplands and lowlands);
- Brown earths⁵⁸ (in the south-west and north-west of the Plan area); and
- Rendzina⁵⁹ (in the south-east of the Plan area).

Peatlands are a very characteristic habitat in County Longford, with groundwater and rain fed peat soils being a prominent and typical feature in the landscape. There are many areas of peat across the Plan area, with concentrations of these in the west and north-west and east. The County has significant areas of important boglands of regional and national importance, such as Corlea Bog and Trackway,

⁵³ Mapping available at

<http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

⁵⁴ Luvisol soils are generally fertile, widely used for agriculture and associated with significant accumulation of clay.

⁵⁵ These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

⁵⁶ Brown podzol soils are characterised by dark brown humus-mineral soil covered with a thin mat of partly decayed leaves

⁵⁷ Surface Water Gleys are wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

⁵⁸ Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

⁵⁹ Rendzina soils are shallow calcareous soils with hard rock or skeletal material comprising coarse fragments.

which includes an Iron Age bog road dated back to 148 B.C. Rain-fed (ombrotrophic) and groundwater-fed (minerotrophic) peat soils occurring in the Plan area are subject to ecological designations (see Section 4.6).

In addition to being significant net sinks of carbon, peatlands have the potential to be net sources of carbon if these soils are drained or extracted as part of land management activities.

The GSI have a suite of data sources available that would be useful in planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets. These include:

- Bedrock mapping;
- Quaternary and Physiographic mapping; and
- National Aquifer and Recharge mapping.

4.8.1 Geological Sites

Geological Survey of Ireland coordinates the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, which seeks to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. The audit of County Geological Sites in County Longford was completed in 2015. There are 15 County Geological Sites in County Longford, as mapped on Figure 4.8, with a concentration of these in the north-east and south-east parts of the Plan area⁶⁰. Many of these County Geological Sites include quarries.

4.8.2 Potentially contaminated lands and landfill sites

In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact upon human health, water quality and habitats and species.

As is the case with other urban and semi-urban areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at sites within County Longford, especially where land uses occurred in the past in the absence of environmental protection legislation.

Historic landfill sites in the County include those at:

- Drumlish;

- Ballymulvey;
- Cartron Big;
- Ballymaurice; and
- Longford Town.

Other historic landfill sites in the County can be found on the EPA's Section 22 Register of the Waste Management Act.

4.8.3 Source Protection Areas

Source Protection Area delineation provides an assessment of the land area that contributes groundwater to a borehole or spring. Source reports have been undertaken by the GSI on behalf of Local Authorities since the mid-1990s. The Public Supply Source Protection Areas comprises Source Protection Areas around groundwater abstraction points that are managed by Irish Water to supply Public Water Supply Schemes across Ireland. The objective of the Source Protection Areas is to provide protection by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution of the source. The Zone of Contribution is the land area that contributes water to the well or spring. The Inner Protection Area (SI) is designed to protect against the effects of human activities that might have an immediate effect on the source and, in particular, against microbial pollution. The Outer Protection Area (SO) is encompassing the remainder of the zone of contribution to the groundwater abstraction point (e.g. borehole or spring). The Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas comprises Zones of Contribution to groundwater abstraction points that supply Group Water Schemes across Ireland that are affiliated to the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and that supply more than 15 people. The Zones of Contribution are preliminary protection areas around groundwater abstractions, but are not full Source Protection Areas.

Groundwater bodies are important water supply sources for private wells, group schemes and local authority supplies and for use in a range of commercial activities. Groundwater directly and indirectly contributes to and sustains a variety of important ecosystems. This is particularly the case in rural areas that are not served by public or group water schemes, with private bored wells being the only source of

⁶⁰ Individual audited site reports for County Longford are available from the GSI (www.qsi.ie).

supply. In this regard, the 2016 Census recorded approximately 1,640 dwellings as having a private well supply source. Given limited surface water, the demand for groundwater will increase, particularly in meeting the demands for drinking water. Accordingly, it is essential that known sources of groundwater used for drinking supply are protected from pollution in County Longford.⁶¹

There is one Source Protection Area identified within County Longford, Newtown Cashel Spring Source Protection Zone, as shown on Figure 4.8.

4.8.4 Landslides

The term "landslide" describes a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of materials such as rock, debris, earth, mud and peat under the force of gravity. Issues such as existing ground conditions, slope stability and storage of excavated material have the potential to influence susceptibility to landslides/bog bursts. The potential impacts of landslides include loss of human life/injury, flooding, pollution of watercourses and impacts upon aquatic biodiversity.

The Plan area has several locations with a history of landslide events⁶², as shown on Figure 4.9. These events include: a bog near Newtownforbes (1883); Bog of Rine near Camlin River (1808); Tomisky Bog (2009); and more recently, two events in an area of raised peat in Ballymakeeggan (2016) and Moydow (2016).

The GSI have identified that most of the Plan area has relatively low levels of landslide susceptibility, as shown on Figure 4.9.

4.8.5 Existing Problems

Legislative objectives governing soil were not identified as being conflicted with.

⁶¹ Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

⁶² Over 2,500 landslide events are recorded in the National Landslides Database available from GSI (www.gsi.ie). This

dataset also includes Landslide Susceptibility Mapping to assist in the identification of areas that are likely to experience land sliding.

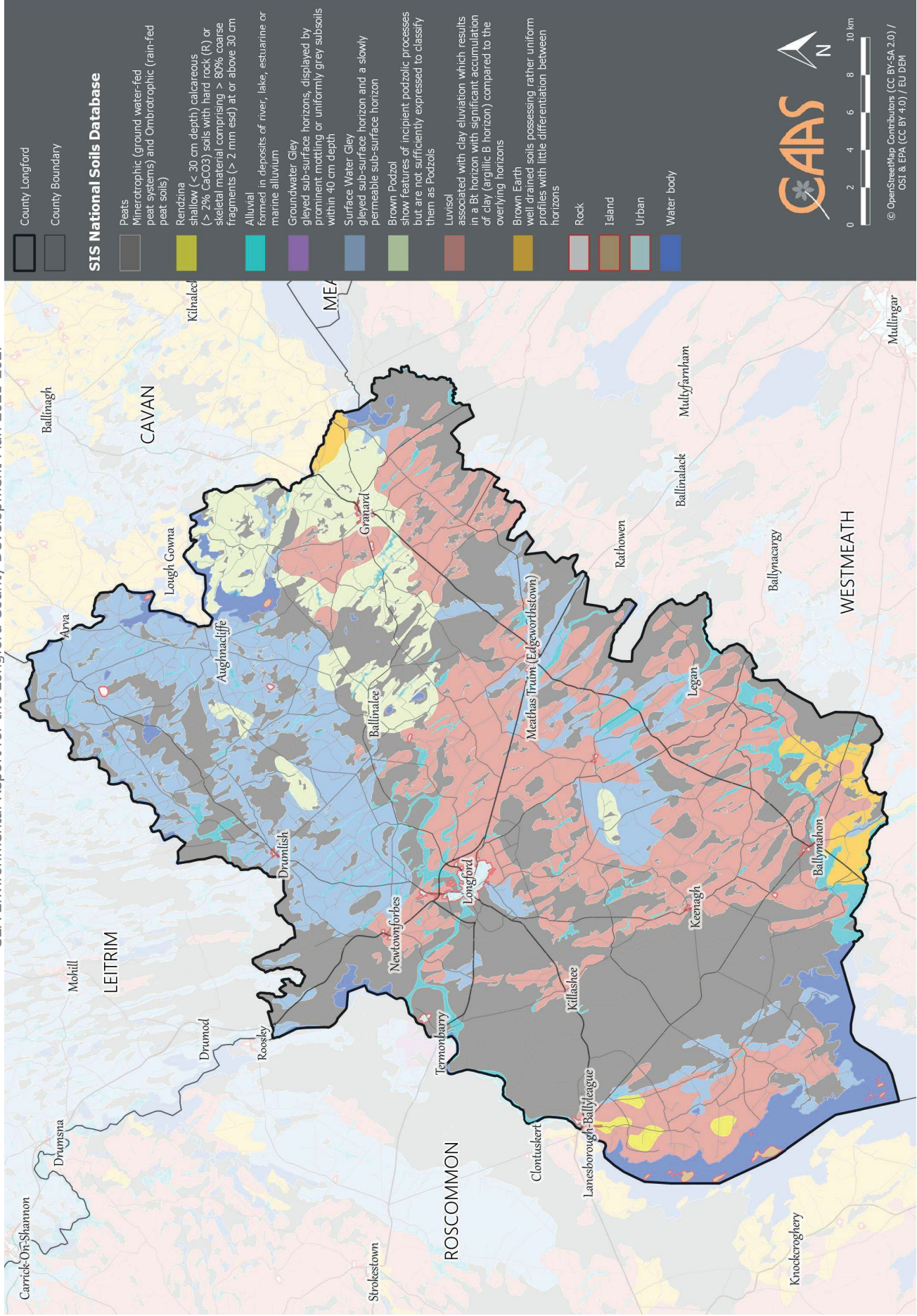


Figure 4.7 Soil Type
CAAS for Longford County Council

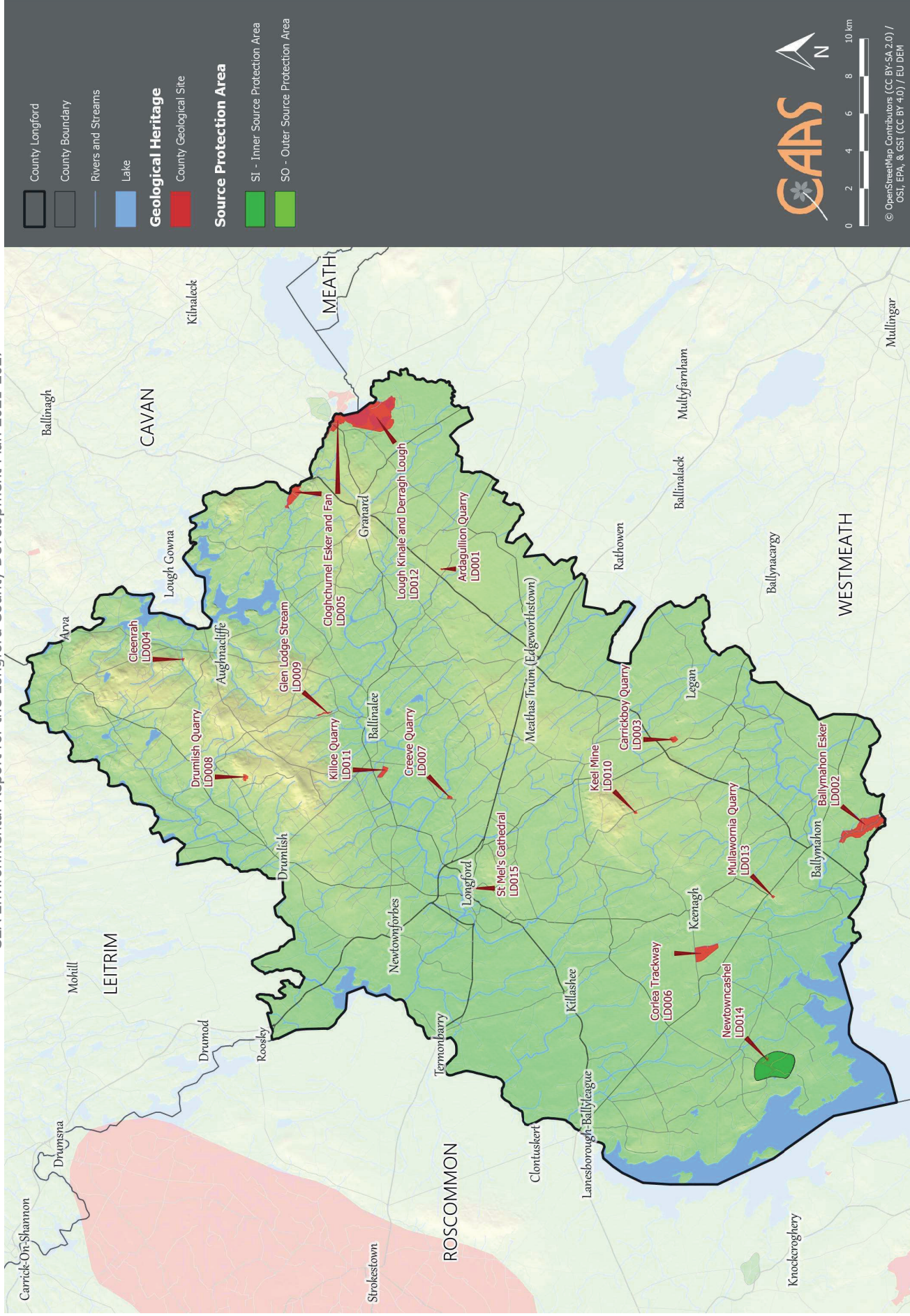


Figure 4.8 Source Protection Areas and County Geological Sites

CAAS for Longford County Council

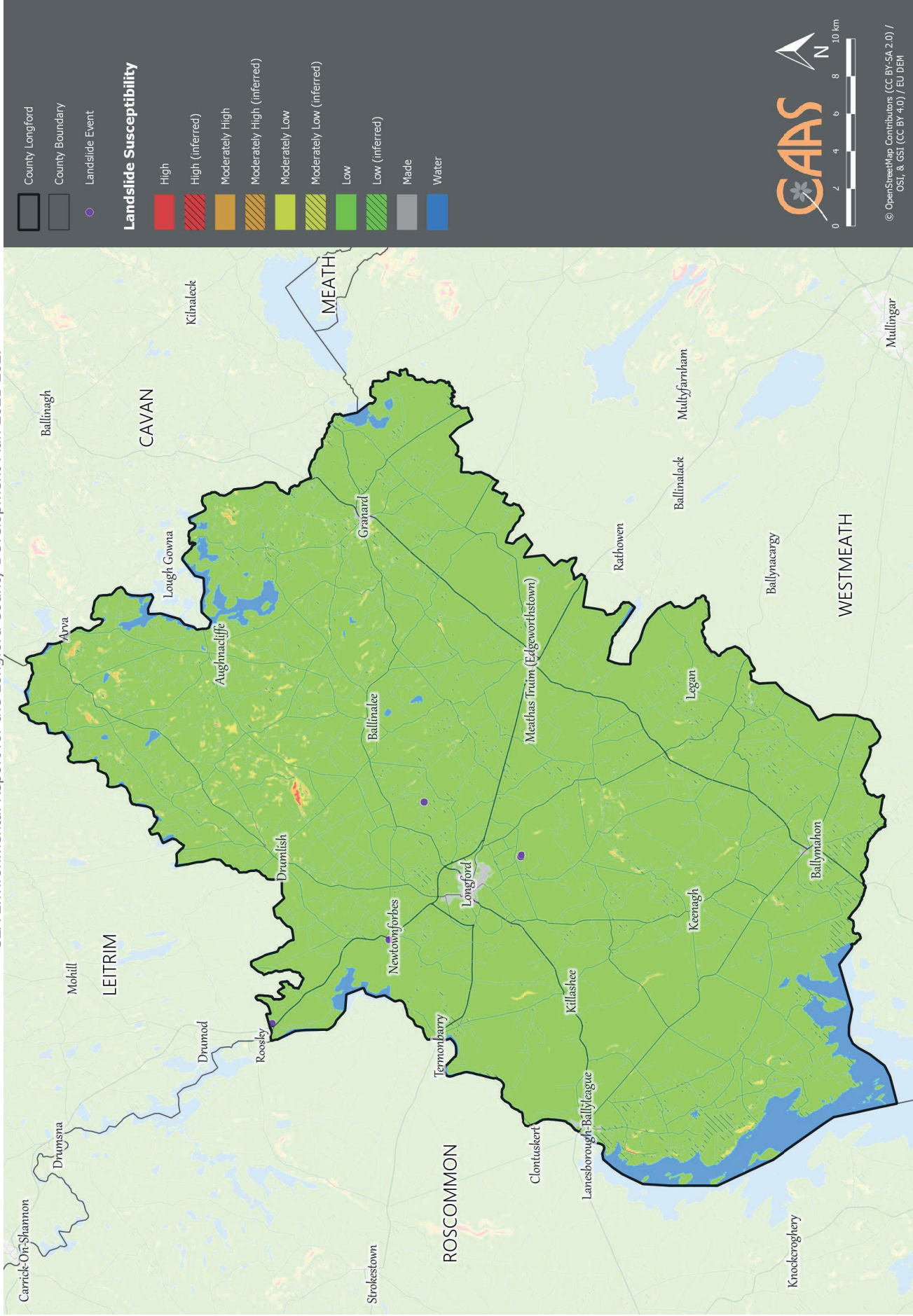


Figure 4.9 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events

CAAS for Longford County Council

4.9 Water

4.9.1 The Water Framework Directive

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD requires that all Member States implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving good status. All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to good status.

Article 4 of the WFD sets out various exemptions for deterioration in status caused as a result of certain physical modifications to water bodies. This is provided: all practicable mitigation measures are taken; there are reasons of overriding public interest or the benefits to human health, safety or sustainable development outweigh the benefits in achieving the WFD objective; there are no better alternatives; and the reasons for the physical modification are explained in the River Basin Management Plan.

The EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD.

For the purpose of assessment, reporting and management, water is divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and coastal waters that are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies.

4.9.2 Zone of Influence

The zone of influence of the Plan beyond the County boundary, with respect to impacts upon waters can be estimated to be all bodies of groundwater and all surface waters downstream areas of catchments which drain Plan area.

⁶³ There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and

4.9.3 Surface Water Drainage

A catchment is an area of land contributing to a waterbody, with all the water ultimately running off to a single outlet. The WFD requires water quality management to be based on natural river catchments i.e. by reference to the natural, environmental unit rather than by reference to administrative or legal boundaries, which often fragment river catchments.

Most of the County is located within the Upper Shannon catchment with part of the north of the County located within the Erne catchment.

4.9.4 Surface Water Status

The WFD defines 'overall surface water status' as the general expression of the status of a body of surface water, determined by the poorer of its ecological status and its chemical status. Thus, in order to achieve 'good surface water status' both the ecological status and the chemical status of a surface water body need to be at least 'good'.

Ecological status is an expression of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems associated with surface waters. Such waters are classified as of 'good ecological status' when they meet Directive requirements.

Chemical Status is a pass/fail assignment with a failure defined by a face-value exceedance of an Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for one or more Priority Action Substances (PAS) listed in Annex X of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The EQS values for individual PAS substances are set at European level. Good surface water chemical status means that concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018), for rivers, canals and lakes within and surrounding the County is shown on Figure 4.10.

In addition, there are a number of *unassigned*⁶³ river, canal and lake waterbodies across the County.

the term "unassigned status" applies in respect of these waterbodies.

The WFD status of most of the surface waters in the County is classified as *moderate*, *good* and *high*, however some sections⁶⁴ of the rivers including Black, Camlin, Legga Stream, Rhine and Shannon Upper and Lake Gowna North are identified as *poor* due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

In addition to this, many water bodies are identified as being at risk of not achieving their water quality objectives due to the damage being caused by significant pressures.⁶⁵ Significant pressures, those pressures which need to be addressed in order to improve water quality, have been identified for waterbodies that are 'At Risk' of not meeting their water quality objectives under the WFD. Significant pressures for surface water bodies within or adjacent to County Longford are identified on Table 4.1. There are various types of pressures identified, such as:

- **Agricultural pressures** - can include issues related to farming including loss of excess nutrients and sediment loss to surface waters from diffuse sources such as spreading of fertilisers and manures. Excess phosphorous and sediment are typically issues for rivers and lakes, and too much nitrogen is the main issue for estuaries and coastal waters.
- **Urban run-off pressures** - can include leaking sewers and run-off from paved and unpaved areas and misconnections where private foul connections are connected to storm sewers instead of the foul sewer network.
- **Urban wastewater pressures** - can include direct discharge of nutrients from urban wastewater treatment plants and discharge from combined storm overflows or storm water overflows. Discharges of elevated concentrations of phosphorus, ammonium and nitrogen impact on the ecology of surface waters.
- **Hydromorphological and anthropogenic pressures** are identified together in many instances. Hydromorphological pressures can include: modifications to the physical habitat conditions or the natural functioning of a waterbody which can impact on ecology, caused by dredging and straightening of rivers (chanellisation), land drainage or hard infrastructure such as dams, weirs, culverts or other obstructions. Anthropogenic pressures can include: water abstractions; invasive species; agriculture; use of fertilizers, manures and pesticides; animal husbandry activities; inefficient irrigation practices; deforestation of woods; aquaculture; pollution due to industrial effluents and domestic sewage; mining; and recreational activities.
- **Industrial pressures** - can include discharges and emissions from industrial and commercial facilities.
- **Extractive industry related pressures** - can include different activities that lead to the extraction of raw materials from the earth, such as oil, metals, mineral and aggregates. Impacts from extractive sites include sediment/siltation pollution and alteration to the physical environment.
- **Invasive species pressures** - can include those relating to non-native species introduced outside their natural range that threaten ecosystems, habitats and native species with environmental or socio-economic harm. Currently 37 species have been identified across the EU as a high priority for management, and nine of these occur in Ireland. The potential impacts of IAS include the alteration of eco-systems (by causing bank erosion, for example), inhibition of access to water bodies, hindrance of land development and, in some cases, potential human health impacts.
- **Atmospheric pressures** - can include atmospheric deposition of nutrients. Atmospheric deposition of nutrients is the process whereby nutrients from natural or anthropogenic sources move from the atmosphere to the earth's surface.
- **Forestry pressures** - can include poorly managed and inappropriately sited forest operations, negatively impact on water quality and aquatic habitats and species. The most common water quality problems arising from forestry relate to the release of sediment and nutrients and the impacts from acidification. Forestry may also give rise to changes in stream flow regimes caused by associated land drainage.

⁶⁴ As per EPA classification system (gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps)

⁶⁵ EPA (2019): Report on Water Quality in Ireland 2013-2018

Table 4.1 WFD Surface Waterbody Status and Pressures⁶⁶

Waterbody Name (EPA Identification Code) ⁶⁷	Water body Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) ⁶⁸
Black (Westmeath)_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, urban run-off and urban wastewater sources.
Camlin_070	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic, urban run-off and urban wastewater sources.
Legga Stream_020	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and industrial sources.
Rhine_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from urban wastewater sources.
Shannon (Upper)_080	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Shannon (Upper)_100	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from extractive industry related, industrial, hydromorphological/anthropogenic and invasive species sources.
Shannon (Upper)_110	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, atmospheric and hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.
Gowna North	Lake	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Black (South Leitrim) _010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Black (Westmeath)_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.
Camlin_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.
Clooncoose Stream_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Comoge_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Fallan_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.
Inny_050	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from extractive industry related sources.
Inny_100	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from invasive species sources.
Legga Stream_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural and extractive industry related sources.
Rath_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural sources.
Rinn_030	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural sources.
Shannon (Upper)_090	River	Moderate. No pressures identified. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural and hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.
Forbes	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural, invasive species and extractive industry sources.
Gowna South	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural and invasive species sources.
Kinale	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural sources.
Aughnacriffe Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Black (South Leitrim) _020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Black (South Leitrim) _030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Black (South Leitrim) _040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Camlin_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Camlin_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Camlin_050	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Creelaghta_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cullies_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural and domestic wastewater sources.
Erne_060	River	Good. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural sources.
Fallan_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Fardrumman Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Inny_060	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Inny_070	River	Good. This waterbody is identified to be under pressure from agricultural and extractive industry related sources.
Inny_080	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Inny_090	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Lenamore Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Ree	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Royal Canal Main Line (Upper Shannon F)	Canal	Good. No pressures identified.
Royal Canal Main Line (Upper Shannon C)	Canal	Good. No pressures identified.
Royal Canal Main Line (Upper Shannon E)	Canal	Good. No pressures identified.
Camlin_020	River	High. No pressures identified.

⁶⁶ Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> and <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>

⁶⁷ The number at the end of each river water body name indicates where the waterbody is located along the main river channel. For example, the waterbody at the source is coded '_010', the next waterbody downstream is coded '_020' and the final waterbody before the river becomes transitional is '_180'.

⁶⁸ There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term "unassigned status" applies in respect of these waterbodies. These are not included on the Table 4.1.

4.9.5 Ground Water

Groundwater is stored in the void spaces in underground layers of rock, or aquifers. These aquifers are permeable, allowing both the infiltration of water from the soils above them and the yielding of water to surface and coastal waters. Groundwater is the part of the subsurface water that is in the saturated zone - the zone below the water table, the uppermost level of saturation in an aquifer at which the pressure is atmospheric, in which all pores and fissures are full of water.

For groundwater bodies, the approach to classification is different from that for surface water. For each body of groundwater, both the chemical status and the quantitative must be determined. Both have to be classed as either *good* or *poor*. The WFD sets out a series of criteria that must be met for a body to be classed as good chemical and quantitative status.

The WFD status (2013-2018) of groundwater underlying the entire County is identified as being of *good* status, meeting the objectives of the WFD (as shown on Figure 4.11).

4.9.6 Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates groundwaters according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution.

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The vulnerability of aquifers underlying the County are mapped on Figure 4.12 and generally classified as being of:

- *High, moderate and low vulnerability*, in most of the County; and
 - *Extreme vulnerability and extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)* in other local areas

The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4.13. Productivity is generally classified as being:

- *Locally important aquifer bedrock, which is moderately productive only in local zones*, across most of the County;
- *Poor aquifer bedrock which is generally moderately unproductive except for local zones*, mainly in the north of the County;

- *Regionally important aquifer karstified (conduit)*, along a band stretching from the south-west to the centre of the County;
- *Regionally important aquifer karstified (diffuse)*, in the south-west of the County;
- *Locally important aquifer bedrock which is generally moderately productive*, in the north-east and north-west of the Plan area; and
- *Locally important aquifer karstified* in the centre of the Plan area.

4.9.7 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

The WFD requires that Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs) are compiled for a number of water bodies or part of water bodies which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife.

The WFD requires that these RPAs contain: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g. Salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates include:

- All groundwater and surface waters sustaining areas designated as SACs and SPAs (these European sites are mapped on Figure 4.1);
- A number of rivers and a lake are designated as Nutrient Sensitive Areas (as shown on Figure 4.6);
- Groundwater across the area to which the Plan relates is designated as Groundwater in Nutrient Sensitive Areas;
- Groundwater across the area to which the Plan relates is included on the RPA for Groundwater Drinking Water (see Figure 4.6);
- A number of rivers and lakes are included on the RPA for Drinking Water Rivers (see Figure 4.6).

Source Protection Areas are described in Section 4.8.3 and mapped on Figure 4.8.

4.9.8 Flooding

Certain areas across the County are at risk from groundwater, pluvial⁶⁹ and fluvial⁷⁰ flooding. There are various historic and predictive indicators of flood risk in the County, including Areas at greatest risk of fluvial flooding include areas within Longford Town (Camlin River) and along the County's western and south-western County border (River Shannon and Lough Ree).

Predictive flood risk mapping is available from the Office of Public Works (OPW) for the County's rivers.

Six locations in the County were identified by the OPW in 2012 as requiring detailed assessment of flood risk (Areas for Further Assessment): Abbeyshrule; Ballymahon; Cloondara; Edgeworthstown; Lanesborough - Power Station; and Longford Town.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), as required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG and OPW, 2009), has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the SEA and the preparation of the Plan. This assessment considers available and emerging information on flood risk indicators including the OPW's Flood Hazard and Risk Mapping.

4.9.9 Existing Problems

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, based on available water data, certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD.

The Plan includes provisions that will contribute towards improvements in the status of waters.

There is historic and predictive evidence of elevated levels of flood risk from fluvial sources at various locations across the County.

⁶⁹ Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

⁷⁰ Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

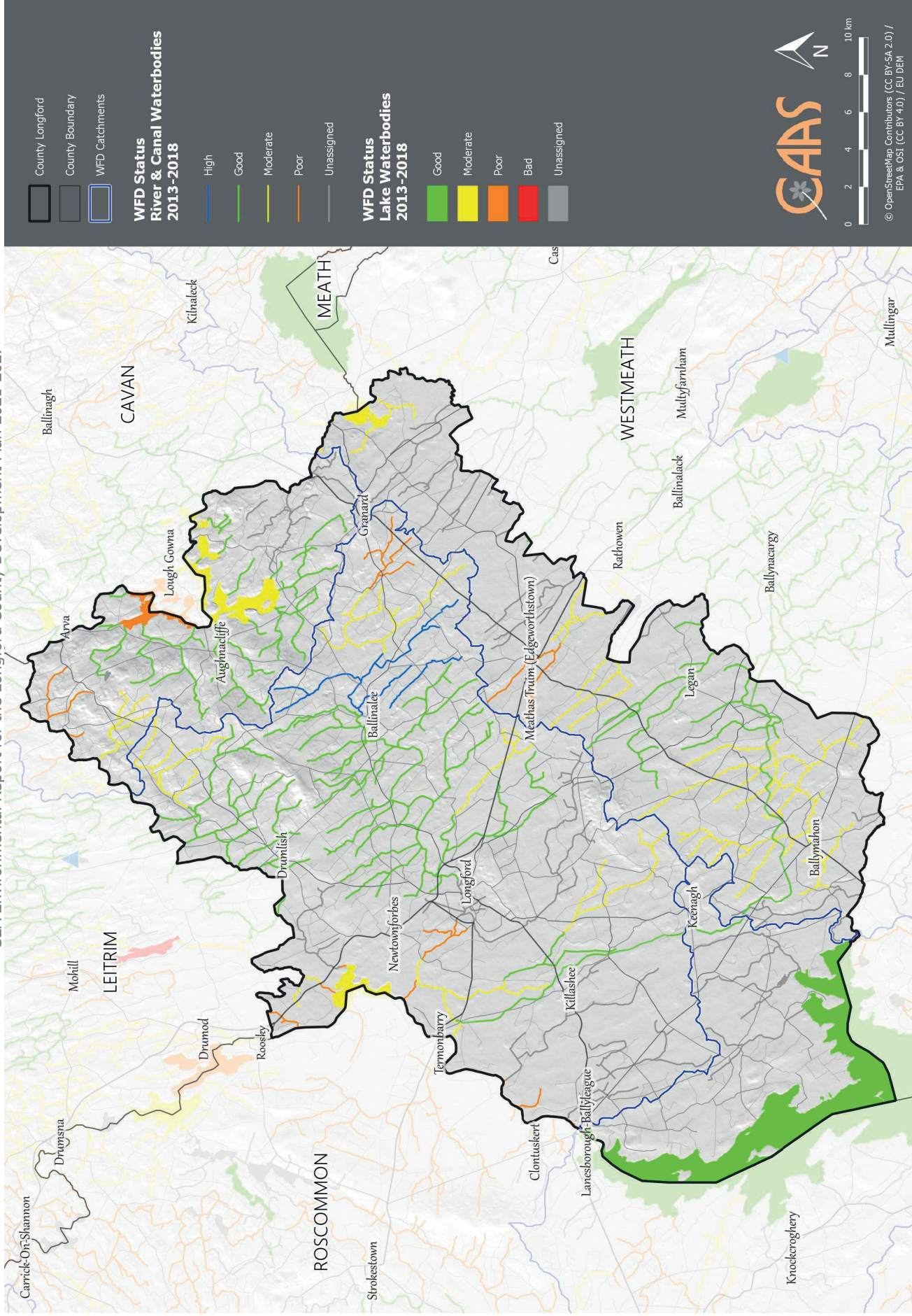


Figure 4.10 WFD Surface Water Status (2013-2018)

CAAS for Longford County Council

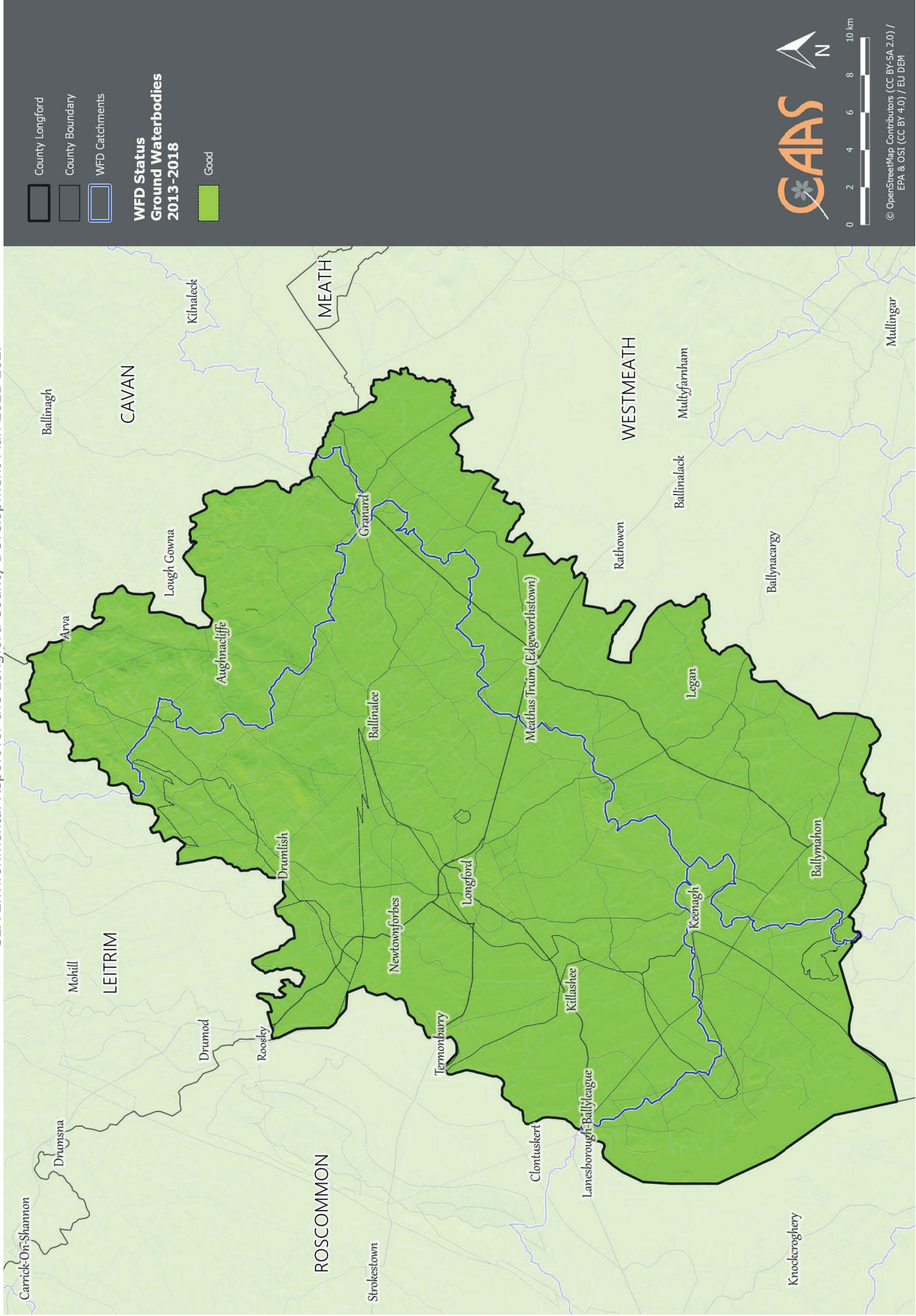


Figure 4.11 WFD Groundwater Status (2013-2018)

CAAS for Longford County Council

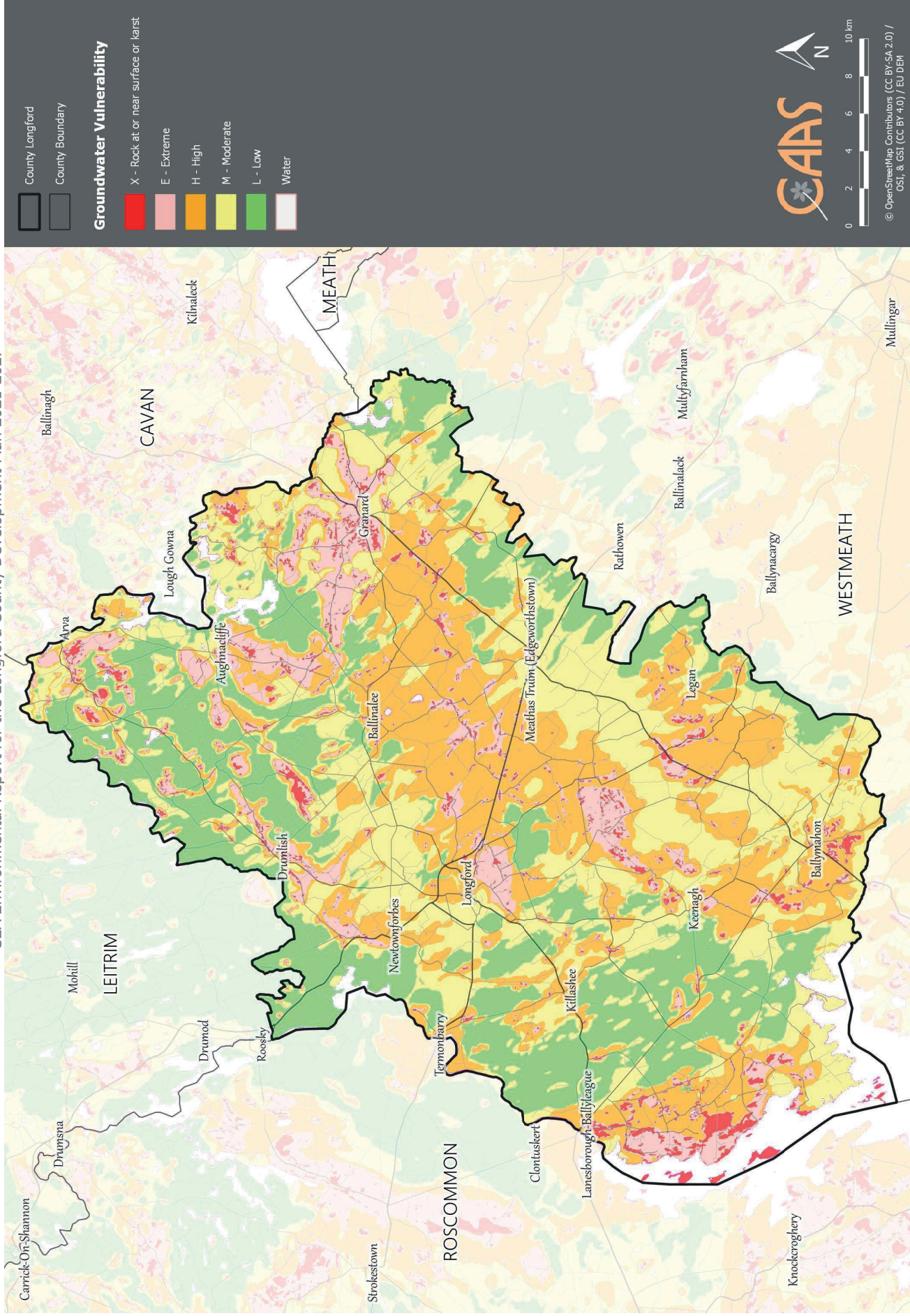


Figure 4.12 Groundwater Vulnerability

CAAS for Longford County Council

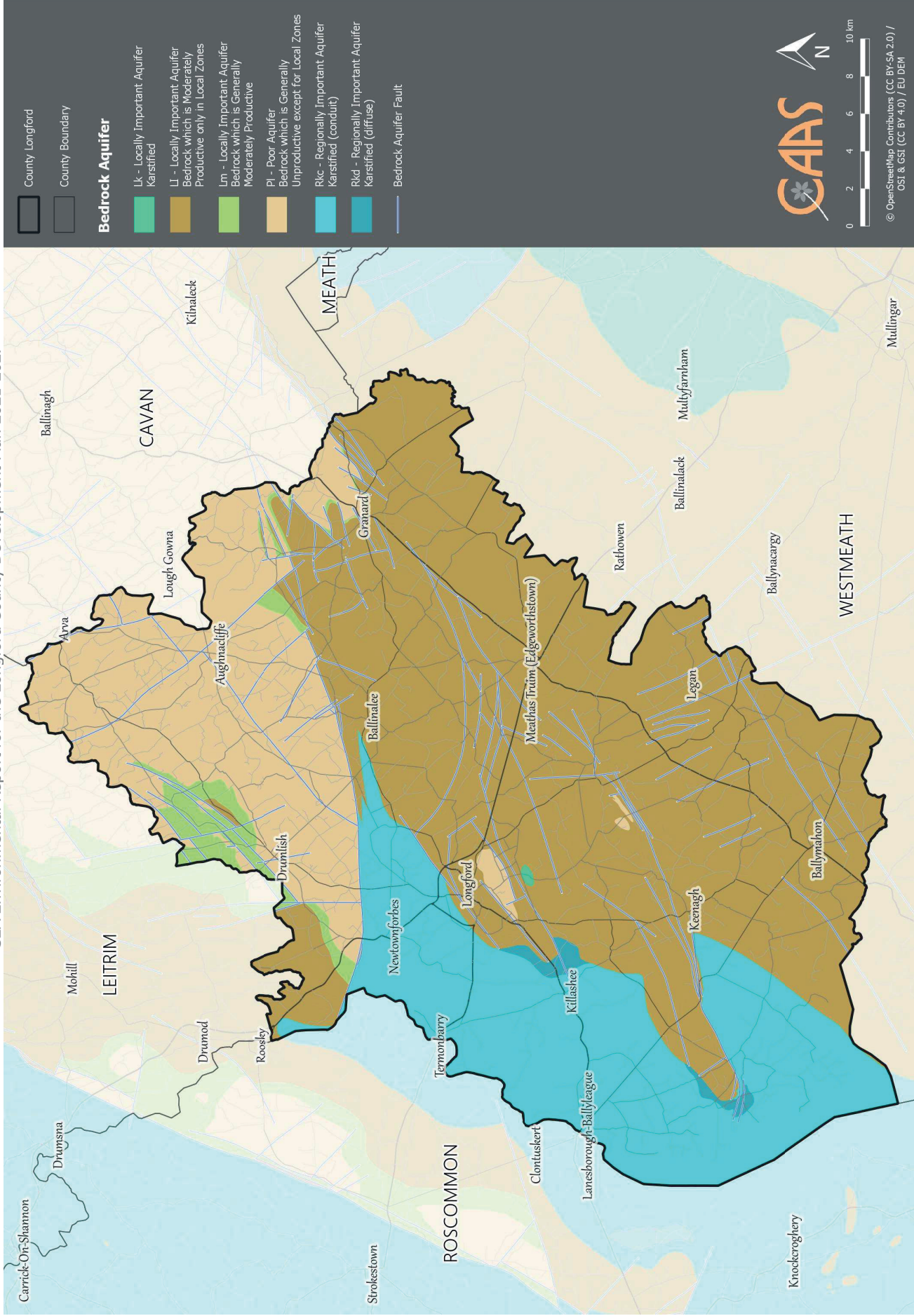


Figure 4.13 Groundwater Productivity

CAAS for Longford County Council

4.10 Air and Climatic Factors

4.10.1 Introduction

Total emissions of greenhouse gases by humans come from various sectors including transport, agriculture, energy industries, manufacturing combustion, industrial processes, residential developments, commercial services developments, waste management processes and fluorinated gases equipment (such as refrigeration and fire protection systems).

Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2017 (EPA, 2018) details provisional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990-2017. For 2017, total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 60.75 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq). This is 0.9% lower (0.53 Mt CO₂eq) than emissions in 2016.

The EPA's 2019 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2018-2040* provides an assessment of Ireland's progress towards achieving its emission reduction targets set down under the EU Effort Sharing Decision (Decision No 406/2009/EC) for the years 2013-2020 and a longer-term assessment based on current projections. Ireland's 2020 target is to achieve a 20% reduction of non-Emission Trading Scheme (non-ETS) sector emissions (i.e. agriculture, transport, the built environment, waste and non-energy intensive industry) on 2005 levels with annual limits set for each year over the period 2013-2020.

The report on *Ireland's Final Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2017* (EPA, 2019) identifies that:

- For 2017, the total national GHG emissions are estimated to be 60.74 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq), 0.9% lower than 2016.
- In the last 3 years, national total emissions have increased by 6.4%. In the same period, emissions in the ETS⁷¹ sector have increased by 5.9%.

- Agriculture emissions increased by 2.9% in 2017 (driven by higher dairy cow numbers and increases in milk production).
- GHG emissions from the Transport sector decreased by 2.4% in 2017. This is the first year of decreased emissions after four successive years of increases in transport emissions.
- Agriculture and Transport accounted for 73.5% of total ESD emissions in 2017.
- Emissions in the Energy Industries sector show a decrease of 6.9% which is attributable to a 5.9% decrease in fossil fuel consumption and an increase of 21.1% and 1.6% in electricity generated from wind and hydro, respectively, in 2017. Renewables now account for 30.1% of electricity generated in 2017, an increase of 3.3% from 2016 figures. Ireland continued to be a net exporter of electricity in 2017. However, exported electricity saw a 4.7% reduction in 2017 to previous 2016 figures.
- Emissions from the Manufacturing Combustion⁷² sector increased by 3.1% in 2017.
- The Industrial Processes sector emissions increased by 4.1%, mainly from increased cement production. Cement process emissions increased by 2.6% in 2017.
- GHG emissions from the Residential sector decreased by 5.0%. This can be attributed to a milder winter.
- Emissions from the Waste sector decreased by 2.5% in 2017.

The EPA 2019 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2018-2040* provides an assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions out to 2040 which includes an assessment of progress towards achieving its emission reduction targets out to 2020 and 2030 set under the EU Effort Sharing Decision and Effort Sharing Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/842). Ireland's 2020 target is to achieve a 20% reduction of non-Emission Trading Scheme (non-ETS) sector emissions (i.e. agriculture, transport, the built environment, waste and non-energy intensive industry) on 2005 levels with annual limits set for each year over the period 2013-2020. Ireland's 2030 target under the Effort Sharing Regulation is a 30% reduction of emissions compared to 2005 levels by 2030. There will be binding annual limits over the 2021-2030 period to meet that target. Key Insights identified as part of the report's package of documents are that:

- There is a long-term projected decrease in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of inclusion of new climate mitigation policies and measures that formed part of the 2018-2027 National Development Plan (updated in 2021). This is

⁷¹ The EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) was launched in 2005 as the world's first international company-level 'cap-and-trade' system for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases cost-effectively. The cap makes sure that CO₂ becomes a product and, thus, CO₂ is valued at a price,

which is determined by the supply and demand at the (trading) market.

⁷² Manufacturing Combustion; includes combustion of fuels in Industry and Construction, both in ETS and non-ETS

evident in the With Additional Measures scenario which assumes full implementation of the programmes, policies and measures included in the 2018 National Development Plan.

- Fossil fuels such as coal, peat and gas continue to be key contributors to emissions from the power generation sector. However, a significant reduction in emissions over the longer term is projected as a result of the expansion of renewables (e.g. wind), assumed to reach 41-54% by 2030, with a move away from coal and peat.
- A growth in emissions from the transport sector continues to be projected which is largely attributed to fuel consumption from diesel cars and diesel freight. A decrease in emissions over the longer term, most notably in the With Additional Measures scenario, is largely attributed to assumed accelerated deployment of 500,000 electric vehicles and the impact of greater biofuel uptake.
Agriculture emissions are projected to continue to grow steadily over the period which is mainly a result of an increase in animal numbers particularly for the dairy herd.
- The implementation of additional energy efficiency measures included in the 2018 National Development Plan will see a significant reduction in emissions in the residential, commercial/public services and manufacturing sectors over the projected period.

4.10.2 Climate Mitigation

The National Mitigation Plan (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2017), represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the level of decarbonisation required. It is a whole-of-Government Plan, reflecting in particular the central roles of the key Ministers responsible for the sectors covered by the Plan – Electricity Generation, the Built Environment, Transport and Agriculture, as well as drawing on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of other Government Departments.

The National Adaptation Framework (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2018), sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. The National Adaptation Framework outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation. Under the Framework, a number of Government Departments will be required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to a priority area that they are responsible for.

The National Climate Action Plan 2021 is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's

climate ambition over the coming years. The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources. The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050.

The use of alternative fuels, including electricity, forms a significant part of government policy to reduce emissions, including from transport. Greater use of alternative fuels, including renewable energy, has the potential to further contribute towards energy security.

The 2019 emission projections do not consider the impact of new policies and measures that will be included in the forthcoming Government Climate Plan. It is anticipated that future emission projections will include the additional impact of the Government Climate Plan.

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2019 identifies that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive to the future path of fuel prices. A significant and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately -2.5% per year is required to meet our objectives for 2050. However, it must be noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included in the analysis to date.

4.10.3 Ambient Air Quality

In order to protect human health, vegetation and ecosystems, EU Directives set down air quality standards in Ireland and the other Member States for a wide variety of pollutants. These pollutants are generated through fuel combustion, in space heating, traffic, electricity generation and industry and, in sufficient amounts, could affect the well-being of the areas inhabitants. The EU Directives include details regarding how ambient air quality should be monitored, assessed and managed.

The principles to this European approach are set out in the Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) (which replaces the earlier Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 and the first, second and third *Daughter Directives*; the fourth *Daughter Directive* will be included in CAFE at a later stage).

In order to comply with the directives mentioned above, the EPA measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. For the purposes of monitoring in Ireland, four zones are defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (SI No. 271 of 2002).

The EPA's (2020) *Air Quality in Ireland 2019* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from transport emissions is polluting urban areas; and
- Ireland was above World Health Organization air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel within settlements across the country.

With regards to solutions, the report identifies that:

- To tackle the problem of particulate matter, clean ways of heating homes and improve energy efficiency of homes can be progressed; and
- To reduce the impact of nitrogen dioxide, transport options in the Government's Climate Action Plan can be implemented and transport choices can be considered by individuals.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current⁷³ air quality within the Plan area (Rural East and Small Towns Air Quality Index Regions) is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

4.10.4 Noise

Longford County Council has prepared a Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise

Regulations 2006. The purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to avoid, prevent and reduce, on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance due to the long-term exposure to environmental noise.

4.10.5 Existing Problems

Legislative objectives governing air and climatic factors in County Longford were not identified as being conflicted with.

4.11 Material Assets

Other material assets, in addition to those detailed below, covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 4.12) natural resources of economic value, such as water and air (see Sections 4.9 and 4.10).

4.11.1 Public Assets and Infrastructure

Public assets and infrastructure that have the potential to be impacted upon by the Plan, if unmitigated, include; settlements; resources such as public open spaces, parks and recreational areas; public buildings and services; transport and utility infrastructure (electricity, gas, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.); forestry; and natural resources that are covered under other topics such as water and soil.

4.11.2 Land

The Plan seeks to assist with the reuse and regeneration of brownfield sites thereby contributing towards sustainable mobility and reducing the need to develop greenfield lands and associated potential adverse environmental effects. Brownfield lands are generally located within urban/suburban areas.

4.11.3 Agriculture

Much of the land throughout the County is used for agriculture, as indicated by the agricultural related land cover types shown on Figure 4.4 on page 23. Agriculture is a strong employer and a significant source of economic activity in the County. It contributes to exports and

⁷³ 18/08/2020 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)

provides the raw materials for the food processing industry.

4.11.4 Forestry

Various extents and types of forestry exist across the County, as indicated on Figure 4.4. Much of the forested land is owned by Coillte. Woodlands provide recreational opportunities in addition to their heritage and economic benefits. They are also important as links in the county's green infrastructure network.

4.11.5 Peatlands

There are significant peatland areas throughout the County, as indicated on Figure 4.4. These provide a valuable natural and archaeological resource. Peatlands are also important controllers of water levels in river catchments, providing a source of water in dry conditions and soaking up excess water during wetter periods; they actively capture and hold carbon and are an important natural resource in combatting climate change. Cutaway bogs have the potential to facilitate land uses such as employment, renewable energy generation, waste management, industrial, and tourism and recreation.

4.11.6 Renewable Energy Potential

Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC Renewable Energy, renewable energy sources are defined as renewable non-fossil energy sources such as, but not limited to wind, solar, geothermal, wave, tidal, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, bio-gases and bio-char (i.e. the thermal treatment of natural organic materials in an oxygen-limited environment). There is potential for renewable energy development in the County and the Plan seeks to facilitate such development in a sustainable manner.

4.11.7 Minerals and Aggregates

Minerals such as iron and copper and aggregates such as sand and gravel can occur throughout the country. Minerals and aggregates are essential to manufacturing and construction.

Minerals localities within Longford are shown on Figure 4.14. The GSI have a suite of data

sources available that would be useful in planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets. These include:

- Aggregate Potential Mapping;
- Bedrock mapping;
- Quaternary and Physiographic mapping; and
- National Aquifer and Recharge mapping.

4.11.8 Transport

Transport infrastructure in the County has the potential to support reductions in energy demand from the transport sector, including through electrification of modes.

Due to its strategic location in the middle of the country, Longford and its main urban centres are particularly well served by a hierarchy of roads including sections of motorways, national roads, regional roads and local roads. Two national primary routes traverse the County from east to west, the N4 from Dublin to Sligo and N5 from Longford to Castlebar. Longford Town is strategically positioned where the two national roads divide. The national secondary route, N63 leaves Longford Town for Roscommon and the N55 from Cavan to Athlone takes a north-south route through the east of the County, passing through Granard, Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon. Nine regional routes connect these, serviced by a network of county roads.

Longford is seen as a Gateway to the Northern and Western Region, making it fundamental in providing connections with other urban centres in these regions. Both regional and local roads provide vital links between the towns and villages to retail, service and employment centres throughout the County and to adjoining counties.

Longford is centrally located along the Dublin-Sligo rail line which traverses the County from east to west, generally following the line of the N4 and serves Longford and Edgeworthstown stations. Irish Rail and Bus Éireann operate on number of routes several times daily.

4.11.9 Water Services

4.11.9.1 Wastewater

The EPA's 2019 report *'Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2018'* identified that:

- Wastewater treatment at 21 large urban areas did not meet European standards;

- Raw sewage is released into the environment from 36 urban areas;
- Wastewater from 57 areas is the sole threat to waters at risk of pollution;
- Wastewater contributed to poor quality bathing waters at three beaches in 2018;
- Discharges from 13 areas must improve to protect freshwater pearl mussels;
- Disinfection systems must be installed at two villages to safeguard shellfish; and
- Eight wastewater collection systems have been found non-compliant with European Union requirements.

Based on the EPA's assessment of monitoring information provided by Irish Water and the enforcement activities carried out by the EPA, this report identifies urban areas with the most important environmental issues with respect to wastewater infrastructure that must be addressed.

From January 2014, Irish Water became responsible for all public water services, involving the supply of drinking water and the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. Irish Water is also responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and wastewater treatment plants. The Council is an agent of Irish Water for operations and remains the designated Water Authority for the assessment and approval of on-site wastewater treatment systems and is responsible for surface water drainage in the County.

The provision of well-maintained quality wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to facilitate sustainable development of the County in line with the Settlement and Core Strategy while also protecting the environment and public health. Irish Water is now responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater where public wastewater facilities exist in towns and villages. In unserviced areas and outside the main towns and villages, the main method of sewage disposal is by means of individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems.

Irish Water, working in partnership with Longford County Council, is making investments to undertake essential upgrade works to wastewater treatment plants in towns

and villages across the County. The upgrading of infrastructure will contribute towards compliance with the Water Framework Directive, EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and Drinking Water Regulations and will help to protect human health and maintain the quality of surface and ground waters.

There are currently 20 wastewater treatment plants in Longford, the majority in the ownership and maintenance of Irish Water. However, Longford County Council operates and maintains five wastewater treatment plants on behalf of the Irish Water, with the foul sewer network collecting effluent from approximately 11,400 homes. Monitoring of the treated effluent from the plants is carried out as required in accordance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and conditions of the Discharge Licences and Certificates of Authorisation issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In unserviced areas and outside the main settlements, the main method of sewage disposal is by individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems. The control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability is a priority for the Council.

Irish Water has provided the Wastewater Treatment Capacity Register (see Table 4.3) to assist the Council in the preparation of the new County Development Plan by indicating where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth ("headroom") in terms of population equivalent⁷⁴ (PE) in each settlement serviced by a public wastewater treatment plant. Spare treatment capacity is available now or is expected to be delivered by 2024 in most of these settlements, except for Abbeylara and Culyfad-Woodlands Park. The highest levels of headroom (PE) is available at Longford (3,804 PE); Granard (1,411 PE); and Newtownforbes (811 PE). Spare capacity will be also available in Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon upon completion of projects post 2024.

The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, has identified specific capacity constraints

⁷⁴ As identified in Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan, wastewater treatment plants are described in terms of their designed treatment capacity, which is generally expressed as population equivalent (PE). This is a measurement of total organic biodegradable load, including industrial, institutional, commercial and domestic organic

load, on a wastewater treatment plant, converted to the equivalent number of PEs. One person is considered to generate 60g of five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) per day. 1 PE is defined as being equivalent to 60g of BOD per day.

associated with the Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon wastewater treatment plants. While both of these settlements feature prominently in the settlement hierarchy for the County, consideration of further development in these settlements will be contingent on the upgrading of these treatment plants, or the submission of appropriate engineering solutions for individual developments which suitably address wastewater treatment and disposal to the satisfaction of the Council and Irish Water. Irish Water has committed to the upgrade of these treatment plants within the lifetime of the Plan.⁷⁵

Currently, there are no Longford plants servicing urban areas that are listed as priority areas where improvements are required to resolve urgent environmental issues with respect to wastewater treatment (EPA, 2019).

Table 4.2 provides information on wastewater treatment plant performance sourced from the EPA's 2018 Annual Environmental Reports (2019) for Longford Town.

Table 4.2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Performance

Plant name and Reference	Longford WWTP D0060-01
Treatment Provided	Preliminary (Screening), Secondary (aeration), Nutrient Removal (time shut down anoxic, alum sludge phosphate removal)
Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)	Pass (all parameters compliant)
Cause of Exceedances and Significance of Results (Water Quality)	The WWTP is compliant with the ELV's set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence.
Organic Capacities (PE)	As Constructed: 20000 Collected Load (peak week): 17623 Remaining: 2377

Irish Water is responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and wastewater treatment plants. Irish Water has prepared a National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan 2016-2021 that outlines Irish Water's strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for managing wastewater sludge over a 25-year period. A separate plan will be prepared in relation to sludge produced at drinking water plants.

4.11.9.2 Water Supply

Irish Water is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout the County. Public drinking water in County Longford is supplied through six public water supply schemes (Longford Central; Granard; Gowna; Ballymahon; Lanesborough and Newtowncashel). These are predominately surface water abstraction supplies with the exception of Lanesborough and Newtowncashel which are groundwater sourced supplies. The 2016 census indicates that 11,419 private households (75.7%) in the County are served by public watermains. The remaining households are served by either Group Water Schemes or private wells, which do not fall within the remit of Irish Water. Private bored wells used as a source of water supply to single dwellings are the responsibility of the householder. Such wells are not regulated under the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 and Irish Water has no regulatory function in this regard. The Council is responsible for providing guidance and advice in relation to the protection of water quality and in this regard the Council administers and manages well grants on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.⁷⁶

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above.

The Gowna Water Supply is listed on the most recent EPA RAL (Q2 of 2020) due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 1,940 m³/day, serving a population of 4,359 people. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to improve operations at the water treatment plant to include optimisation of coagulant dosing by March 2021.

The Granard Water Supply is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs

⁷⁵ Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

⁷⁶ Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 1,397 m³/day, serving a population of 2,598. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is "Improve operations at the water treatment plant to include optimisation of coagulant dosing by March 2021".

The Longford Central Water Supply is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of pesticides above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 6,970 m³/day, serving a population of 16,729. The complete catchment-focussed engagement actions involving Irish Water and the relevant stakeholders (as set out in Irish Water's response to EPA Direction) were recommended to achieve compliance with the limits for pesticides. The EPA Direction required compliance by December 2019 and the monitoring is currently under way to verify effectiveness of this action programme.

Currently, Irish Water is developing the National Water Resource Plan outlining how to move to a sustainable, secure and reliable public drinking water supply over a 25-year period while safeguarding the environment. It will outline how Irish Water intends to maintain a balance between supply from water sources around the country and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term. This will facilitate future planning and ensure provision of sufficient, safe, clean drinking water to facilitate the social and economic growth of the County.

It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.

4.11.9.3 Surface Water Drainage

Sustainable urban Drainage systems (SuDS) can minimise the quantity and increase the quality of surface water runoff as well as mitigating adverse impacts of climate change. SuDS can also provide amenity and biodiversity benefits. The Council seeks to ensure the sustainable management of surface water discharges in urban areas through the use of SuDS.

4.11.10 Waste Management

The Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 provides the framework for solid waste management in the region and sets out a range of policies and actions to meet specified mandatory and performance-based targets.

The Eastern and Midland Waste Region comprises 12 local authority areas of Dublin City, Fingal, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Offaly, Meath, Wicklow, Westmeath and South Dublin.

The Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 provides the framework for solid waste management in the region and sets out a range of policies and actions to meet specified mandatory and performance-based targets. It is underpinned by National and European waste legislation and the work carried out will ensure the continued management of waste in a safe and sustainable manner. The plan includes eight Strategic Objectives and three overarching targets:

- 1% reduction per annum in the quality of household waste generated per capita;
- Reduce to 0% the direct disposal of unprocessed municipal waste to landfill (from 2016 onwards) in favour of higher value pre-treatment processes and indigenous recovery practices; and
- Recycling rate of 50% of managed municipal waste by 2020.

The Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan states that the future role of local authorities in waste management will be focused on education, prevention, and resource efficiency activities as well as regulating householders, businesses and waste operators and enforcing waste legislation. Waste infrastructure provided by local authorities will mainly include bring banks and civic amenities.

4.11.11 Existing Problems

There are a number of challenges with respect to the provision of water services infrastructure that are described under Section 4.11 above.

The Water Services Section of Longford County Council will co-operate with Irish Water in providing and maintaining adequate public water supply and wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure throughout the county for the period of the plan and beyond. In conjunction with Irish Water, the Water Services Section of Longford County Council will endeavour to ensure the continued investment

in and delivery of improvements to water infrastructure over the Plan period through the implementation of the Capital Investment Plan. 2020-2024.

The provisions of the new County Development Plan will contribute towards protection of the environment with regard to impacts arising from material assets.

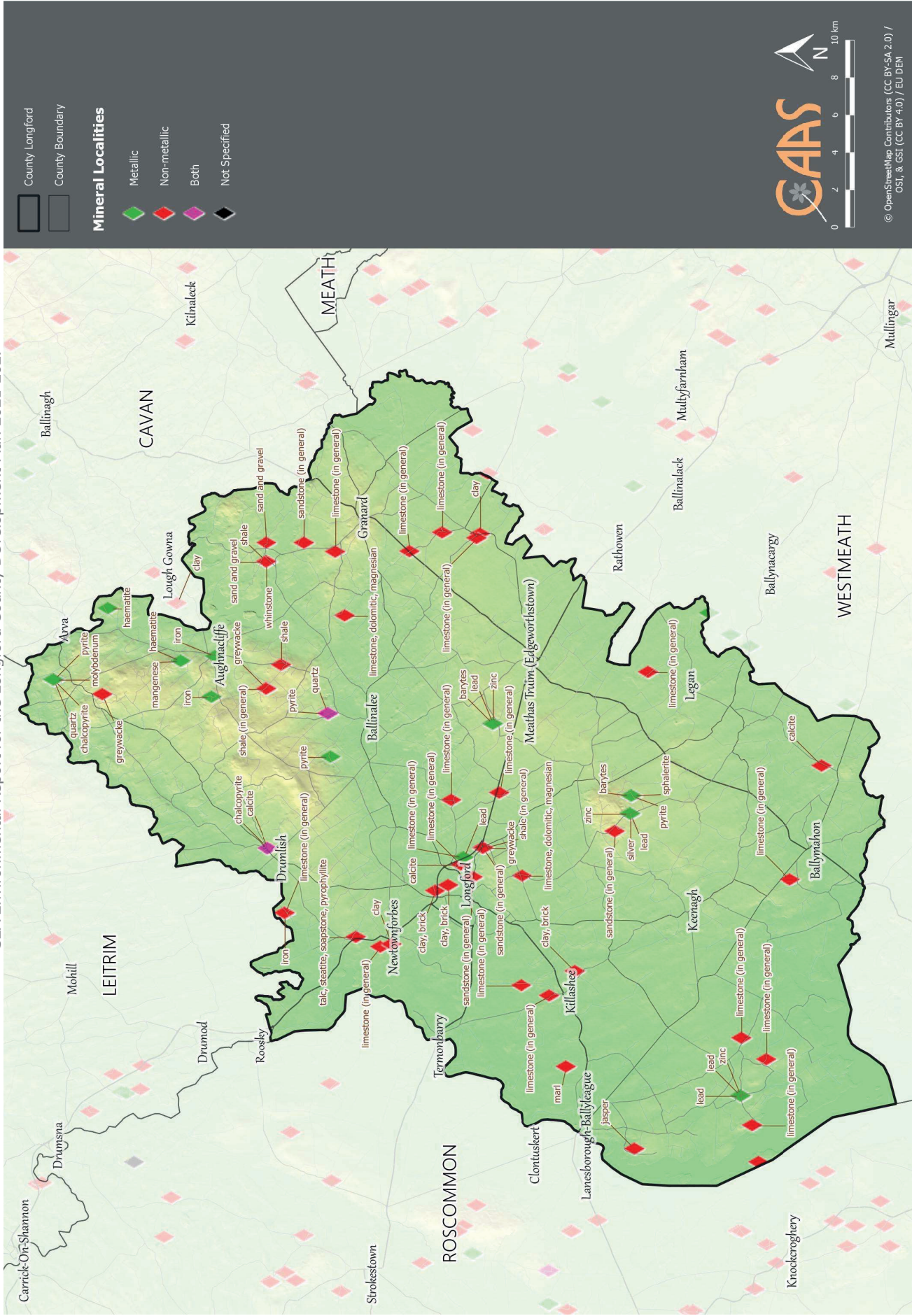


Figure 4.14 Minerals Localities

CAAS for Longford County Council

Table 4.3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity, Loads and Headroom (Irish Water 29/04/2020)

Region	County	Settlement	Census pop. (2016)	Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Reg #	Serves other areas?	WWTP Capacity (PE)		Load (PE) 2019	Headroom (PE)		Current project completion year
							Today	Upon works completion		WWDL ELV Capability	UWW Standards Capability (not WWDL ELVs)	
EM	Longford	Longford	10,008	Longford WWTP	D0060	No	20,000	=	16,196	3,804		
EM	Longford	Edgeworthstown	2,072	Edgeworthstown WWTP	D0098	No	2,700	Not yet defined	2,499	0	201	Post 2024
EM	Longford	Ballymahon	1,877	Ballymahon WWTP	D0096	No	3,300	Not yet defined	2,657	0	643	Post 2024
EM	Longford	Drumlish	931	Drumlish WWTP	D0489	No	1,200	=	1,018	182		
EM	Longford	Granard	816	Granard WWTP	D0187	No	3,200	=	1,789	1,411		
EM	Longford	Newtownforbes	778	Newtownforbes WWTP	D0317	No	1,800	=	989	811		
CoA Headroom (PE)												
EM	Longford	Abbeylara	Unavailable	Abbeycourt (Abbeylara) WWTP	A0539	No	-	=	13			
EM	Longford	Abbeyshrule	Unavailable	Abbeyshrule WWTP	A0101	No	300	=	86	214		
EM	Longford	Ardagh	266	Ardagh (LD) WWTP		No	500	=	20	480		
EM	Longford	Aughnaccliffe	177	Aughnaccliffe WWTP	A0566	No	300	=	40	260		
EM	Longford	Ballinalee	347	Ballinalee WWTP	A0563	No	600	=	100	500		
EM	Longford	Ballinamuck	Unavailable	Ballinamuck WWTP	A0543	No	500	=	65	435		
EM	Longford	Clondra	Unavailable	Clondra WWTP	A0535	No	200	=	158	42		
EM	Longford	Colehill	Unavailable	Colehill WWTP	A0541	No	80	=	63	17		
EM	Longford	Cullyfad - Woodlands Park	Unavailable	Cullyfad - Woodlands Park WWTP	A0565	No	-	=	60			
EM	Longford	Enybegs - Crannlur	Unavailable	Enybegs - Crannlur WWTP	A0564	No	125	=	50	75		
EM	Longford	Kenagh	Unavailable	Kenagh WWTP	A0528	No	1,000	=	702	298		
EM	Longford	Killashee	215	Killashee WWTP	A0540	No	200	=	57	143		
EM	Longford	Legan	215	Legan WWTP	A0534	No	1,000	=	195	805		

Notes: 77,79,80,81,82,83

⁷⁷ Wastewater Discharge Licences (WWDL) and Certificates of Authorisation (CoA)

⁷⁸ WWTP Capacity (PE) Today = Overall design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in population equivalents (PE) today (the date at the top of this table).

⁷⁹ WWTP Capacity (PE) Upon works completion = Overall design capacity of the WWTP in population equivalents (PE) upon completion of a relevant project delivering additional capacity. Note that 'WWDL' or 'UWW' following the capacity value indicates that the upgraded WWTP will have capability to achieve the full Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL) emission limit values (ELVs) in the former case, or at least the Urban Wastewater (UWW) Treatment Directive parametric values in the latter case.

⁸⁰ Load (PE) 2019 = Wastewater load arising from the settlement(s) being served entering the WWTP in 2019.

⁸¹ Headroom (PE) = Headroom available at the WWTP in 2019 in terms of population equivalents based on available capacity now or by completion of a project by 2022 (where relevant). Green = spare capacity available. Amber = potential spare capacity. WWTP currently not compliant with Wastewater Discharge Licence emission limit values but is capable of achieving at least UWW standards. Potential availability of capacity in this case would be dependent on any additional load not resulting in a significant breach of the combined approach as set out in Regulation 43 of the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007. Red = no spare capacity available

⁸² Current project completion year = This is the current forecasted completion year as of date of this table and is subject to change. 'Post 2024' indicates that the project is proposed to be completed within the next investment period (2025-2029), subject to the planning and approval of the next capital investment plan. Note, there is no guarantee that this capacity will be delivered if the current Investment Plan is amended due to emerging needs or changes due to exchequer funding.

⁸³ General notes (i) The headroom figure stated is based on available information on the date of issue of this table and is subject to change. (ii) The indication of spare treatment capacity has been determined based on a standardised national review of the available information. (iii) A Pre-Connection Enquiry should be submitted to Irish Water to determine the feasibility of connecting any particular site to the Irish Water network, feasibility should not be inferred from this register

4.12 Cultural Heritage

4.12.1 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date; examples include earthworks of different types and periods, (e.g. early historic ringforts and prehistoric burial mounds), megalithic tombs from the Prehistoric period, medieval buildings, urban archaeological deposits and underwater features.

Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts.

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped. It is available from the National Monuments Service and at archaeology.ie.

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts. Monuments of architectural and historical interest also come within the scope of the Acts. Monuments include: any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections; any cave, stone or other natural product, whether or not forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position; any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or, ritual, industrial or habitation site; and any place comprising the remains or traces

of any such building, structure or erection, any such cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site, situated on land or in the territorial waters of the State', but excludes 'any building or part of any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes' (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

A recorded monument is a monument included in the list and marked on the map, which comprises the RMP set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Notification within which requirements for notifications of proposed works apply.

Figure 4.15 shows the spatial distribution of recorded monuments and Zones of Notification in the County. Clusters of monuments in County Longford are located within the County's settlements, including 57 Monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest. These monuments include many examples of: standing stones; druids circles; altars; ringforts; churches abbeys; and castles.

There are six Monuments in State Care (five in State Ownership and one in State Guardianship)⁸⁴ in County Longford, including:

- Aghaward Ringfort;
- Corlea Timber Trackway;
- Inchcleraun Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Site;
- Larkfield Ringfort;
- Granard Motte and Bailey; and
- Sonnagh Ringfort.

Further to this there are ten National Monuments Protected under Preservation Order in County Longford, including:

- Dolmen and associated standing stones in Aghnacliffe;
- Three Ringforts in Feraghfad;
- Ringfort in Bawn, Killoe;
- Ringfort in Dring;
- Deserted town site in Granardkill;
- Stone circle in Cloughchurnel;
- Monastic enclosure in Aghafad; and
- Monastic cashel in Inchcleraun.

County Longford has a significant archaeological heritage with many archaeological sites as documented by the

⁸⁴ This list of National Monuments in State care includes those which are in the ownership and guardianship of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

National Monuments Service. These sites include industrial heritage (such as mills, bridges the canal and railways) and remains of ecclesiastical heritage (such as churches and abbey ruins, graveyards, pilgrim paths and holy wells).

Within the County there are two specific archaeological sites of specific importance: Corlea Bog Trackway, an Iron Age bog road, which was built in the year 148 BC across the surrounding bogland. The oak road is one of the largest of its kind to have been uncovered in Europe. Another one, located in Granard is a Norman Motte, Ireland's highest Norman motte dated 1199.

Other notable monuments in the County include: the portal tomb at Aughnacliffe; an Iron Age timber roadway (together) at the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre; and the linear earthworks that make up the Black Pigs Dyke in north Longford. Several key events in Irish history also took place in the County, including the Battle of Ballinamuck, the last great battle of the 1798 Rebellion.

Lough Ree and associated islands host a variety of cultural heritage features, one of the most notable being Inchcleraun Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Site, believed to be the site where Queen Maeve died and it is now a Monument in State Care.

The Underwater Archaeology Unit was established within the National Monuments Service to manage and protect Ireland's underwater cultural heritage, including the quantification of the underwater resource and assessing development impacts in order to manage and protect this aspect of Ireland's heritage. The Shipwreck Inventory is principally a desktop survey with information gathered from a broad range of cartographic, archaeological and historical sources, both documentary and pictorial. Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order on account of their historical, archaeological or

artistic importance. Such Orders can also be used to designate areas of seabed or land covered by water to more clearly define and protect wreck sites and archaeological objects. Under the legislation all diving on known protected wreck sites or with the intention of searching for underwater cultural heritage is subject to licensing requirements.

Rivers, canals and lakes within the County may contain many features and finds associated with riverine heritage such as shipwrecks, piers, quay walls, fords, stepping stones and associated archaeological objects and features.

4.12.2 Architectural Heritage

The term architectural heritage is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments Act 1999 as meaning all: structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings; groups of structures and buildings; and, sites which are of technical, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Protected structures are defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view.

In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the following are encompassed:

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage⁸⁵ of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (ii).

Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of

even buildings now in separate ownership, e.g. the lodge of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

⁸⁵ Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or

architectural heritage are indicated within the County's settlements as shown on Figure 4.16. There are currently 536 entries to the Record of Protected Structures within the County⁸⁶, including houses, farmyards, walled gardens, demesne, castles, gates railings and cornmills. Notable buildings in the County include: Longford Courthouse; Castle Forbes, Featherstone Memorial; and Edgeworthstown Railway Station. Lanesborough is a fine example of vernacular architecture and is of considerable architectural merit. Further to these St. Mel's Cathedral, an architectural award-winning structure, is located within the Longford Town.

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area or group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures, whose character it is an objective to preserve in a development plan. The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA. There are two ACAs designated within County Longford, one in the settlement of Ardagh and one in Longford Town (Battery Road), as shown on Figure 4.16.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a State initiative under the administration of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the local authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH includes historic gardens and designed landscapes. The NIAH 2003 Survey of Historic Gardens and

Designed Landscapes identified 96 Important Historic Gardens in the County. Figure 4.16 shows entries to NIAH in County Longford.

4.12.3 Existing Problems

The context of archaeological and architectural heritage has changed over time within County Longford, however no existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing archaeological and architectural heritage have been identified.

⁸⁶ Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

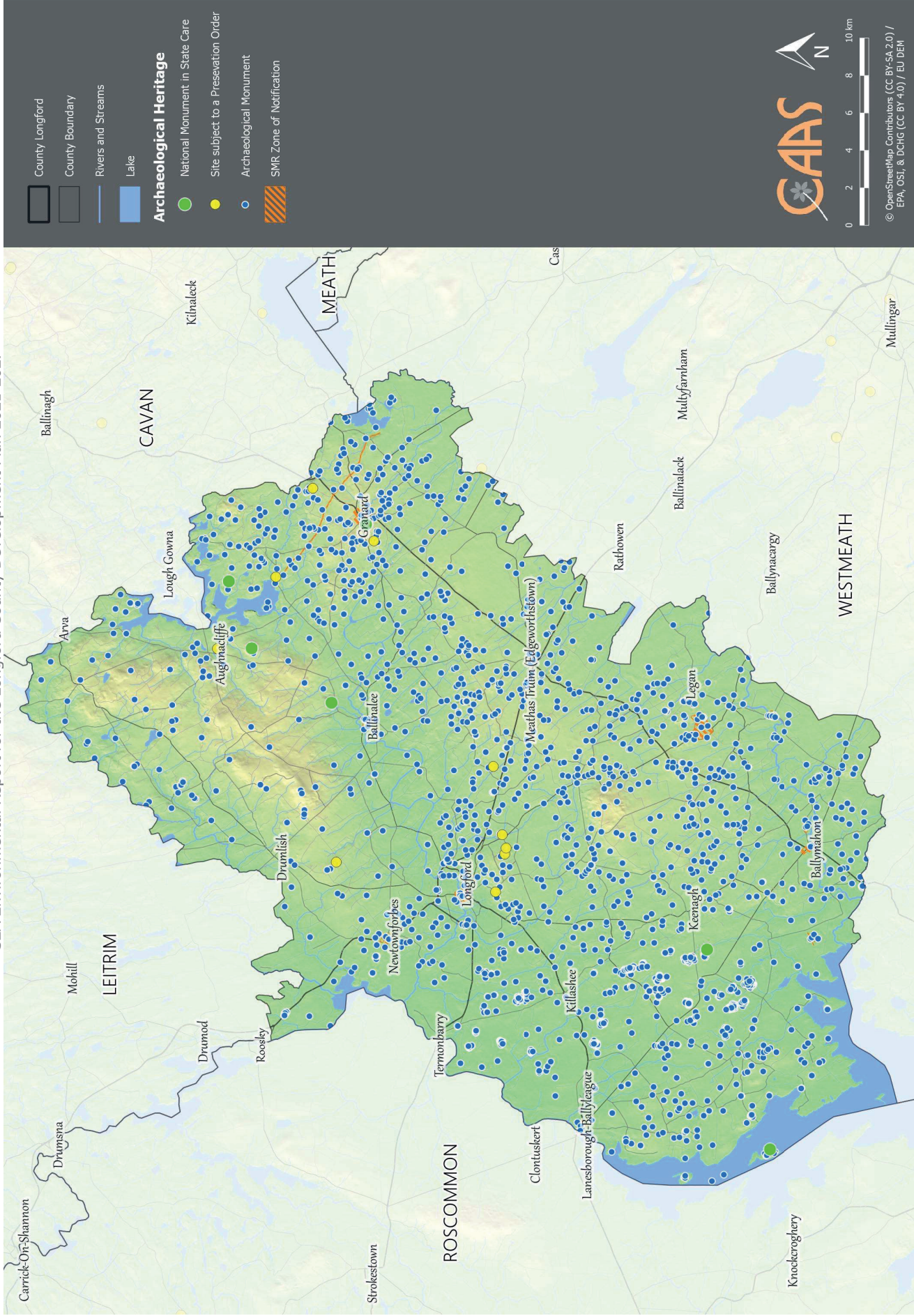


Figure 4.15 Archaeological Heritage

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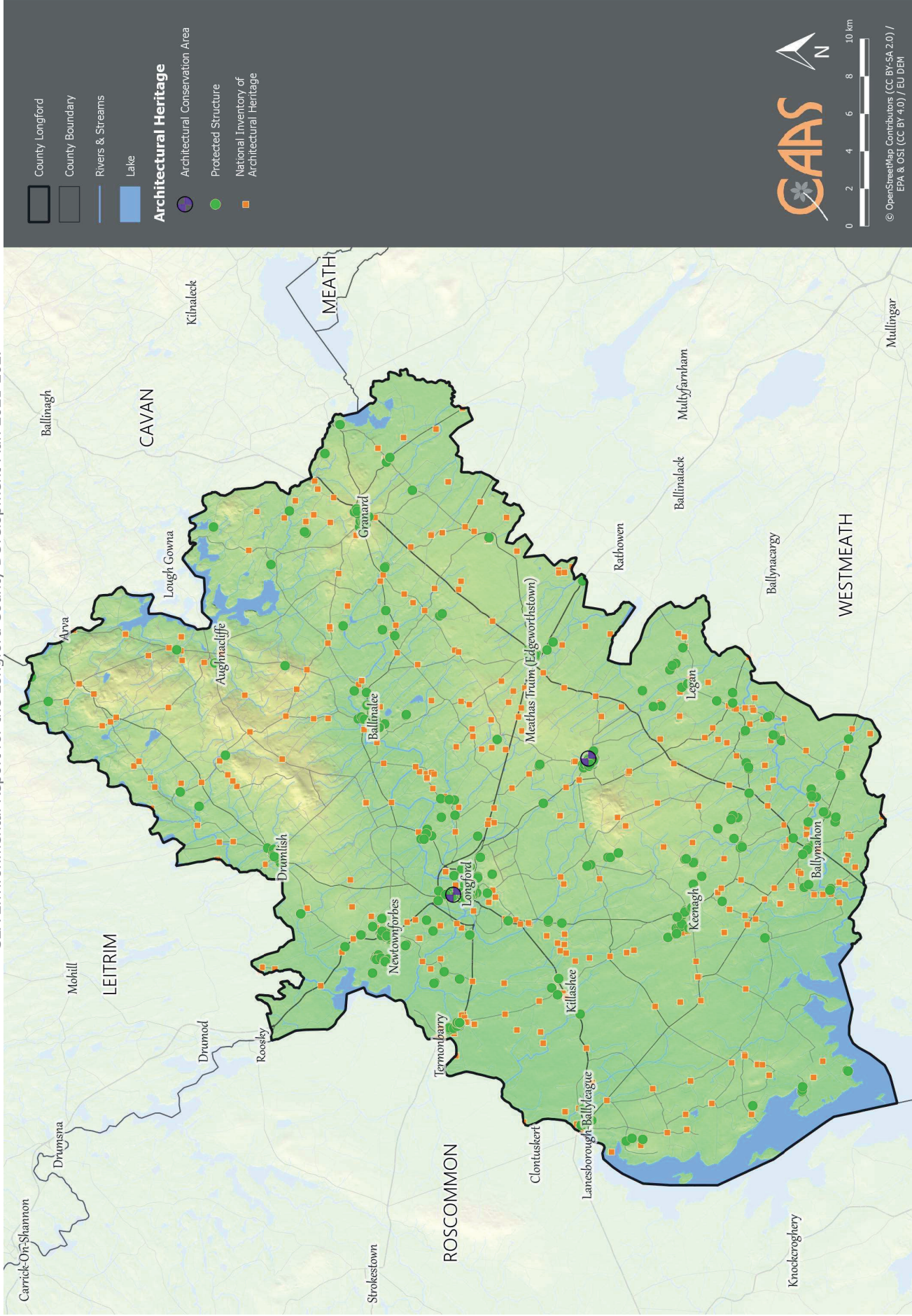


Figure 4.16 Architectural Heritage

CAAS for Longford County Council

4.13 Landscape

4.13.1 Introduction

Article 1 (a) of the European Landscape Convention provides a definition of landscape as follows; "Landscape means an area, as perceived by people whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural/or human factors". The importance of landscape and visual amenity and the role of its protection are recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, which requires that Development Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

Longford has a diverse landscape, including low-lying lands situated in the basin of the River Shannon and the upper catchment area of the River Erne, Lakelands, boglands, pasturelands and wetlands in various locations across the County.

Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park in County Longford is a project proposed to combine existing natural amenity areas. These important natural heritage amenity areas include Lough Ree, the Rivers Shannon, Inny and Camlin, the Royal Canal, Newcastle Wood and other forests and the future rehabilitated Bord na Móna bogs. All of these amenity areas are in close proximity to each other and they have the potential to create an interlinked and unique natural heritage amenity area for the County.⁸⁷

4.13.2 Landscape Character Units and Landscape Sensitivity

The European Landscape Convention was ratified in Ireland in 2002, this required EU Member States to adopt national measures to promote landscape, planning, protection and management.

The purpose of landscape character assessment is to provide the foundation for policy formulation and decision making for landscape management. The County Longford

Landscape Character Assessment has identified the following seven Landscape Character Units, each with different level of landscape sensitivity:

- **Unit 1: Northern Drumlin Lakeland** (landscape sensitivity from low to medium with some high sensitivity in the vicinity of the lakes and designated scenic routes);
- **Unit 2: Northern Upland** (landscape sensitivity from medium to high);
- **Unit 3: Shannon Basin/Lough Ree** (landscape sensitivity from medium along the south-eastern border of the unit to high along the shores of the lake, islands, the riverbanks, and in the vicinity of the Aquifer);
- **Unit 4: Central Corridor** (landscape sensitivity generally low, with potential areas of medium to high in the vicinity of protected woodlands, riverbanks and in the vicinity of the aquifer);
- **Unit 5: Inny Basin** (landscape sensitivity generally low, with potential areas of medium to high in the vicinity of protected woodlands and riverbanks);
- **Unit 6: Peatlands** (visual landscape sensitivity generally low, with high in the vicinity of the Royal Canal; environmental sensitivity from medium to high); and
- **Unit 7: Open Agricultural** (visual landscape sensitivity generally from low to medium, with high sensitivity in the vicinity of the Royal Canal, the River Inny, in upland areas with designated scenic views and in proximity to the heritage village of Ardagh).

County Longford's Landscape Character Types are shown on Figure 4.17.

The high sensitivity areas are the most sensitive to development and therefore developments which are likely to create a significant environmental and particularly visual impact will best be absorbed in areas where the landscape is most robust, i.e. has the capacity to absorb development without significantly changing its character.

4.13.3 Broad Zones

The 'Broad Zone' areas in County Longford (as shown on Figure 4.18) are a further spatial planning policy consideration for rural housing. 'Broad Zone' areas are designated areas of high amenity value and recreational potential associated with the major rivers and lakes in the county, the Royal Canal and areas of outstanding landscape quality in the northern fringes of the County. The Council aims to protect against residential developments that

⁸⁷ Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

are urban-generated or speculative in 'Broad Zone' areas.

4.13.4 Important Stands of Trees

Important Stands of Trees (shown on Figure 4.18) are protected from inappropriate development and undamaged tree felling to ensure their sustainability. There are currently 11 Important Stands of Trees in County Longford, including:

- Avenue at Smithfield, Legan;
- Woods at Carriglass Demense, Castleforbes Demense and Cashel;
- Portanure Pine Woods;
- Derrycassan Woods;
- Culinagore Wood;
- Rathcline Wood;
- Trees along Regional Road R393 at Knockahaw;
- Woodland at Erne Head, Woodville and Golaroe;
- Lime Trees at Mosstown, Keenagh;
- Trees at Rathsallogh; and
- Woodland at Farragh, Killoe.

4.13.5 Protected Views, Prospects and Scenic Routes

The landscape of County Longford has many vantage points which offer attractive views from hilltops and upland areas, along river valleys and the boglands. There are two distinct types of Views, Prospects and associated Scenic Routes identified in the County: 'Full' (uninterrupted) and 'Intermittent' (broken or sporadic), as shown Figure 4.18. Views are divided into full and intermittent in order to differentiate areas where scenic views may be partial or absent along a particular route.

There are currently 22 Full Protected Views, Prospects and associated Scenic Routes and 18 Intermittent Scenic Views, Prospects and associated Scenic Routes identified in County Longford.

4.13.6 Existing Environmental Problems

New developments have resulted in changes to the visual appearance of lands within the County however legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.

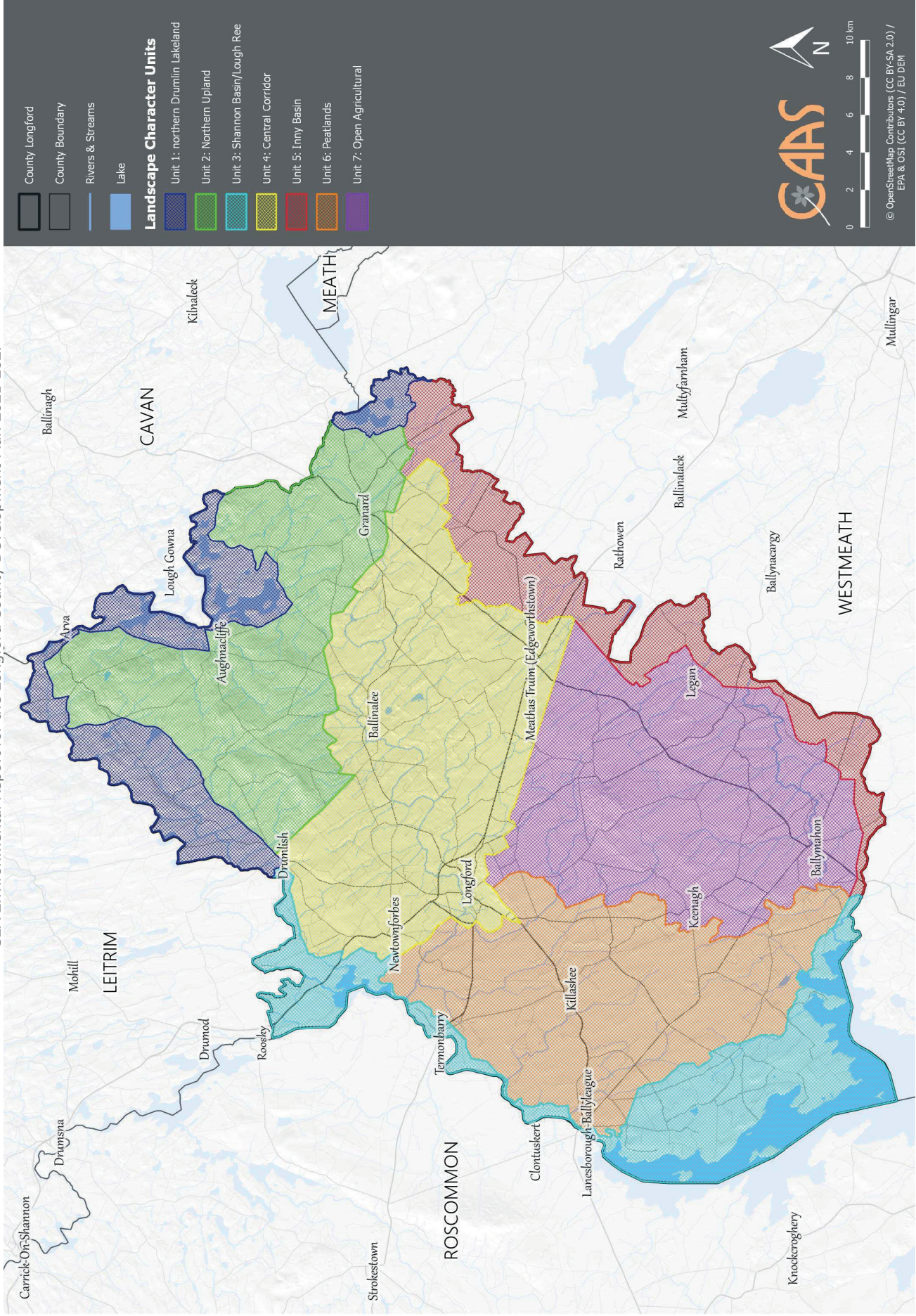


Figure 4.17 Landscape Character Units

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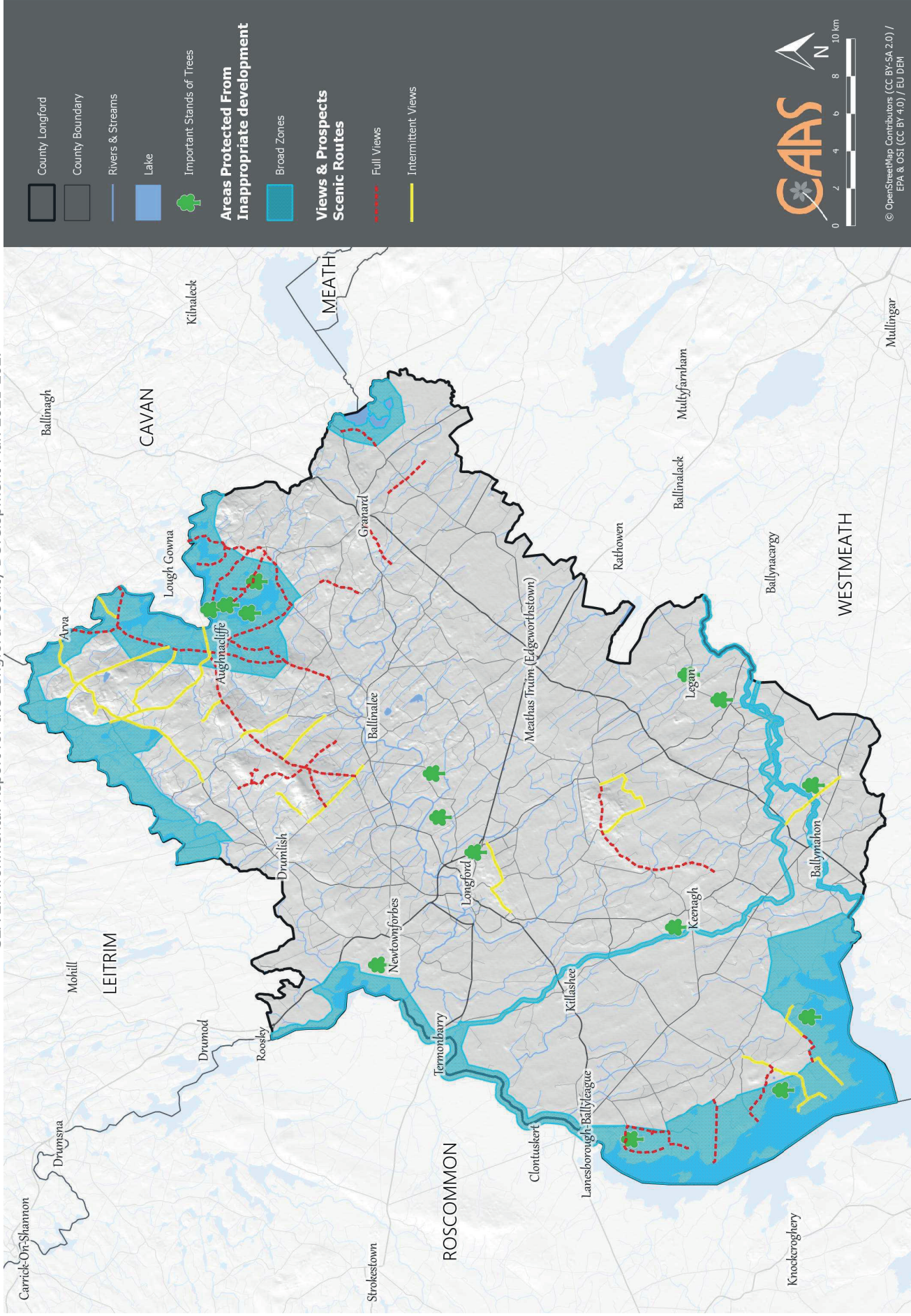


Figure 4.18 Longford County Council Landscape Designations

CAAS for Longford County Council

4.14 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

In order to identify where most sensitivities within the County occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other.

Figure 4.19 provides an Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in the County. Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from higher to lower sensitivity. The map was prepared using Geographical Information System (GIS) software that allowed for a weighting system to be applied with differentiation in certain layers as follows:

- European Sites – SACs and SPAs (10 points);
- Other Ecological designations – NHAs and pNHAs (5 points);
- Sensitive Landcover Categories (10 points);
- WFD Status of Surface moderate and unassigned ecological status (5 points);
- WFD Status of Surface water poor ecological status (10 points);
- Groundwater vulnerability (aquifers which are extremely vulnerable - 10 points; and highly vulnerable - 5 points);
- Source Protection Areas (Inner Protection Area 10 points);
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Rivers and Lakes (10 points) and Rivers in Nutrient Sensitive Areas (5 points);
- WFD RPA Rivers and Lakes for Drinking Water (10 points);
- County Geological Sites (10 points);
- GSI Landslide Susceptibility (High or High Inferred – 10 points; Moderately High or Moderately High Inferred – 5 points);
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Flood Zone A (10 points) and Flood Zone B (5 points);
- Cultural Heritage including Architectural Conservation Areas, entries to the Record of Protected Structures, entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in State Care and entire to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (10 points);
- Broad Zones (10 points); and
- Scenic routes (10 points).

Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration. However, the occurrence of environmental sensitivities does not preclude development; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have been integrated into the Plan - will need to be

complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the Plan contributes towards environmental protection.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- The County's western and south western boundaries, reflecting the sensitive nature of the River Shannon and its Lough Forbes and Lough Ree, which are subject to various designations (including those relating to water, ecology and landscape), heavily protected and sources of flood risk;
- Other lakes and rivers throughout the County including Lough Kinale, Derragh Lough and Lough Gowna and the Rivers Camlin and Inny – as a result of water status, nutrient sensitivity, drinking water source, ecological designations and/or sources of flood risk;
- Peatland areas, due to their ecological, hydrological and amenity characteristics, such as Clooneen Bog, Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog and Brown Bog; and
- Areas throughout the County on account of areas of elevated groundwater vulnerability.

The EPA-funded Environmental Sensitivity Mapping Web Tool is available at epa.ie and could assist in lower tier consideration of plans and projects.

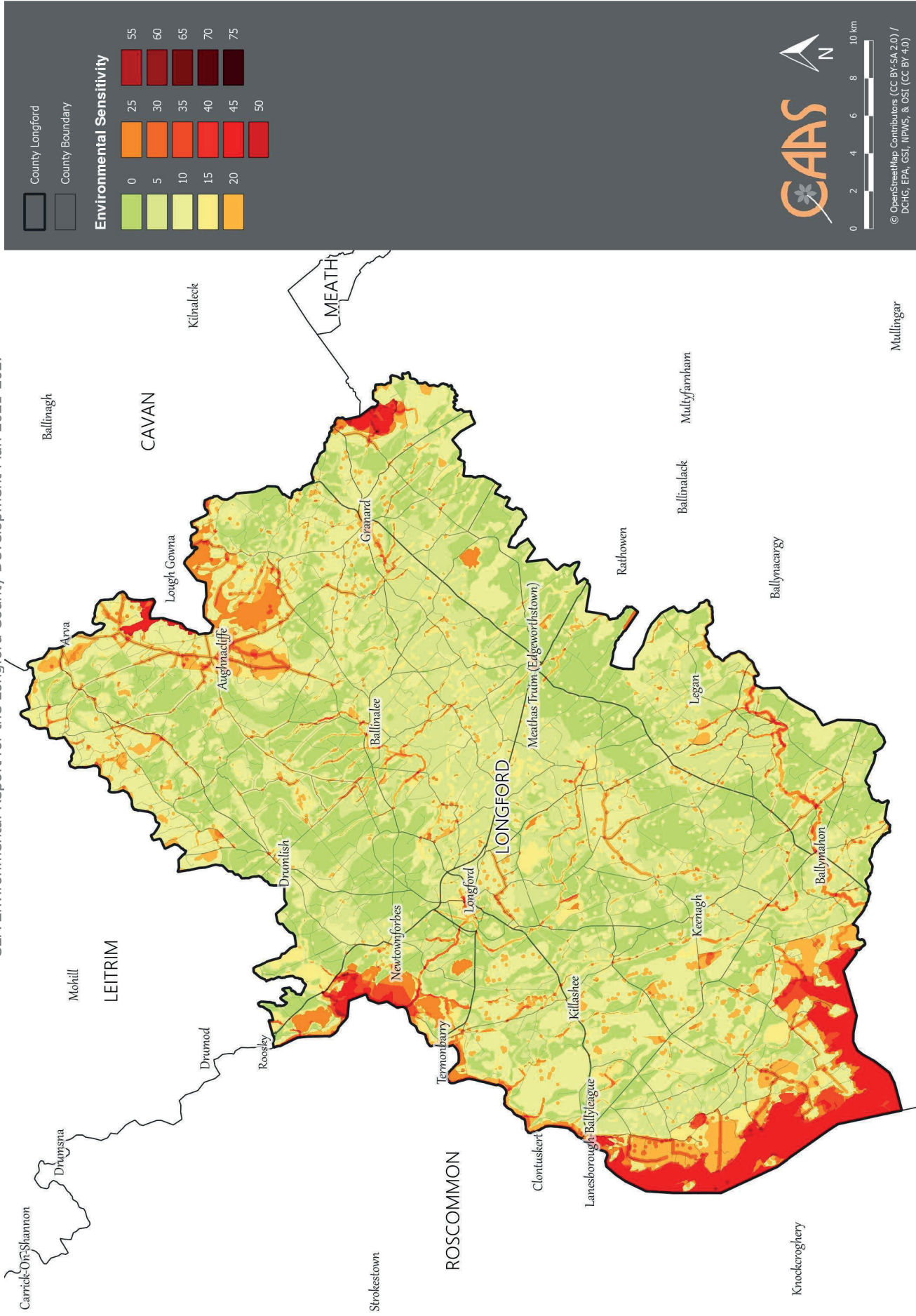


Figure 4.19 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Longford

CAAS for Longford County Council

Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies that generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives that have been transposed into Irish law and which are required to be implemented.

The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if – in the case of adverse effects – unmitigated.

The SEOs are linked to indicators which can facilitate monitoring the environmental effects of the Plan as well as identifying targets which the Plan can help work towards.

All SEOs, indicators and targets are provided on Table 5.1 overleaf.

Further detail on legislation, plans and programmes are provided under Section 2 (and associated Appendix I “Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans, and Programmes”) and Section 4.

Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Eastern and Midland RSES, the measures identified in that RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs), Indicators and Targets

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. Status of water quality in the County's water bodies Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 12 “Natural Heritage and Environment” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024 For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 12 “Natural Heritage and Environment”
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 “Economic Development” Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 “Economic Development” No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures. Implementation of Green Infrastructure
Soil Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield Volume of contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill Number of AA determinations and environmental assessments undertaken to support applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF. Achieve the 40% target for growth on infill as per NPF.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive • Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and waste water capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments • Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD • Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' • Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the River Basin Management Plan by 2021 (and subsequent iterations as relevant) • Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels • Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies • Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development • Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes • Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated • Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan • Proportion of population within who report regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County. • All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan • Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in- combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive • Increased budget spends on water and waste water infrastructure • By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture. Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Promote continuing improvement in air quality. Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels. Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter
Climatic Factors ⁸⁸	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses. Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets as provided for by Plan provisions including those provided for and referenced in Chapter 3 "Climate Change" Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures climate reduction targets as provided for by Plan provisions including those provided for and referenced in Chapter 3 "Climate Change" Increase in the proportion of people resident in the County reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by 2020 Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating

⁸⁸ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section, Section 8.6, 8.8.2 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically and include those under the headings of Electricity, Built Environment, Transport, Agriculture, Forestry & Land Use and Enterprise.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan To seek to align with the National Landscape Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan

Section 6 Description of Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment.

Whether or not alternatives for the County Development Plan are available has been identified by Longford County Council under Tiers 1 to 5 detailed below. These alternatives are assessed in Section 7.

6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas.

6.3 Tier 1: Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

The Settlement Hierarchy Levels for the Plan are identified on Table 6.2.

Table 6.1 Settlement Hierarchy Levels in Longford

Settlement Level	Settlement Category	Description
1	Key Towns	Large economically active service and/or county towns that provide employment for their surrounding areas and with high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as growth drivers to complement the Regional Growth Centres.
2	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns with a moderate level of jobs and services – includes sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining
3	Self-Sustaining Towns	Self-Sustaining Towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining.
4	Towns and Villages	Towns and villages with local service and employment functions
5	Rural	Serviced Rural Villages, Rural Settlement Clusters and the wider rural region

In considering significant realistic alternatives for placing of individual settlements under alternative typologies, the planning authority has taken into account the objectives of the NPF and the Eastern and Midland RSES. As a result, there are no strategic reasonable alternatives available for the designating of most settlements under the hierarchy. Nonetheless, there are strategic reasonable alternatives for some of the settlements available and these are detailed below.

Tier 1: Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- (A)** Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns

This would represent a continuation of previous regional and county settlement hierarchies, as reflected in the previous Midland Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) 2010-2022 and the Longford County Development Plan 2015-2021, where Granard was designated as a second-tier settlement within the settlement hierarchy for the county and Northern Development Area of the RPGs. This hierarchy designation also recognises the infrastructural capacity for further development within Granard, particularly in relation to wastewater treatment where there is considerable capacity to accommodate additional growth. This designation also reflects the importance of Granard within the RSES Retail Hierarchy, where Granard is designated as a 'Key Service Centre'. Notwithstanding the significant population growth of Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon over the last 20 years, both of these settlements require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining, not least of which in terms of wastewater treatment infrastructure, with the wastewater treatment plants of Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon both operating close to or exceeding current design capacities.

- (B)** Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town.

This approach reflects the significant population growth of Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon over the last 20 years and, by comparison, the relatively stagnant population growth in Granard over the same period. In addition, Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon are more reflective of the settlement typologies presented for Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, as presented in Table 4.3 of the RSES, notwithstanding the high jobs to resident workers ratio (2.353) associated with Granard and current capacity deficiencies associated with wastewater treatment in Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon, where it is noted that Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the plan.

6.4 Tier 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Detailed demographic analysis was undertaken by appointed consultants (Future Analytics Consulting Ltd.) in the preparation of the Plan, including population forecasting at county-level based on variables such as fertility, mortality and migration, with the latter variable considered to be the most influential in forecasted population. Four population scenarios were identified comprising of:

- High – Population of the County grows to 50,150 persons by 2027;
- Medium – Population of the County grows to 49,252 persons by 2027;
- Low 1 – Population of County grows to 47,441 persons by 2027; and
- Low 2 – Population of County grows to 46,133 persons by 2027.

From a review of the demographic analysis for the County, the 'Low 1' scenario presented itself as the preferred population growth scenario. This projected population (47,441 persons) represented an increase on the projected 2027 population figure of 45,800 persons in County Longford, as derived from the NPF Implementation Roadmap document.

During the preparation of Plan the Council held discussion with the Office of Planning Regulator (OPR) in relation to these figures and the preferred population growth scenario. Notwithstanding, the OPR expressed concerns that the preferred population growth scenario produced figures in excess of those presented in the NPF Implementation Roadmap, citing National Policy Objective (NPO) 9 of the NPF as a key consideration, and cautioned against using the preferred population growth scenario figures.

On the basis of this advice, it was decided to use the upper-value population target for County Longford from the NPF Implementation Roadmap document to inform the future population growth of the County.

In terms of population allocation across the settlements, two scenarios were explored:

- Non-intervention settlement growth approach – each settlement would grow in proportion to their respective share of the overall County population over the plan period. This scenario would not be in compliance with the requirements of the RSES or the NPF; and

Proportional settlement growth approach – the settlements of Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Lanesborough and Granard would grow in proportion to the natural, non-interventional growth of Longford Town over the plan period. In this scenario, the designated Self-Sustaining Growth Towns of Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon would grow their respective populations by 25% of the growth of Longford Town over the plan period, with the designated Self-Sustaining Towns of Lanesborough and Granard growing by 15% of the growth of Longford Town over the same period. The remaining settlement tiers of 'Towns and Villages' and 'Rural' would grow in a non-interventionist manner. This scenario emerged as the preferred approach and would contribute towards compliance with the requirements of the RSES and NPF.

A key principle of the Settlement Strategy within the Plan from the outset was the need for a more balanced network of higher order towns in the Settlement Hierarchy to support the role and function of Longford Town as the principal economic driver and focus of investment for the county. In addition, the demographic analysis illustrated a clear requirement to address the disparity in growth rates amongst the four other main settlements in the county and, in particular, to arrest the obvious stagnation in growth experienced in Granard over the last number of years.

In adopting this interventionist approach in relation to the population allocations for the Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Self-Sustaining Towns, this approach provides for more balanced growth across the County, whilst recognising the geographic spread of each settlement across the county and the role each settlement can play in supporting the Key Town of Longford Town, whilst also reinforcing and strengthening the wider network of towns and villages within the county. This approach also provides assurance that no lower order settlement will outgrow a higher order settlement.

Taking the above into account, no reasonable alternatives available for consideration were identified (taking into account the need to comply with the objectives of the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midlands RSES) under Tier 2.

6.5 Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Longford

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- (A) Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- (B) Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- (A) Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- (B) Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

6.6 Tier 4: Alternatives for Densities

The Council have confirmed that no reasonable alternatives are available for proportionate densities across the settlement hierarchy, taking into account the objectives of the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midlands RSES.

6.7 Tier 5: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

The findings of the examination of available strategic reasonable land use zoning alternatives for settlements is provided at Table 6.2. Maps for each of these alternatives are provided in Appendix II "Indicative Mapping of Land Use Zoning Alternatives".

Table 6.2 Available Strategic Reasonable Alternatives

Settlements	Available Alternatives	Not available – taking into account high-level planning objectives
Longford Town	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Edgeworthstown	A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial) or B. More compact (New Residential, Residential Reserve, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)	-
Ballymahon	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Granard	A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial) or B. More compact (New Residential, Residential Reserve, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)	-
Lanesborough	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Aughnaclyffe	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Ballinalee	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Drumlish	A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial) or B. More compact (New Residential, Residential Reserve, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)	-
Keenagh	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Legan	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Newtownforbes	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Abbeyshrule	-	✓
Ardagh	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Ballinamuck	A. Less compact (all New Residential) or B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	-
Clondra	-	✓

Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects⁸⁹ of implementing available alternatives that are described in Section 6. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve conflict with or have a neutral interaction with the receiving environment.

7.2 Methodology

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (see Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 5 and Table 7.1) are used in the assessment of alternatives.

The degree to which effects can be determined is limited as implementation of the Plan will involve assessment, consideration and decision-making associated with lower tier plans and individual projects. Nonetheless a comparative evaluation of the various alternatives can be provided.

Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁹⁰

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and waste water capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals

⁸⁹ These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

⁹⁰ See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels • Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies • Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development • Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes • Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture. • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Promote continuing improvement in air quality. • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels.
Climatic Factors⁹¹	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses. • Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

⁹¹ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section, Section 8.6, 8.8.2 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically and include those under the headings of Electricity, Built Environment, Transport, Agriculture, Forestry & Land Use and Enterprise.

7.3 Detailed Assessment of Alternatives

7.3.1 Effects Common to all Alternatives

Each of the alternatives envisage – in compliance with the robust policy framework in place at national, regional and local level – sustainable development and compact growth in County Longford. As such, various potential environmental effects are common to each of the alternatives. The environmental effects detailed on would be present, some to varying degrees, under the different alternatives.

Table 7.2 Effects Common to All Alternatives

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank erosion.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.

Environmental Component	• Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	• Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Increases in waste levels. • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. • Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

7.3.2 Assessment of Tier 1: Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

(A) Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns

Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining and the likelihood of this happening under Alternative A, which places the towns in a lower tier, would be reduced. Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown have been successful at attracting new development and have experienced significant growth that needs to be accompanied by new service and infrastructure provision as soon as practicable. Growth in Granard has been low despite it been given prioritised by policy in the past.

Alternative A would have the potential to result in higher levels of private car-based commuting, potentially contributing towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the least, as Granard is not as well-serviced with public transport links as Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown are.

A greater level of growth in Granard under this alternative could be accommodated by the existing available capacity in the wastewater treatment plant (identified as having 1,411 population equivalent in headroom – see Table 4.3). There is currently limited capacity in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown (identified as having no headroom) to accommodate new growth. However, Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the Plan, projecting a completion year post 2024. As a result, Alternative A would be likely to meet objectives relating to waste water treatment (and associated potential interactions with ecology and water quality) the most in the shorter term, potentially conflicting with these objectives the least.

(B) Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town

Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining and the likelihood of this happening under Alternative A, which places the towns in an upper tier, would be increased. Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown have been successful at attracting new development and have experienced significant growth that needs to be accompanied by new service and infrastructure provision as soon as practicable. Growth in Granard has been low despite it been given prioritised by policy in the past.

Alternative B would have the potential to result in lower levels of private car-based commuting, contributing towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the most, as Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown are better serviced with public transport links than Granard is.

There is currently limited capacity in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown (identified as having no headroom – see Table 4.3) to accommodate new growth. However, Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the Plan, projecting a completion year post 2024. Growth in Granard under this alternative could be accommodated by the existing available capacity in the wastewater treatment plant (identified as having 1,411 population equivalent in headroom). As a result, Alternative B would be likely to meet objectives relating to waste water treatment (and associated potential interactions with ecology and water quality) the least in the shorter term, potentially conflicting with these objectives the most. Demand for shorter term growth could be facilitated in the settlements of Granard and Lanesborough.

Tier 1 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.3.

Table 7.3 Assessment⁹² of Tier 1 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated		
	to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree
(A) Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns	due to waste water constraints (in the short term, until upgrades) BFF W MA	S CH L	necessary 'catch-up investment' less likely PHH due to transport related emissions A C MA	due to waste water constraints (in the short term, until upgrades) BFF W MA	S CH L	necessary 'catch-up investment' less likely PHH due to transport related emissions A C MA
(B) Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town	necessary 'catch-up investment' more likely PHH due to transport related emissions A C MA	S CH L	due to waste water constraints (in the short term, until upgrades) BFF W MA	necessary 'catch-up investment' more likely PHH due to transport related emissions A C MA	S CH L	due to waste water constraints (in the short term, until upgrades) BFF W MA

⁹² The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the protection/management of the environmental component/issues to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a potential significant negative effect however these effects would be likely to be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan.

These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

7.3.3 Assessment of Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Longford

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- (A) Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.

Restricting development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The restrictions would help to both reduce levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and encourage brownfield development within existing centres.

Rural development would be focus into appropriate rural areas and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

- (B) Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Not restricting development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

Urban generated development would occur within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Tier 3(i) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.4.

Table 7.4 Assessment of Tier 3(i) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
A) Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
(B) Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- (A) Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would help to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would be more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

- (B) Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Not providing a focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

Table 7.5 Assessment of Tier 3(ii) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
(A) Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
(B) Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L

7.3.4 Assessment of Tier 5: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

Tier 5 alternatives are assessed on Table 7.6.

Table 7.6 Assessment of Tier 5 Alternatives

Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold) ⁹³	Likely to Improve status of SEOs			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated			Commentary
		to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree		
Longford Town	A. Less compact (all New Residential)		BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	
Edgeworthstown	A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial)		BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
	B. More compact (New Residential, Reserve, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that	

⁹³ Note that Alternative B “More compact” was selected for each settlement as part of the Draft Plan. An even more compact form of zoning was adopted as part of the Draft Plan for most settlements. CAAS for Longford County Council

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Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs				Potential Conflict , with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated			Commentary
		to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree		
Ballymahon	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
Granard	A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	
	B. More compact (New Residential, Residential Reserve, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	

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Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold) ³⁵	Likely to Improve status of SEOs				Potential Conflict , with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated			Commentary
		to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree		
Lanesborough	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L						By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	
Aughnacilffe	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L						By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	
Ballinalee	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L						By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	

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Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold) ³⁵	Likely to Improve status of SEOs				Potential Conflict, with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated			Commentary
		to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree	
Drumlish	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L				BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects. By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.
	A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L				BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.
Keenagh	B. More compact (New Residential, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L				BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.
	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L				BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L				BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of

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Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs				Potential Conflict , with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated				Commentary
		to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree		
Legan	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L				BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L							By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
Newtownforbes	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L				BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L							By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	

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Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold) ³⁵	Likely to Improve status of SEOs				Potential Conflict, with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated			Commentary
		to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree		
Ardagh	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre. By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	
Ballinamuck	A. Less compact (all New Residential)			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.	
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S MA A C CH L			By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	

7.4 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

The following alternatives were considered as part of the Plan-preparation process. Alternatives adopted as part of the draft plan are shown in underlined.

Tier 1: Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- A. Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns
- B. Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town

Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Longford

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- A. Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- B. Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Tier 5: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

- A. Less compact (all New Residential)
- B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)⁹⁴

The selected alternatives were developed by the Planning Team and adopted by the Council having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which were identified by the SEA and are detailed above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Council.

⁹⁴ Note that Alternative B "More compact" was selected for each settlement as part of the Draft Plan. An even more compact form of zoning was adopted as part of the Draft Plan for most settlements.

Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

8.1 Introduction

This section provides an assessment of environmental effects using the information on the current state of the environment (provided in Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 8.1) from implementation of the Plan.

The degree of significance of effects occurring cannot be fully determined at this level of decision making due to the lack of exact detail available with regard to the type or scale of development that will be permitted under the Plan. However, a strategic assessment can be undertaken.

Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁹⁵

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and waste water capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids

⁹⁵ See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture. Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Promote continuing improvement in air quality. Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels.
Climatic Factors	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses. Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

8.2 Cumulative Effects⁹⁶

Cumulative effects are one of the types of effects which have been considered by the assessment of the alternatives. Cumulative effects can be described as the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

There are two types of potential cumulative effects that have been considered, namely:

- Potential *intra-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, etc. Where there are elevated levels of environmental sensitivities (such as those identified under Section 4), future development could result in environmental conflicts and lead to a deterioration in environmental integrity. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on
- Table 8.4 e.g., interrelationships between: human health and water quality; human health and air quality; human health and flood risk; and ecology and water quality.
- Potential *inter-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc.

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those which are identified under Table 8.2.

Other policies, plans and programmes that have been considered by the assessment of effects include those which are detailed under Section 2.6 (and associated Appendix I "Relationship with Legislation, Plans and Programmes"), Section 4 and Section 5. Plans and programmes from various sectors will interact with the Plan, including those relating to land use planning. These plans and programmes are subject to their own environmental assessment requirements as relevant. Examples include:

⁹⁶ The EPA's guidance note 'Good Practice Guidance note on cumulative effects assessment in SEA' has been considered in the assessment.

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, adjoining County Development Plans and Local Area Plans);
- Longford Local Economic and Community Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plans of adjoining counties;
- Energy policy, plans and programmes (e.g. Grid25 and associated Implementation Programme, Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010, Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020, Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan, Draft National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 and the Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework);
- Climate related policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Climate Policy Position and Climate Action 2014, Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and White Paper Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015, Climate Action Plan 2021, the National Adaptation Framework 2018, National Mitigation Plan 2017, and the Longford Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 and Climate Action Charter 2019);
- Water services, waste management, transport and energy infrastructure plans (e.g. Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan, Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan and Transportation Policies and Strategies); and
- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans).

Potential cumulative/in combination effects include:

- Contributions towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, reductions in consumption from non-renewables and associated achievement of legally binding targets (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including energy, transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating:
 - sustainable compact growth;
 - sustainable mobility/a shift from motorised transport modes to more sustainable and non-motorised transport modes; and
 - renewable energy development.
- Contributions towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating development which must be accompanied by road capacity;
- Facilitation of new development that is accompanied by appropriate levels of water services thereby contributing towards environmental protection;
- Need for and use of water and waste water treatment capacity arising from new developments and associated potential adverse effects;
- Potential cumulative effects upon surface and ground water status as a result of housing, employment, agricultural and forestry – loadings and abstractions;
- Potential cumulative effects (habitat damage, enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to Green Infrastructure, including beyond the County border;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands or obstruction of flood paths; and
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, economic, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects is consistent with those described on Table 8.2. These plans and programmes are required to comply with environmental legislation and undergo SEA and AA as relevant comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant.

These effects would have the potential, if unmitigated, if they occurred, to result in changes in the environment within and beyond County Longford.

A variety of the issues covered by the Plan provisions are regional issues which are considered: at Regional Assembly level, in the Eastern and Midland RSES and by planning authorities across the Region. The solutions to these issues are often regional solutions which are subject their own consenting procedures. Works arising outside of the Plan as a result of providing for new development within the County including those arising as a result of the cumulative provision of development in the

wider Eastern and Midland region would potentially conflict with a number of environmental components, across the wider Eastern and Midland region and beyond, including: ecology, soil function, the status of water bodies and the landscape. Some of these conflicts would be mitigated by measures which will be integrated into the Plan while some will be mitigated by measures arising out of separate consent procedures.

8.3 Overall Evaluation

Longford County Council have integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes into the Plan (see Section 9). Table 8.2 provides a detailed overall evaluation of the environmental effects arising from the Plan. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation through both provisions integrated into the Plan – see Section 9.

Taking into account, *inter alia*, the detailed mitigation which has been integrated into the Plan (including that which is identified at Section 9), it has been determined that significant residual adverse environmental effects will not occur.

Environmental impacts which occur will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site-specific environmental factors. Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO) codes are taken from Table 8.1.

Table 8.2 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Plan

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Codes
<p>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. • Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna. • Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 	<p>Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated</p> <p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and • Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. • Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation). 	<p>BFF</p>	

Environmental Component	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework	SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<p>PHH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.
<p>Soil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. <p>S</p>

Environmental Component	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Codes
<p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart buildings, cities and grids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan. 	<p>W</p>	
<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	<p>MA</p>	

Environmental Component	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Codes
<p>Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable compact growth; Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; Sectors including agriculture, residential heating and infrastructure; Sustainable infrastructure design solutions including energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). 	<p>Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework</p> <p>Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 	<p>AC</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. 	<p>CH</p>
<p>Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures. 	<p>L</p>

8.4 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA assesses the effects of the Plan on European Sites designated for certain habitats and species. The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network⁹⁷.

SFRA is required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan.

Various policies and objectives have been integrated into the Plan through the SEA, SFRA and AA processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA and SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

8.5 Interactions with Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Table 8.3 summarises how considerations relating to climate have been incorporated into the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027. Climate mitigation and adaptation and emissions targets were also taken into account when preparing land use zoning for inclusion into the Plan and when undertaking the SEA. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES and the emissions targets. Also taken into account were issues such as flood risk.

Table 8.3 How Climate Action has been integrated into the Plan

Topic	Summary of Climate Mitigation Measures	Summary of Climate Adaptation Measures
Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support energy-efficient building design and emission reduction measures - Promote building of energy efficient homes/higher density appropriate to demographics and with greatest infrastructure provision - Promote renewable and low carbon energy - Create or enhance carbon sinks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land use zoning to be informed by flood risk - Promote the use of green roofs and natural ventilation - Enhance flood resilience of buildings, e.g. elevated work surfaces and storage facilities, raised sockets and electrical infrastructure, enhanced flood boards - Promote the use of permeable surfaces to decrease runoff rates - Institute grey-water recycling schemes to decrease abstraction of potable surface water resources, thus reducing water stress during periods of low rainfall - Maximise water conservation - Plant drought-resistant plants/ trees in public amenity areas to provide shade and increase green infrastructure linkages
Agriculture, Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage the Agriculture Sector and our farming communities to adapt and change to produce more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support diversification of rural economy to promote crop viability options etc.

⁹⁷ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

(a) no alternative solution available;

(b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan/programme/project to proceed; and

(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Topic	Summary of Climate Mitigation Measures	Summary of Climate Adaptation Measures
Management and Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - of our food locally in order to facilitate us all to shop local. - Encourage local food markets and shops to stock and sell local food produce. This will increase local employment and wealth generation as opposed to exporting it abroad. - Establish new community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas - Support production of sustainable biofuels (farm contributions to localised energy supplies – biofuels/wind energy production) - Implement higher level Plan recommendations/objectives/ policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage afforestation (where environmentally appropriate) to enhance interception and infiltration of precipitation - Support restoration of peat bogs when turf cutting has ceased - Support the recommendations of the National Peatlands Strategy
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support construction of green routes/cycleways/pedestrian routes, subject to normal environmental considerations - Support low-car developments in suitable locations and car sharing - Strengthen public transportation linkages and encourage their use - Support localisation of jobs/ shops/services to minimise needs for most common travel patterns - Support electric vehicle charging points and electrification of Council fleet 	-
Energy production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote energy-efficient building design - Promote links between developments and renewable energy resources, for instance by sourcing energy on-site (renewably or from low-carbon fuel sources) - Consider public lighting upgrades - Facilitate building retrofits 	-
Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Locate developments strategically (e.g. waste materials) to minimise need to travel, subject to health aspects/business needs 	-
Waste and Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support waste prevention and water conservation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase resilience to flooding through Sustainable Drainage Systems - Harvest rainwater/grey water - Ensure adequate/appropriate water supply and drainage - Support Water Conservation Strategies
Infrastructure, including flood defences	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure critical infrastructure and services (particularly emergency services) are resilient to new climatic conditions - Facilitate flood defences and flood resilient urban design - Coordinate emergency response plans;
Wildlife and biodiversity	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create/enhance ecological linkages and buffer zones from development - Create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes to help support a wide range of species
Economy and tourism	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support opportunities for increased tourism as a result of warmer summers, within limits of existing infrastructure and sensitive habitats
Human Health, Risk and Insurance	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide green infrastructure to provide shade in urban areas - Provide building methods and materials to reduce the impacts of heat stress - Appropriate maintenance of surface water drainage infrastructure to avoid flood risk - Land use zoning to be informed by flood risk

8.6 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, flora, fauna, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. Likely significant effects on environmental components which are identified include those which are interrelated; implementation of the Plan will not affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.4.

Table 8.4 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components

Component	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air and Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape
Biodiversity, flora and fauna		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Population and Human Health			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Soil				Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Water					No	Yes	No	No
Air and Climatic Factors						Yes	No	No
Material Assets							Yes	Yes
Cultural Heritage								Yes
Landscape								

8.7 Detailed Evaluation⁹⁸

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **BFF**, **PHH**, **S**, **W**, etc. refer to Table 8.1 on page 87.

The following applies to each of the sub-sections 8.7.1 to 8.7.16 below:

The Plan is situated in a hierarchy of documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management, such as the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the National Mitigation Plan, the National Adaptation Framework, the Climate Action Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region (for additional detail please refer to Section 2.6 "Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes" in this report).

These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and already provide for various measures that have been compiled into the Plan. The Plan aligns with these documents and will be incorporated into the review and preparation of these documents.

Lower tier plans and projects must be consistent and comply with the provisions of the Plan and of these other policies, plans etc. and will be subject to their own project level EIA and AA requirements as relevant. An assessment of cumulative effects is provided at Section 8.2 of this report.

8.7.1 Chapter 1: Introduction and Strategic Context

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Conflict with status of SEOs – to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>The Vision of the Plan is: 'to set out a framework for the sustainable physical development of the County, ensuring the conservation and protection of the built and natural environment, while providing in an equitable manner for all our people within the County'. As such the Longford County Development Plan provides for an overall strategy for the social, economic, cultural and physical development of the County. In order to achieve this, the County Development Plan has the following aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Implement relevant national and regional development policy provisions at a County level; 5. Strengthen and develop the economic, social and cultural life of the county in a way that can be sustained to safeguard the quality of life for future generations; 6. Provide a development framework which defines acceptable forms of development and appropriate locations. <p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Vision and associated Aims against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p>	<p>BFF PHH SW MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH SW MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH SW MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH SW MA A C CH L</p>	

⁹⁸ The Plan's provisions are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the Plan provisions are arrayed against each other in order to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the protection/management of the environmental component/issues to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to result in a potential significant negative effect however these effects would be likely to be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan.

These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

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The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided; reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

The Vision and associated Aims in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

8.7.2 Chapter 3: Climate Change

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>CPO 3.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions); • National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions); • Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the EMRA RSEs; • Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and • Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. <p>CPO 3.2 Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation having regard to the measures detailed in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 (these have been informed by available guidance on Climate Action and Mitigation, including that from the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 3.3 Support the implementation and adoption of the Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and promote the County as a key driver of the transition to a low carbon economy within the Region.</p> <p>CPO 3.4 Contribute towards climate mitigation and adaptation, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage).</p> <p>CPO 3.5 Promote the benefits to quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>CPO 3.6 Provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated future development which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the County Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 3.7 Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors</p> <p>CPO 3.8 Support the delivery of sustainable development projects under the European Green Deal and the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>CPO 3.9 Support collaboration between local authorities, the Midland Regional Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 3.10 Work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and relevant stakeholders to deliver a number of sustainable energy communities throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 3.11 Consider the use of heat mapping to support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted.</p> <p>CPO 3.12 Carry out a feasibility assessment for district heating and any subsequent Local Area Plans or other statutory planning documents shall identify local waste heat sources, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 3.13 Seek to ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.</p> <p>CPO 3.14 Maintain existing green infrastructure and encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of open space amenities; • Sustainable management of water; • Protection and management of biodiversity; • Protection of cultural heritage; and • Protection of protected landscape sensitivities. 	<p>BFF PHH SW MAA C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH SW MAA C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH SW MAA C CH L</p>	

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<p>CPO 3.15 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>CPO 3.16 Complete a detailed local survey and audit of greenhouse gas emissions for the County in order to effectively target and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a targeted approach at the County level and support the development of a Regional Inventory of GHG Emissions.</p> <p>CPO 3.17 Seek the integration of positive climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in all planning applications.</p> <p>CPO 3.18 Provide training on climate mitigation measures.</p> <p>CPO 3.19 (i) Create an 'Implementation Plan' of adequate detail that will allow for continued monitoring of Local Authority actions, responsibilities and progress specifically related to Climate Action.</p> <p>(ii) Consider a variation of the development plan within a reasonable period of time, or to include such other mechanism, as may be appropriate, to ensure the Development Plan will be consistent with the approach to climate action recommended in the revised Development Plan Guidelines as adopted or any other relevant guidelines.</p>				
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Commentary

The assessment of the Plan's Climate Change provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions⁹⁹ and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. including:

- The Climate Action Plan that allocates the following three actions to local authorities: Action 64 Introduce minimum BER standards in the Local Authority social housing stock as part of retrofit works being carried out on older stock or refurbishment of vacant dwellings; Action 65 Develop and establish a climate-action toolkit and audit framework for Local Authority development planning to drive the adoption of stronger climate action policies in relation to the patterns and forms of future development.; and Action 66 Roadmap to develop supply chain to support the phase out of fossil fuel boilers in new dwellings.
- The National Planning Framework, which has identified National Strategic Outcome Objectives 8 "Build Climate Resilience" and 9 "Support the transition to low carbon and clean energy" under National Strategic Outcome 8 "Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society".
- The Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that has identified various Regional Policy Objectives relating to climate action, including 7.12 "With the assistance and support of the Climate Action Regional Offices, local authorities shall develop, adopt and implement local climate adaptation and mitigation strategies which shall address issues including local vulnerability to climate risks and identify and prioritise actions, in accordance with the guiding principles of the National Adaptation Framework, National Mitigation Plan.", 7.5 "EMRA shall, in conjunction with local authorities in the Region, identify Strategic Energy Zones as areas suitable for larger energy generating projects, the role of community and micro energy production in urban and rural settings and the potential for renewable energy within industrial areas. The Strategic Energy Zones for the Region will ensure all environmental constraints are addressed in the analysis. A regional landscape strategy should be developed to support delivery of projects within the Strategic Energy Zones. And "Local authorities shall include policies in statutory land use plans to promote high levels of energy conservation, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in existing buildings, including retro fitting of energy efficiency measures in the existing building stock and energy efficiency in traditional buildings. All new buildings within the Region will be required to achieve the Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEB) standard in line with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)."

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Please also refer to Section 8.5 "Interactions with Climate Mitigation and Adaptation" which shows how climate action has been integrated throughout the Plan.

⁹⁹ See Chapter 4 Housing Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 5 Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications - Climate Actions, Chapter 6 Climate Action and 'Just Transition' Fund Opportunities – County Policy Objectives, Chapter 7: Placemaking Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 8 Economic Development Climate Change Actions, Chapter 9 Rural Economy Climate Change Actions, Chapter 10 Tourism Climate Change Actions, Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage Climate Actions, Chapter 12 Natural Heritage and the Environment - Climate Change Actions and Chapter 13 Green Infrastructure Climate Change Actions and Chapter 14 Landscape Character Climate Change Actions

8.7.3 Chapter 4: Core, Settlement and Housing Strategies

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aims</p> <p>Aim 1 To provide a framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Longford over the plan period.</p> <p>Aim 2 To demonstrate that the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional policy objectives set out in the National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and other national guidelines and policies.</p> <p>Aim 3 To identify the appropriate quantum, location and phasing of development considered necessary to provide for future population growth over the plan period in accordance with National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> <p>Aim 4 To provide alignment and integration between strategic planning and settlement policy and the prioritisation of physical infrastructure investment.</p> <p>Aim 5 To secure future growth opportunities within County Longford through optimising the County's economic, social and physical development.</p> <p>Aim 6 To coordinate the development of land identified in this Core Strategy in a manner that supports public transport and existing services and to prioritise sequential development of settlements, including the development of infill and brownfield lands.</p> <p>Aim 7 To provide a framework for determining the scale, phasing and location of new development having regard to existing services and planned infrastructural investment over the coming years.</p> <p>Aim 8 To provide a framework within which the provision of sustainable infrastructure, amenities, economic investment and development can take place to maximise the use of resources in the plan area.</p> <p>Aim 9 To maintain the strategic function, capacity and safety of the national roads network and to ensure that the existing extensive transport networks, which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, safety, accessibility and connectivity to transport users.</p> <p>Settlement Strategy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.1 Promote the sustainable growth and development of the county in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy and population targets established within the Core Strategy and commensurate with the network of urban centres, villages and rural areas presented in the Settlement Strategy and their respective capacities to assimilate sustainable levels of future development.</p> <p>CPO 4.2 Require at least 30% of all new homes that are targeted in settlements to be located within the existing built-up footprint of the settlements, in an effort to make settlements more compact and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl and ribbon development.</p> <p>CPO 4.3 Reinforce the centres of settlements through the increased focus on the development of infill sites, brownfield lands, under-utilised land/buildings, vacant sites, and derelict sites within the existing built-up footprint of the settlements and develop outwards from the centre in a sequential manner.</p> <p>CPO 4.4 Arrest the decline and stagnation in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline in recent decades.</p> <p>CPO 4.5 Manage the growth of rural areas that are under strong urban influence and stronger rural areas to avoid over-development, whilst sustaining vibrant urban communities.</p> <p>CPO 4.6 Support the regeneration of underused town centre and brownfield/infill lands, promote measures to reduce vacancy and the underuse of existing building stock and support initiatives that promote the reuse, refurbishment and retrofitting of existing buildings within urban centres and targeted settlements in the County in order to achieve sustainable compact growth targets of 30% of all new housing to be built within the existing urban footprint of targeted settlements in the County.</p> <p>Key Town - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.7 Support the continued sustainable growth and development of Longford Town in its capacity as a driver of economic activity and overall growth within the county.</p> <p>CPO 4.8 Support Longford Town in fulfilling its function as a Key Town within the County and Regional hierarchy of settlements, including its role in supporting and complementing the designated Regional Growth Centre of Athlone.</p> <p>CPO 4.9 Prepare and implement a Local Area Plan for Longford Town to align with the policy objectives of the NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027, including this Core Strategy, within two years from the adoption of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027. Any such Local Area Plan will be informed by a Local Transport Plan to be prepared for Longford Town.</p> <p>Self-Sustaining Towns - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.10 Support the further development of Self-Sustaining Towns as key locations of population growth and as drivers of economic growth and prosperity commensurate with the level of growth outlined in the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 4.11 Promote consolidation in Self-Sustaining Towns coupled with targeted investment where required to improve local employment, services and sustainable transport options and to become more self-sustaining settlements.</p> <p>Self-Sustaining Towns - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.12 Promote the commensurate population and employment growth in the designated Self-Sustaining town, in accordance with the Core Strategy, and to deliver targeted regeneration and 'catch-up' investment in services, infrastructure, amenities and local employment in order to become more self-sustaining.</p> <p>Towns and Villages - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.13 Promote the commensurate growth in development in the 'Towns and Villages' as designated in the Settlement Hierarchy, in a consolidated, sustainable and sequential manner, with targeted investment to improve local employment, services and sustainable transport options and to become more self-sustaining.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 Consider proposals for residential development in settlements defined as 'Towns and Villages' in the Settlement Hierarchy in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence to population allocations of the subject settlement as prescribed in the Core Strategy and the demand/need for the proposed level and type of residential development; The ability of the proposal to adequately address, and where possible enhance, the existing nature and character of the subject settlement; 	<p>BFF PHH SW MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH SW MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH SW MA A C CH L</p>	

<p>c) Compliance with relevant legislative, technical, environmental, design guidance prescribed under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and any such relevant policies and objectives contained within this Plan or any other relevant plan, the functional area of which may contain the subject settlement.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 Support housing and repopulation taking place within 'Towns and Villages' as designated in the Settlement Hierarchy, in a consolidated, sustainable and sequential manner, and to promote the provision of serviced sites supported by Irish Water in order to attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns, whilst also managing the levels of growth at an appropriate scale to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy Table.</p> <p>Rural Settlement Clusters - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.16 Support housing and repopulation taking place within Serviced Rural Villages in a consolidated, sustainable and sequential manner, and to promote the provision of serviced sites supported by Irish Water in order to attract people to build their own homes and live in Serviced Rural Villages, whilst also managing the levels of growth at an appropriate scale to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy Table.</p> <p>CPO 4.17 Facilitate the expansion of and provision of new mixed-use and employment-generating development within Serviced Rural Villages at an appropriate size and scale subject to normal planning requirements.</p> <p>CPO 4.18 Consider small developments of residential schemes in Serviced Rural Villages in respect of their scale, their locations within the settlement context, their visual harmony with the built environment of the subject settlement, including their ability to consolidate and enhance existing settlement character.</p> <p>CPO 4.19 Prepare Policy and Design Statements for each of designated Rural Settlement Clusters within the lifetime of this County Development Plan, having regard to any pending programme developed under National Policy Objective 18b of the National Planning Framework and in collaboration with public infrastructure providers and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>CPO 4.20 Support housing taking place within designated Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside in accordance with Regional Policy Objective 4.78 of the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 4.21 Consider proposals for development in Rural Settlement Clusters in respect of their scale, their locations within the settlement context, their visual harmony with the built environment of the subject settlement, including their ability to consolidate and enhance existing settlement character. Only small-scale residential developments (maximum of 4 no. residential units in one individual proposal) and limited local-level services, such as neighbourhood shops and schools etc., shall be considered in these settlements.</p> <p>CPO 4.22 Support the sustainable development of rural areas in County Longford by encouraging growth and arresting decline in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline in recent decades and by managing the growth of areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid over-development, while sustaining vibrant rural communities.</p> <p>CPO 4.23 Proposals for sensitive rehabilitation of disused vernacular houses will not be subject to the Rural Settlement Strategy for housing in the countryside that applies to new dwellings, assuming that their vernacular character is not compromised, that their fabric is repaired using appropriate techniques and materials, and that the structure was previously a dwelling. Where a building is derelict, measures should be taken to support and protect the building from collapse prior to and during works.</p> <p>Rural Housing - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.24 Accommodate demand from individuals for permanent residential development in defined 'Rural Areas Under Strong Urban Influence', subject to good planning practice, environmental carrying capacity and landscape protection considerations.</p> <p>Applicants seeking permission for the development of single dwelling rural housing in areas defined 'Rural Areas Under Strong Urban Influence' must satisfy the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The applicant was born within the local rural area, or is living or has lived in the local rural area for a minimum of 5 years at any stage prior to making the planning application. It includes returning emigrants seeking a permanent home in their local rural area. The 'Local Rural Area' for the purpose of this policy is defined as the area generally within an 8km radius of where the applicant was born, living or has lived. For the purpose of this policy, the rural area is taken to include 'Rural Settlement Clusters' listed in the Settlement Hierarchy, but excludes the Key Town, Self-Sustaining Growth Town, Self-Sustaining Towns, Towns and Villages and Serviced Rural Villages listed in the Settlement Hierarchy. 2. The applicant has a functional economic or social requirement to reside in this particular rural area such as in any of the following 2 situations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Economic requirements will normally encompass persons referred to in the revision to the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005 and, if applicable, circulars. It includes persons involved in full-time farming, horticulture or forestry as well as similar rural-based part-time occupations where it can be demonstrated that it is the predominant occupation. (b) Social requirements will normally encompass persons referred to in the revision to the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005 and, if applicable, circulars. Pending the making of the revised Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines by the Minister, a Functional Social Requirement in County Longford shall be taken as compliance with point 1 above. <p>Special consideration shall be given in cases of exceptional health circumstances - supported by relevant documentation from a registered medical practitioner and a disability organisation proving that a person requires to live in a particular environment or close to family support, or requires a close family member to live in close proximity to that person.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The applicant does not already own or has not owned a house in the open countryside. 4. If the site is located within an Area of Special Control, there is no alternative site outside of Areas of Special Control. 5. High quality siting and design. <p>CPO 4.25 In line with Circular Letter PL 2/2017, review rural housing policy in line with Development Plan or other relevant Guidelines issued by the Minister in this area having regard to NPO 19 of the NPF.</p> <p>CPO 4.26 Accommodate demand from individuals for permanent residential development in defined 'Rural Areas Elsewhere', subject to sustainable planning principles (appropriate siting and design and the demonstration of negligible impacts to existing amenities or sensitive environments).</p> <p>CPO 4.27 Assess residential development in rural areas on the suitability of the area in terms of its sensitivity, its ability to accommodate development in a sustainable manner and compliance with the relevant technical criteria.</p>		
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<p>CPO 4.28 Attach an occupancy condition to planning permissions in respect of rural housing applications in identified 'Rural Areas Under Strong Urban Influence', pursuant to Section 47 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, restricting the use of the dwelling to the applicant, as a place of permanent residence. The period of occupancy will be limited to a period of 7 years from the date of first occupation.</p> <p>CPO 4.29 Restrict residential development on a landholding, where there is a history of development through the speculative sale or development of sites, notwithstanding the applicant's compliance with the local need criteria.</p> <p>CPO 4.30 Recognise and promote the agricultural and landscape value of the rural area and prohibit the development of urban generated housing in the rural area.</p> <p>CPO 4.31 Encourage the appropriate re-use and adaptation of the existing rural residential building stock in preference to new build.</p> <p>CPO 4.32 Discourage ribbon development (defined as five or more houses alongside 250 metres of road frontage). The Council will assess whether a given proposal will exacerbate such ribbon development, having regard to the following:</p> <p>a) The type of rural area and circumstances of the applicant.</p> <p>b) The degree to which the proposal might be considered infill development.</p> <p>c) The degree to which existing ribbon development would coalesce as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>d) Local circumstances, including the planning history of the area and development pressures. Notwithstanding the above, special regard will be given to the circumstances of immediate family members of a landowner on single infill sites in a line of existing dwellings with 5 or more houses along a 250 metres of road frontage.</p> <p>CPO 4.33 Consider applications for the provision of a recessed cluster form of development. The cluster shall be designed in such a way that is appropriate to the rural context and shall be set back into the landscape from the public road. Clusters shall not exceed five houses and will be subject to normal, planning, siting, design and local need considerations. Where there is a likelihood of more than one applicant seeking planning permission over a period of time, the Council will engage with the landowner to provide for an appropriate site layout capable of accommodating a recessed cluster development.</p> <p>CPO 4.34 Only consider family members for backland development. The proposed development shall have no negative impact on third parties/ neighbouring property owners and viable sites with sufficient independent percolation areas will be required in order to meet technical guidelines. Sufficient screening will be required to screen the house from adjacent homes and this has to be in place prior to occupation of the house. Only single storey bungalow (including attic accommodation) type houses will be allowed in such backland locations to limit visual impact and overlooking.</p> <p>CPO 4.35 Have regard to the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities, April 2005, and any replacement guidance which require that new houses in rural areas be sited and designed to integrate well with their physical surroundings and be generally compatible with:</p> <p>a) The protection of water quality in the arrangements made for onsite waste water disposal facilities;</p> <p>b) The provision of a safe means of access in relation to road and public safety;</p> <p>c) The conservation of sensitive areas such as natural habitats, the environs of protected structures and other aspects of heritage.</p> <p>In regard to septic tanks, the Planning Authority will be positively disposed towards the use of septic tanks and/or with additional package treatment systems, where necessary, with Irish Agreement Board Certification. In order to protect groundwater, all site suitability tests shall be carried out in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Code of Practice- Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. <10)' (2009), or any subsequent update.</p> <p>CPO 4.36 Preserve and protect the open character of transitional lands outside of settlements in order to prevent linear sprawl near towns, villages and settlements and to maintain a clear demarcation and distinction between urban areas and the countryside. This will not apply to persons building on family land where another family site is not available to them.</p> <p>CPO 4.37 Consider applications for the provision of a recessed cluster form of development. The cluster shall be designed in such a way that is appropriate to the rural context and shall be set back into the landscape from the public road. Clusters shall not exceed five houses and will be subject to normal, planning, siting, design and local need considerations. Where there is a likelihood of more than one applicant seeking planning permission over a period of time, the Council will engage with the landowner to provide for an appropriate site layout capable of accommodating a recessed cluster development.</p> <p>CPO 4.38 Restrict new accesses for one-off dwellings onto regional roads, where the 80km/hr speed limit applies in order to avoid the premature obsolescence of regional roads through the creation of excessive levels of individual entrances and to secure investment in non-national roads.</p> <p>CPO 4.39 Strictly control developments which require vehicular access from public roads that were formerly towpaths or from existing towpaths along the Royal Canal. This is in addition to restrictions relevant to the Canal's designation as a Natural Heritage Area. It is policy to consider housing applications for established families only along roads that were formerly towpaths along the Canal and that such developments will be strictly controlled.</p> <p>CPO 4.40 Require that the design of entrance gateways should be in keeping with the rural setting. All applications for a dwelling in a rural area should include detailed drawings and specifications for entrance treatments. The roadside boundary should ideally consist of a sod/earth mound/ fencing planted with a double row of native hedgerow species e.g. Hawthorn, field maple, holly, blackthorn, hazel etc. High block walls and gates and ornamental features will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 4.41 Encourage the sensitive restoration of a derelict traditional vernacular structure as an alternative to the construction of a one-off dwelling elsewhere subject to the following:</p> <p>a) The vernacular dwelling must be capable of being suitably restored to habitable accommodation in keeping with its original character without the necessity to demolish or significantly alter it.</p> <p>b) Documentary evidence to include a structural survey and photographs.</p> <p>c) The distinctive character and original historic fabric of the structure is retained using appropriate traditional construction methods and materials.</p> <p>d) Normal planning, siting and design considerations will be taken into consideration.</p> <p>CPO 4.42 Accept the replacement of a dwelling other than a vernacular dwelling in circumstances where such a dwelling house is habitable, subject to the following:</p> <p>a) The structure must last have been used as a dwelling and the internal and external walls and roof must be intact.</p> <p>b) A report from a suitably qualified competent person shall be submitted to verify that the dwelling is habitable but that replacement of the dwelling is the most sustainable option.</p> <p>c) Documentary evidence of the most recent date of occupation should be submitted with the application.</p> <p>d) The design of the proposed replacement house shall be of a high standard and its scale and character appropriate to the site and to existing development in the vicinity and to the rural area.</p>	
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<p>e) Normally a condition to demolish the existing dwelling will be included in any grant of permission.</p> <p>f) Require applicants in defined 'Rural Areas Under Strong Urban Influence' to comply with local need criteria identified in CPO 4.22 of this plan. Normal planning considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of planning applications for replacement dwellings.</p> <p>g) In cases where an applicant/occupant wishes to replace an existing habitable dwelling on the same footprint and of the same or similar floor area there will be no requirement to comply with local need criteria identified in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.43 Facilitate the sensitive replacement of a structurally unsound derelict dwelling as an alternative to the construction of a one-off dwelling elsewhere in the countryside. The scale of the replacement dwelling shall have regard to the site size. Documentary evidence in the form of a structural survey and photographs shall be submitted to accompany the application. The proposed applicant shall comply with local need criteria identified in the Plan and shall be subject to an occupancy condition.</p> <p>CPO 4.44 Prepare an updated 'Rural Design Guidance for Residential Developments in Rural County Longford' over the lifetime of the Plan. Until such time as this is prepared, all new housing in the rural countryside shall achieve the highest quality of layout and design in accordance with the Development Management Standards set out in Chapter 16 of this plan and the current Rural Design Guidance for Residential Developments in Rural County Longford set out in Annex 5 of this Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.45 Encourage innovative design, and layouts that promote solar gain subject to protecting the character of the landscape..</p> <p>Core Strategy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.46 Ensure that the future spatial development of County Longford is in accordance with the National Planning Framework, including population targets set out under the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region 2019-2031.</p> <p>CPO 4.47 Implement all land use planning policy and objectives in a manner which takes account of and is consistent with the Core Strategy in order to accelerate a transition to a greener, low carbon and climate resilient county with a focus on reduced travel demand through the promotion of sustainable settlement patterns.</p> <p>CPO 4.48 Adhere to the quantum of housing development prescribed in the Core Strategy Table. Development shall not be permitted where it conflicts with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 4.49 Support the compact growth of towns and villages to ensure that development proceeds sustainably and at an appropriate scale, density and sequence and in line with the Core Strategy Table</p> <p>CPO 4.50 Monitor and manage the delivery of residential development in County Longford through the development management process to ensure it is in line with the Core Strategy. In this respect, the Planning Authority shall maintain a record of residential development permitted in individual settlements, as well as residential development permitted as single rural housing, in order to ensure compliance with the population allocations defined by the Core Strategy Table.</p> <p>CPO 4.51 Zone an appropriate amount of lands within the settlement areas to accommodate the projected population growth as set out in the Core Strategy, including the undertaking of variations of Local Area Plans if required, to ensure consistency with the provisions of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 4.52 Facilitate higher and increased building heights at suitable locations and in accordance with settlement hierarchy in line with Specific Planning Policy Requirement (SSPR) 1 of the Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2018).</p> <p>CPO 4.53 Achieve the delivery of high-quality built environments ensuring that development is designed to a high standard in line with the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Best Practice Urban Design Manual (DoECLG 2009), the 'Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2018) and Specific Planning Policy Requirements (SPPRs) 1 – 4 (Inclusive), the core strategy for the county and other planning considerations.</p> <p>Housing Strategy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.54 Provide new homes to meet expected future housing requirements in the County as identified in the HND. A total of 2,568 new homes shall be provided over the plan period to meet requirements a result of forecast population growth. New homes shall be provided in a planned and coordinated manner in accordance with the aims and policies of the Core Strategy, the RSES, and the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>CPO 4.55 Seek the provision of an appropriate mix of housing types and tenures to ensure homes for communities in towns, villages and rural areas and to meet the needs of people of all incomes and needs.</p> <p>CPO 4.56 Provide for new housing in existing settlements to ensure that settlements grow in a manner that is sustainable, includes provision of sufficient social and economic infrastructure, and to a scale which aligns with the Settlement Hierarchy set out in the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 4.57 Provide new housing in rural areas including one-off homes in accordance with the Development Plan where it meets the social and economic needs of these areas, tackles isolation, and promotes social inclusion.</p> <p>CPO 4.58 Provide housing appropriate to the needs of the elderly (in accordance with the Longford Age Friendly Strategy, 2015-2020 and any subsequent strategies), persons with disabilities, lone parents, Travellers, and the homeless. The Council shall support and promote the use of Universal Design principles and life-long adaptability in new housing developments to meet the needs of diverse groups and an aging population.</p> <p>CPO 4.59 Seek high quality of design in all housing development having due regard to Government policy relating to sustainable development, which aims to reduce the demand for travel within existing settlements, and the need to respect and reflect the established character of rural areas.</p> <p>CPO 4.60 Encourage the provision of affordable housing in appropriate locations in towns and villages, having regard to the aims and policies of the Core Strategy and the needs of local communities, including the need to deliver sustainable development, social integration and an appropriate mix of housing types and tenures.</p> <p>CPO 4.61 Provide social and affordable housing to meet forecasted future housing need over the plan period as identified in the HND. The Council will endeavour to deliver a further 252 social and affordable housing units over the plan period to meet this forecasted need as resources allow.</p> <p>CPO 4.62 Make use of a range of delivery mechanisms to provide new social and affordable homes including new builds, acquisitions, renovations and acquisitions of vacant homes, leasing, and housing supports including RAS and HAP.</p> <p>CPO 4.63 Require that 10% of lands zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, be reserved for social and affordable housing in accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and any future revised Guidance.</p> <p>CPO 4.64 Tackle vacancy and to secure new homes, tackle dereliction and deliver regeneration by bringing vacant sites back into use. This shall be pursued through the application of the vacant site levy in accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. The Council shall also endeavour to bring about the timely re-use of vacant Council-owned housing stock.</p>		
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<p>CPO 4.65 Promote the regeneration of town centres through the retention of town centre residential units and through encouraging the reuse of upper floors above commercial premises for residential accommodation.</p> <p>CPO 4.66 Provide appropriate accommodation to meet the needs of the Travelling Community and to secure the implementation of the Longford County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.</p> <p>CPO 4.67 Support the on-going monitoring and review of the HNDA in accordance with the forthcoming guidance on HNDA methodology to be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> <p>CPO 4.68 To support the development of quality residential schemes with a range of housing options having regard to the standards, principles and any specific planning policy requirements (SPPRs) set out in the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009); Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2018) and the 'Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2018).</p> <p>Environmental Conservation and Protection - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 4.69 United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 no. Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.</p> <p>CPO 4.70 Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management Cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management, including compliance with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p> <p>CPO 4.71 Information to be considered at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc.); • Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; • Entries to the Record of Monuments; • Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; • Architectural Conservation Areas; and • Landscape/amenity designations. <p>Housing Climate Context and Associated Actions</p> <p>Housing Actions Climate Change Actions Longford County Council shall:</p> <p>A4.1 Require all one-off housing applications to be accompanied by a Sustainability Statement, and in accordance with the principles set out in the 'Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines' (2005), to include an outlined assessment of the proposed against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design and layout; - Construction and materials; - Energy strategy; - Waste and water reduction; - Services (incl. high speed broadband and transport links); - Landscape and ecology. <p>A4.2 Require all housing scheme applications to meet the principles of the 'Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets' DMURS (2019) and in accordance with the National Transport Authority 'Permeability Best Practice Guide' (2015), submitting a 'Permeability Audit' where considered necessary by Longford County Council.</p> <p>A4.3 Require all existing, social housing in the ownership of the Local Authority to be upgraded to a B2 BER rating, where achievable.</p> <p>A4.4 Require all new-build housing, procured by LCC for the purposes of social housing, to be zero-carbon, Passivhaus, or equivalent standard.</p> <p>A4.5 Prioritise the principle of Passivhaus or equivalent standard in accordance with current Design Guidelines of the County Development Plan, or those deemed acceptable by the Planning Department.</p> <p>A4.6 Require all residential schemes outside of 'Town Core' zoned lands, to responsibly plant and maintain 1 no., native tree (e.g. Willow, Alder, Birch, Scots Pine, Holly, Sessile Oak) of a girth greater than 20cm, within the confines of the proposed site, per dwelling.</p> <p>A4.7 Require all future, multi-residential, industrial or warehousing applications to specify the type and location of permeable surfacing throughout, to include access roads.</p>		
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Commentary

The assessment of the Plan's Core, Settlement and Housing Strategies provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development,

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<p>including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. This includes the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that designates Longford Town as a Key Town – this designation has informed the Core, Settlement and Housing Strategies.</p> <p>Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Any Local Area Plan or Amendment to Local Area Plan (e.g. CPO 4.8 and CPO 4.48) will be subject to screening for SEA and AA and full assessments will be undertaken if appropriate.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPO 4.1 "sustainable growth and development of the county" • CPO 4.2 "Require at least 30% of all new homes that are targeted in settlements to be located within the existing built-up footprint of the settlements , in an effort to make settlements more compact and reduce unsustainable urban sprawl and ribbon development" • CPO 4.3 "Reinforce the centres of settlements ... and develop outwards from the centre in a sequential manner" • CPO 4.5 "Manage the growth of rural areas that are under strong urban influence and stronger rural areas to avoid over-development, whilst sustaining vibrant urban communities." • CPO 4.69 United Nations Sustainability Goals • CPO 4.70 Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management • CPO 4.71 Information to be considered at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment

8.7.4 Chapter 5: Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Land Use and Transportation - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.1 Support and facilitate the integration of land use with transportation infrastructure, through the development of sustainable compact settlements within the hierarchy of settlements as identified within the Core Strategy and which are well served by public transport.</p> <p>CPO 5.2 Facilitate the provision, where appropriate, of rural transport initiatives and services in order to promote the socio-economic and cultural development of the entire County.</p> <p>CPO 5.3 Provide for alternative forms of transportation and associated infrastructure in order to reduce the dependency on the private car, such as public transport initiatives and infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p>CPO 5.4 Engage with the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly in the creation of a coordinated sustainable transport plan for the Midland Region to guide and inform local policy in the development of more sustainable modes of transportation.</p> <p>CPO 5.5 Promote sustainable land use planning measures which facilitate transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the greater use of public transportation throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 5.6 Integrate the County's transport and tourism strategies to promote increasingly sustainable travel patterns and improved linkages between the towns and villages within the County, with the aim of developing a coherent network dedicated to sustainable transport modes across the County and to the wider Midland region.</p> <p>CPO 5.7 Provide, where possible, for the establishment of integrated transport nodes.</p> <p>CPO 5.8 Ensure that infrastructural policies and investments assist and enhance the economic and social development of County Longford and preserve and improve the physical attractiveness of the County and minimise negative impacts on its background environment.</p> <p>CPO 5.9 Prepare and implement a Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Longford Town in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and other relevant stakeholders. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and other relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the guidance note Area Based Transport Assessment 2019 (or any subsequent update) produced by the NTA and TII.</p> <p>CPO 5.10 Support the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) technology for pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular traffic, public transport and parking management in all new developments.</p> <p>CPO 5.11 Require all major developments to submit Traffic Impact Assessments and Mobility Management Plans.</p> <p>Traffic Impact Assessments shall be prepared in accordance with the TII Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) (PE-PDV-02045).</p>	<p>BFF PHH S S W MA A C C CH L</p>	<p>Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	

<p>Mobility management / travel plans shall be submitted with applications for Local Authorities: Achieving-Effective-Workplace-Travel-Plans-Guidance-for-Local-Authorities1.1.pdf (nationaltransport.ie)</p> <p>Dublin Transportation Office – Advice Note Mobility Management Plans (2002): https://www.nationaltransport.ie/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/mobility_management_plans_2002.pdf</p> <p>Roads and Streets - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>Roads and Streets - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 5.12 Provide the highest quality road access and capacity on routes of economic importance to the County, and maintain and improve the capacity of existing arterial routes of national, regional and local importance within the County in the context of the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, including the relief of bottlenecks at strategic locations.</p> <p>CPO 5.13 Identify the future needs of the national route network and co-operate in fulfilling these needs in conjunction with TII.</p> <p>CPO 5.14 Promote improved access between the major settlements of the County and important centres in the Midland region, particularly those identified in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 5.15 To protect the capacity, efficiency and safety of the national road network in County Longford by complying with the 'Spatial Planning and National Roads - Guidelines for planning authorities' (2012).</p> <p>CPO 5.16 Protect the study area, route corridor options and thereafter the preferred route corridor selected for the national road schemes being progressed in the Development Plan in accordance with National Development Plan Objectives and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery.</p> <p>CPO 5.17 Undertake the following Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure being promoted by the Council, but excluding those national road schemes which are advanced following TII guidelines and policy:</p> <p>Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report) and opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options; • Potentially feasible corridors within which infrastructure could be accommodated will be identified and these corridors assessed. The selection of the preferred route corridor will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists; and • In addition to the constraints identified above, site-specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate corridors. <p>Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially feasible routes within the preferred corridor will be identified and assessed. The selection of preferred routes will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists, taking into account project level information and potential mitigation measures that are readily achievable; • In addition to the constraints identified above, site specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate routes; and • In addition to environmental considerations, the identification of route corridors and the refinement of route lines is likely to be informed by other considerations. <p>CPO 5.18 Reserve lands in advance of investigating the feasibility of potential schemes for the improvement, maintenance and management of road traffic systems throughout the County. Lands shall be reserved for the following potential schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N5 Longford – Scramogue Scheme • N4 – N63 – N5 By-Pass to the South of Longford. • N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) • N55 Granard By-Pass • N63 Killashee By-Pass • N55 Edgeworthstown By-Pass • N55 Ballymahon By-Pass • N55 Tonywardan-Ardgullion Improvement • N63 Barnacor Road Re-alignment • N55 Ballymahon to Kilcurry Re-alignment • R292 Newcastle to Forney Re-alignment <p>- The Council will investigate the feasibility of these potential schemes, taking into account environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. Any future proposals for roads shall be consistent with the other provisions contained in the Plan, including CPO 5.15 in relation to Corridor and Route Selection Process; and take into account the most up to date, available information on flood risk at that time.</p> <p>- Where these corridors have been identified they will be protected from further development prior to the establishment of a final route.</p> <p>- Where corridors have not yet been developed the Council shall pursue the development of these corridors and shall protect corridors from development once established.</p> <p>- Where route selection corridors exist, Longford County Council, in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), shall ensure that the final route is identified within a reasonable timeframe.</p> <p>CPO 5.19 Protect routes of strategic importance within the County, as outlined below, from further access creation and the intensification of existing accesses and development on national routes. Development on the National and Regional Routes outlined below shall be carefully considered to preserve their strategic role and safeguard the strategic function of the national road network, in accordance with the provisions of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N4 to Dublin and Sligo& N5 to Castlebar 		
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In accordance with this policy, the following roads have been identified and lands along these roads may be reserved for their improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R198 – Gaigue to Camaghi; • R392 – Forney; • R397 – Terlicken to Keenagh via Corryena; • L-1040 – Esker to Killeenatraun via Ennybegs; • L1023 & L1024 – Leggaghi; • L1077 & L1085 – Killasonna. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This policy shall not preclude the creation of new accesses or the widening or intensification of existing accesses along these roads, but such developments shall be subject to assessment in accordance with the relevant technical criteria. - The feasibility of any improvements will be investigated, taking into account environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. Any future proposals for roads shall be consistent with the other provisions contained in the Plan, including CPO 5.15 in relation to Corridor and Route Selection Process. <p>CPO 5.22 Improve existing Local Roads in the County in order to create effective routes for the diversion of traffic to facilitate emergencies and road improvement works on National and Regional Routes in the County.</p> <p>In accordance with this policy the following roads have been identified and lands along these roads may be reserved for their improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LP – 1016 - From Monaduff 3 roads to Derawley 4 roads • LP – 1019 - From Kiltyreevagh 3 roads (East) to Kiltyreevagh 4 roads • LP – 1020 - From Kiltyreevagh 3 roads (East) to Cloonelly 3 roads • LP – 1022 - From Gaigue Bridge to Monaduff 3 roads • LP – 1024 - From Cloonelly 3 roads to Legga 4 roads (North, Main Road) • LP – 1025 - From Gaigue 4 roads to Gaigue Bridge (at School) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This policy shall not preclude the creation of new accesses or the widening or intensification of existing accesses along these roads, but such developments shall be subject to assessment in accordance with the relevant technical criteria. - The feasibility of any improvements will be investigated, taking into account environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. Any future proposals for roads shall be consistent with the other provisions contained in the Plan, including CPO 5.15 in relation to Corridor and Route Selection Process. <p>CPO 5.23 Prepare access strategies for any lands that adjoin national roads in areas subject to 50kph speed limits or 100kph speed limits in relation to settlements that are covered by Zoning Strategies as set out under Appendix 1: Land Use Zonings.</p> <p>For transitional zones (subject to a speed limit of 60kph before a lower 50kph) on sections of national roads on the approaches to or exits from town centres to provide for a limited level of direct access to facilitate orderly urban development.</p> <p>Any such proposal must, however, be subject to a road safety audit carried out in accordance with the TII requirements and a proliferation of such entrances, which would lead to a diminution in the role of such zones, must be avoided and have regard to the following - Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2020), the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland (2015), TII Standard DN-GEO-03084 'The Treatment of Transition Zones to Towns and Villages on National Roads (2018)' and other appropriate standards.</p> <p>CPO 5.24 Ensure that streets and roads within the county are designed to balance the needs of place and movement, to provide a safe traffic calmed street environment in accordance with the principles set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2020), while meeting the needs of all road users.</p> <p>CPO 5.25 Promote sustainability in road use and the reduction of negative impacts on the natural environment including carbon emissions where possible through good design practice.</p> <p>CPO 5.26 Provide and encourage traffic calming measures for settlements in the county where feasible and as resources allow.</p> <p>CPO 5.27 Require the inclusion of a Road Safety Impact Assessment as part of any proposed development/project of a significant scale which may have potential implications on major transport infrastructure. Such assessments shall be in accordance with TII Publications PE-PMG-02001 (Road Safety Impact Assessment 2017) or any future update.</p>
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		<p>Require that a Road Safety Audit (RSA) shall be undertaken on all new national road infrastructure projects, on any schemes or proposals which results in a permanent change to the layout of a national road and any other developments in excess of the thresholds for a TTA and sub-thresholds for a TTA specified in TII Publications GE-STY-01024 Road Safety Audits 2017, or any future update.</p> <p>CPO 5.28 Refuse permission for the parking of vehicles, trailers, etc. that use the road network within the County (including on National, Regional and Local Roads) for commercial purposes, whether for provision of services, advertising for the sale of individual vehicles.</p> <p>CPO 5.29 Request the provision of specific information on the potential impact of proposed developments on the road network. All applications shall submit the required roads form as outlined within the Longford County Council Planning Pack, or any subsequent update. (For specific roads requirements in relation to individual development types, refer to Chapter 16: Development Management Standards).</p> <p>CPO 5.30 Require a licence prior to each proposed instance of road opening. Works shall only be carried out in accordance with the terms of the licence granted.</p> <p>CPO 5.31 Consider the provision of suitably designed and privately developed commercial vehicle rest stop/park outside of urban area, subject to the provision of safe access and circulation, suitable public facilities, adequate screening and the compatibility of adjacent land uses.</p> <p>CPO 5.32 Co-operate with other agencies in the provision of additional links between the national road network and public transport, especially rail and bus transport, including strategic park and ride facilities.</p> <p>CPO 5.33 Restrict the use of national, regional and local roads for advertising purposes in line with the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and to implement the provisions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NRA policy document "Policy on the Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads" - Section 3.8 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines - "Longford County Council Policy on Advertising Signs". <p>CPO 5.34 Ensure that the capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage regimes in County Longford will be safeguarded for national road drainage purposes.</p> <p>CPO 5.35 Development proposals in proximity to a noise source and located within the Longford County Council Noise Action Area (including existing or proposed national road) should include noise attenuation measures and shall refer to S.I. No. 140 of 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations and Section 3.7 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</p> <p>The costs of implementing mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer / applicant. The Authority will not be responsible for the provision of additional noise mitigation.</p> <p>Car Parking - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 5.36 Seek to ensure that all new private car parking facilities are provided to an appropriate standard, proximate to the development which it serves and in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2020).</p> <p>CPO 5.37 Allow for the reduction in car parking standards in suitable town centre locations in order to encourage a modal shift away from the private car to more sustainable forms of transport.</p> <p>CPO 5.38 Manage the provision of on-street parking by encouraging short term business/ shopping activity, whilst discouraging long stay on street commuter parking and parking by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).</p> <p>CPO 5.39 Require proposed car parks to include the provision of necessary wiring and ducting to be capable of accommodating future Electric Vehicle charging points, at a rate of 10% of total space numbers.</p> <p>CPO 5.40 Ensure that car parking or EV charging infrastructure does not detract from the comfort and safety of pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>CPO 5.41 Seek the provision of designated HGV parking areas within new industrial developments, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 5.42 Encourage the use of materials and engineering solutions that optimise natural surface water drainage as part of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) associated with large scale car parks.</p> <p>CPO 5.43 Ensure applications for new or replacement rural dwellings provide for the installation of at least one electric vehicle charging point.</p> <p>CPO 5.44 Ensure provision of car parking in accordance with Chapter 16: Development Management Standards – Table 16.1: Car Parking Standards and associated guidance notes. With the exception of 'Residential' car parking the number of spaces provided should not exceed the maximum provision set out.</p> <p>Sustainable Public Transport - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.45 Ensure new development areas and employment land-uses are permeable for walking and cycling and are laid out in such a way as to facilitate the operation of and access to public transport by residents and employees.</p> <p>CPO 5.46 Ensure that the layout and design of new developments provide for bus stops, passenger waiting facilities, and bus turning and service regulatory layover facilities, as required.</p> <p>CPO 5.47 Support and develop public transport routes throughout the County through collaboration with the National Transport Authority.</p> <p>CPO 5.48 Retrospectively provide public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure and facilities in existing development areas to achieve growth in sustainable mobility.</p> <p>CPO 5.49 Provide suitable infrastructure on public transport corridors to improve safety and efficiency for public transport users.</p> <p>CPO 5.50 Continue to work with the relevant transport providers, agencies and stakeholders to facilitate the integration of active travel (walking, cycling) with public transport</p> <p>CPO 5.51 Support the continued integration of national, regional and local bus and rail services to ensure the delivery of a fully integrated public transport service.</p> <p>CPO 5.52 Improve access to public transport as part of road improvement projects, where possible.</p> <p>CPO 5.53 Seek to address urban congestion, with particular emphasis on facilitating improved bus transport movement and reliability, and improved links to bus and railway stations.</p> <p>CPO 5.54 Support the (NTA) Connecting Ireland: Rural Mobility Plan and encourage public transport providers and rural community transport initiatives to enhance the provision of public transportation services linking the rural villages to the main towns within Longford.</p>	

<p>CPO 5.55 Support the operation of existing bus services and facilitate the provision of improved facilities for bus users in towns and villages including the provision, in collaboration with the relevant agencies, of set down areas for coaches and bus shelters for passengers. Such provision is particularly required in towns and villages not served by national routes.</p> <p>CPO 5.56 Support bus priority measures on existing and planned road infrastructure, where appropriate, in collaboration with the National Transport Authority, Bus Éireann and the Transport Infrastructure Ireland.</p> <p>CPO 5.57 Facilitate the provision of park and ride facilities in appropriate locations within convenient reach of transport nodes and along strategic transport corridors.</p> <p>CPO 5.58 Liaise with and encourage transport providers and other agencies (e.g. NTA, developers etc) to provide appropriate bus shelters and real time information panels at bus stops.</p> <p>CPO 5.59 Facilitate the expansion and development of existing and any future proposed rail facilities and supporting infrastructure within the county.</p> <p>CPO 5.60 Concentrate development which may be aimed at those commuting to and from Dublin within close proximity of existing rail links and to facilitate, where practical, improved access for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>CPO 5.61 Support and promote the heritage value of the rail network and the retention and enhancement of disused rail lines with uses to provide for tourism, amenity and sustainable transports uses such as cycleways and walkways.</p> <p>Electric Vehicles - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.62 Liaise and collaborate with relevant agencies to support the growth of EVs with support facilities and infrastructure through a roll-out of additional electrical charging infrastructure at appropriate locations.</p> <p>CPO 5.63 Support the prioritisation of parking for Electric Vehicles (EVs) in town centre locations.</p> <p>CPO 5.64 Support the provision of electrical charging infrastructure both on street and in new developments in accordance with car parking standards prescribed in Chapter 16: Development Management Standards of this plan.</p> <p>Cycling and Walking - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 5.65 Work with the relevant statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>CPO 5.66 Identify and implement a strategic, coherent and high-quality cycling and walking network across the County that is integrated with public transport and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations and attractions.</p> <p>CPO 5.67 Promote the organisation of traffic in towns and villages to separate motor vehicular, bicycles and pedestrian traffic in accordance with the National Manual for the provision of Cycle Facilities in Urban Areas, the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and The National Cycle Manual.</p> <p>CPO 5.68 Promote walking through the development and expansion of a network of safe walking trails within towns and villages and their environs. Such routes can link with existing walking trails, Sli na Slainte and the Green Infrastructure Network and existing or new public rights of way.</p> <p>CPO 5.69 Adopt and implement the provisions of the Draft Longford Walking and Cycling Strategy and, where necessary and appropriate, reserve lands for the provision of off-road cycling tracks and cycling/pedestrian infrastructure as identified as part of any such cycling strategy prepared.</p> <p>CPO 5.70 Seek the development of effective cycling infrastructure along the key urban arterial routes to and from Longford Town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R198 – Battery Road/Church Street/Bridge Street; - R393 – Dublin Road; and - the N63 – Ballinalee Road); <p>in order to coincide with key employment areas, public transport hubs and schools within Longford Town.</p> <p>CPO 5.71 Facilitate the provision of cycleways and footpaths, particularly in conjunction with new housing developments.</p> <p>CPO 5.72 Ensure that all new roads and cycle routes implement the National Cycle Manual or any replacement document, with a focus on a high level of service for cyclists and encourage a modal shift from the private car to cycling.</p> <p>CPO 5.73 Provide for safer routes to schools within the county and promote walking and cycling as suitable modes of transport as part of the Green Schools Programme and other local traffic management improvements.</p> <p>CPO 5.74 Ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists. Support the development of safe cycle routes and enhance and maintain these routes with quality signposting, lighting and road surfaces separated from vehicular traffic following the standards set out in 2020 DMURS Interim Advice Note – Covid-19 Pandemic Response and the NTA's National Cycle Manual and any further review and iteration of the same.</p> <p>Encourage the development of off-road cycling. Ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists. Ensure that any dedicated cycle routes which are developed away from the main public carriageway are well lit. Routes should, where possible, follow off-road tracks and quiet country roads.</p> <p>CPO 5.75 Promote the potential development of long-distance walking and cycling routes, particularly those with historical and cultural associations and links to other routes in adjacent counties in association with the Irish Sports Council. Aim to establish and link with a strategic network of trails from residential areas, open spaces and existing or new public rights of way to facilitate the creation of a secure and safe greenway network.</p> <p>CPO 5.76 Improve the attractiveness and usability of the pedestrian environment of the County, particularly in residential areas, designated settlements and in areas of high amenity.</p> <p>CPO 5.77 Implement, at appropriate locations, pedestrian permeability schemes and enhancements.</p> <p>CPO 5.78 Provide signposting, information boards and public lighting for walking and cycling routes at appropriate locations.</p> <p>CPO 5.79 Require the provision of secure cycle parking facilities in settlements, at public service destinations, key public transport nodes and in all new residential and commercial development in accordance with the cycle parking standards presented in Chapter 16: Development Management Standards - Table 16.2: Cycle Parking Standards.</p> <p>CPO 5.80 Require suitable and secure shower and changing facilities for all new employment developments in accordance with the requirements set out in Chapter 16: Development Management Standards.</p>		
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County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.91 Liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan in the provision, upgrading or extension of wastewater collection and treatment systems in the County to serve existing and planned future populations and enterprise in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 5.92 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</p> <p>CPO 5.93 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.</p> <p>CPO 5.94 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate future growth in the County.</p> <p>CPO 5.95 Have regard to the capacity of the Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon wastewater treatment plants (and any other plants within the County of limited capacity to accommodate the core strategy and settlement hierarchy), with any further growth in these settlements contingent on the upgrading of these treatment plants, or the submission of appropriate temporary engineering solutions for individual developments which suitably address wastewater treatment and disposal to the satisfaction of the Council and Irish Water and in accordance with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.96 Resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems.</p> <p>CPO 5.97 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>CPO 5.98 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's 'Promote changeover from septic tanks to public collection networks in all cases where this is feasible.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EPA Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE_≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended. - Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) and EPA Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater (EPA 2011), as may be amended. <p>CPO 5.99 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County.</p> <p>Surface Water Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.100 Support in conjunction with Irish Water the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>CPO 5.101 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>CPO 5.102 Require surface water storage measures to be provided in new developments where it is considered that the surface water run-off levels exceed permissible discharge rates. Storm water run-off design should be carried out in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) standards such as The SuDS Manual (CIRIA, 2015), "Dublin Corporation Stormwater Management Policy Technical Guidelines" and "Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works" incorporating "Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, Volume 2, New Developments" or any future updates.</p> <p>CPO 5.103 Ensure that in public and private developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>CPO 5.104 Maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in the county and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems including integrated constructed wetlands and to promote and support the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas.</p>
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This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report, including fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding, and any other flood risk areas that may be identified during the period of the plan or in relation to a planning application. • Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Justification Test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, (or any superseding document) and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts. • Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted. • Where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or European sites downstream, such measures will undergo environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate. The Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding. Future amendments to the plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM's Flood Risk Management Plans and as recommended in the SFRA for the Plan. <p>CPO 5.109 Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in DMS 16.205. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). In Flood Zone C, (Please also refer to Development Management Standard, Development Management Standard, DMS 16.205, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date CFRAM Programme climate scenario mapping should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council.</p> <p>Flood Zone maps should not be used to suggest that any areas are free from flood risk as they do not include groundwater or artificial drainage system flood risk. Applications for development on land identified as Benefitting Land (under Arterial Drainage Schemes /Drainage Districts) may be prone to flooding, and as such site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas. The Council will ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.</p> <p>CPO 5.110 Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) and available information from the CFRAM Studies shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>CPO 5.111 Require all applications in areas prone to flooding to be subject to the Justification Test set out in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. Compensatory flood storage provision or the provision of flood defences will not override the need for completion of the justification test.</p> <p>CPO 5.112 Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.113 Actively work with the CFRAM Programmes and catchment-based Flood Planning Groups, including where catchments go beyond the Council's administrative boundary, in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk - including those relating to storage and conveyance.</p> <p>CPO 5.114 Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Longford County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO 5.115 Ensure that the reasonable requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures in the county.</p> <p>CPO 5.116 Protect water bodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>CPO 5.117 Recognise the important role of peatland and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidance.</p> <p>CPO 5.118 Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p>						
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Appendix II of the SFRA that accompanies the Plan includes mapping at a County level of historic (page 2) and predictive (page 3) flood risk indicators.</p> <p>CPO 5.120 Ensure that applications to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following - floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events. (Please Refer to CPO 5.119 and Development Management Standard DMS 16.206).</p> <p>Waste Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.121 Support the implementation of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.122 Continue to facilitate and promote the provision of civic amenity sites, including 'bring centres' for the purposes of providing a collection point for the recycling of domestic waste, subject to siting, location, compatibility with adjacent land uses and other relevant development management criteria.</p> <p>CPO 5.123 Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</p> <p>CPO 5.124 Promote and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>CPO 5.125 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>CPO 5.126 Promote and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure/technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, with the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p> <p>CPO 5.127 Require, where necessary, Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plans as part of applications for development in accordance with "Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects" (DoEHLG, 2006). Such plans should be submitted for developments above the stated thresholds within these guidelines and as required by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>CPO 5.128 Control development within its powers through the planning process in order to prevent and/or limit the impact of potential air, water and soil pollution.</p> <p>CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>CPO 5.130 Ensure that all waste collectors and householder who use the services of authorised waste collectors are fully compliant with the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended and the Waste Management (Collection Permits) Regulations 2007, as amended.</p> <p>Energy Networks Infrastructure - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.131 Support and promote the sustainable improvement and expansion of the electricity transmission and distribution network that supply the County, subject to landscape, residential, amenity, environmental and other planning considerations.</p> <p>CPO 5.132 Facilitate the delivery and expansion of the gas network infrastructure throughout the county for both domestic and business/industry use and to have regard to the location of existing gas infrastructure pipeline in the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>CPO 5.133 Support and facilitate the development of enhanced electricity and gas supplies, and associated networks, to serve the existing and future needs of the county and facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects that might be brought forward in the lifetime of this Strategy, including the delivery of the necessary integration of transmission network requirements to facilitate linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity and gas transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner subject to appropriate environmental assessment and planning merits.</p> <p>CPO 5.134 Support roll-out of the Smart Grids and Smart Cities Action Plan enabling new connections, grid balancing, energy management and micro grid development.</p> <p>CPO 5.135 Require that the location of local energy services such as electricity/telecommunications, be undergrounded, where appropriate. Where undergrounding of cables is being pursued, proposals should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows (right of way preparation) followed by topsoil stripping (to ensure machinery does not destroy soil structure and drainage properties); • Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered; • Impacts on underground archaeology; • Impacts on soil structure and drainage; • Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation. <p>CPO 5.136 Support the development, reinforcement, renewal and expansion of the electricity transmission and distribution grid, including the development of new lines overhead lines, underground cables, pylons and substations as required to provide for the future physical and economic development of County Longford.</p> <p>Renewable Energy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.137 Promote energy conservation, increased efficiency and growth of locally based renewable energy alternatives, in an environmentally and socially acceptable and sustainable manner and having particular regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 5.138 Facilitate measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and support the implementation of actions identified in the Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and any future amendments.</p> <p>CPO 5.139 Co-operate and liaise with statutory and other energy providers in relation to power generation, in order to ensure adequate power capacity for the existing and future needs of the county.</p>
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The Strategy will include a Wind Energy Strategy for the County.</p> <p>CPO 5.143 Adopt a positive approach to renewable energy proposals, having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including community, environmental and landscape impacts and impacts on protected or designated heritage areas/structures.</p> <p>CPO 5.144 Have regard to the Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework, when adopted, when assessing any renewable energy proposals.</p> <p>CPO 5.145 Promote and support the use of renewable forms of energy as a contribution to the energy demand of all new buildings, where consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of an area.</p> <p>CPO 5.146 Support and facilitate the development of secure, appropriately-scaled energy storage facilities at suitable locations throughout the county.</p> <p>CPO 5.147 Ensure environmental assessments for new energy developments should address reasonable alternatives for location. Where existing infrastructural assets such as sub-stations, powerlines and roads already exist within proposed development areas, then such assets should be considered for sustainable use by the proposed development where the assets have capacity to absorb the new development.</p> <p>CPO 5.148 Grid connection routing options should be developed to safeguard the strategic function of the national road network in accordance with Government Policy by utilising alternative available routes. The Council requires an assessment of all alternative grid connection routing options to be submitted prior to any proposal being considered for a grid connection utilising the national road network.</p> <p>CPO 5.149 The Council shall give consideration to extending the length of the Planning Permission and the life of renewable energy projects on a case by case basis given the nature of the proposed development and the type of renewable energy project.</p> <p>Wind Energy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.150 Have regard to the principles and planning guidance set out in Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government publications relating to 'Wind Energy Development' and the DCCAE Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland and any other relevant guidance which may be issued in relation to sustainable energy provisions.</p> <p>CPO 5.151 Encourage the development of wind energy in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner and in accordance with Government policy and any forthcoming Renewable Energy Strategy for County Longford.</p> <p>CPO 5.152 Encourage proposals for commercial wind energy developments to be located on cutaway peatlands in those areas identified as having wind potential within the county, as defined in Appendix 2, subject to environmental, landscape, habitat and wildlife protection requirements being addressed.</p> <p>CPO 5.153 Ensure that the assessment of wind energy development proposals will have regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sensitivities of the county's landscapes; • visual impact on protected views, prospects, scenic routes, as well as local visual impacts; • impacts on nature conservation designations, archaeological areas, county geological sites and historic structures, public rights of way and walking routes; • local environmental impacts, including those on residential properties, such as noise and shadow flicker; • visual and environmental impacts of associated development, such as access roads, plant and grid connections; • scale, size and layout of the project and any cumulative effects due to other projects; the impact of the proposed development on protected bird and mammal species; • County Longford Wind Energy Strategy (when adopted); • impact of the grid connection from the proposed wind farm to the ESB network. <p>CPO 5.154 Ensure that proposals for energy development demonstrate that human health has been considered and has regard to the forthcoming Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise; • Shadow Flicker (for wind turbine developments, including detailed Shadow Flicker Study); • Ground Conditions/Geology (including landslide and slope stability risk assessment); • Air Quality; • Water Quality; and • Assessment of impacts on collision risk species (bird and bats). <p>CPO 5.155 Encourage and support the development of small-scale wind energy development and single turbines in urban and rural areas and Industrial Parks, provided they do not negatively impact upon environmental quality, landscape, wildlife and habitats or residential amenity or other relevant planning consideration.</p> <p>CPO 5.156 Ensure wind energy developments sited on peatlands do not increase overall carbon losses. Proposals for such development should demonstrate that the following has been considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatland stability; and • Carbon emissions balance.. <p>Solar Energy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.157 Promote the development of solar energy infrastructure in the county, in particular for on-site energy use, including solar PV, solar thermal and seasonal storage technologies. Such projects will be considered subject to environmental safeguards and the protection of natural or built heritage features, biodiversity, views and prospects, and other relevant planning considerations.</p>
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<p>CPO 5.158 Encourage the development of solar energy in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner and in accordance with Government policy and any forthcoming Renewable Energy Strategy for County Longford.</p> <p>CPO 5.159 Support and encourage the installation of solar collectors and panels for the production of heat or electricity in residential and commercial buildings, in line with relevant design criteria.</p> <p>CPO 5.160 Require that proposals for solar energy address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Landscape Character of the County. • Visual impact particularly on raised/elevated sites. • 'Zone of Visual Influence' and visual impact of the structures. • Glint and glare and the potential impact on the adjoining road networks and dwellings through the submission of an associated report. • Road access and impact on the road network serving the site during the construction and operational phases. • Archaeological Impact. • Incorporation of security measures – use of CCTV/surveillance cameras and security fencing. • Suitability/strength of the grid and accessibility to it. • Suitability of the site, having regard to other land use policies, including the need to protect areas of important built and natural heritage. • Decommissioning of obsolete infrastructure and after-use. <p>Hydro Energy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.161 Seek to ensure that proposals for hydro energy installations, including micro-hydro schemes have regard to the recommendations of Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to the protection of fisheries resources, and of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.</p> <p>CPO 5.162 Support the roll out of small-scale hydroelectric projects on rivers, water courses, dams and weirs across the county, where projects do not impact negatively on freshwater species, biodiversity and natural or built heritage features.</p> <p>CPO 5.163 Ensure that the assessment of hydro energy and micro-hydro development proposals will have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the free passage of fish and other aquatic fauna, • the sensitivity of the landscape, • the visual impact on protected views, prospects and scenic routes as well as local visual impacts; • the impacts on nature conservation designations, archaeological areas and historic structures, public rights of way and walking routes. <p>Geothermal Energy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.164 Facilitate large and smaller scale geothermal energy generating developments, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and consideration of environmental and ecological sensitivities.</p> <p>CPO 5.165 Promote the use of geothermal heat pumps for space heating and cooling as well as water heating in domestic, commercial and recreational buildings subject to the protection of water quality and any other relevant considerations.</p> <p>Bio-Energy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.166 To support EMRA and work with the Regional Assembly in developing and progressing a bioeconomy plan for the region (RSES RPO 7.37) in order to identify potential new opportunities for the County.</p> <p>CPO 5.167 Facilitate the development of projects that convert biomass to energy, subject to proper planning considerations and where it can be demonstrated that the feedstock source is sustainable.</p> <p>CPO 5.168 Promote and prioritise utilisation of existing waste streams from agricultural and forestry sectors for renewable energy projects including anaerobic digestion, subject to proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>CPO 5.169 Promote the development of waste heat technologies and the utilisation and sharing of waste heat in new or extended industrial and commercial developments, where the processes associated with the primary operation onsite generates waste heat.</p> <p>CPO 5.170 Locate biomass installations in areas that do not affect residential or visual amenity, and which are served by public roads with sufficient capacity to accommodate increased traffic flows.</p> <p>Information Communications Technologies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.171 Co-operate with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and public and private agencies where appropriate, in improving high quality broadband infrastructure throughout the County and supporting the delivery of the National Broadband Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.172 Promote and facilitate the sustainable development of a high-quality ICT network throughout the county in order to achieve balanced social and economic development, whilst protecting the amenities of urban and rural areas</p> <p>CPO 5.173 Seek to provide public Wi-Fi zones in public spaces where possible.</p> <p>CPO 5.174 Promote orderly development of telecommunications infrastructure throughout the county in accordance with the requirements of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (1996), except where they conflict with Circular Letter PL 07/12 which shall take precedence, and any subsequent guidelines. - 'Guidance on the potential location of overground telecommunications infrastructure on public roads', (Dept of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, 2015). <p>CPO 5.175 Ensure that the location of telecommunications structures should minimise and /or mitigate any adverse impacts on communities, public rights of way and the built or natural environment.</p> <p>CPO 5.176 Encourage co-location of antennae on existing support structures and to require documentary evidence as to the non-availability of this option in proposals for new structures. The shared use of existing structures will be required where the numbers of masts located in any single area is considered to have an excessive concentration.</p> <p>Major Accidents Directive – County Policy Objective</p> <p>CPO 5.177 Have regard to the following in assessing applications for new developments (including extensions);</p>			
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Electric Vehicle (EV) home charger unit in accordance with current Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) recommendations.</p> <p>A5.3: Require all multi-unit, residential developments to install 1 recharging point per 5 units, and ducting infrastructure for every parking space within the development boundary.</p> <p>A5.4: Require all non-residential developments with more than 10 parking spaces to install 1 no. recharging point per 20 parking spaces, and ducting infrastructure for at least 1 in 5 parking spaces within its property boundary.</p> <p>A5.5: Actively encourage and incentivise public and private carpooling / carsharing, assigning 10% of all public parking, and parking associated with future commercial and industrial applications, for its sole provision.</p> <p>A5.6: Require all non-residential developments to provide a minimum of 4 no. bicycle parking spaces or one per user, whichever is the greater, within 50 metres from a building entrance. Each space shall be well lit, sheltered, with cycle racks fixed to a permanent structure.</p> <p>A5.7: Prepare a feasibility study (to include route options) for a cycle route on approach and through each town within its functional area.</p> <p>A5.8: Require the registration of all new taxi/hackney vehicles to be Electric Vehicles (EVs) on the provision of rapid, car recharging been made available at each taxi rank throughout the county.</p> <p>A5.9: Prioritise the appointment of public transport service providers with the lowest, demonstrated CO2 emissions across their fleet.</p> <p>A5.10: Require all future footpaths to be a minimum of 2 metres in width, space permitting.</p> <p>A5.11: Require in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Protects (2006)', the submission of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (CDWMP) for any project in excess of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - houses or more; - aggregate floor area in excess of 1250 sq. m; - demolition or refurbishment of 100 m³ of Construction or Demolition waste; or - civil engineering projects in excess of 500 m³ of waste. <p>A5.12: Require all future, primary, secondary and special school planning applications to be accompanied by evidence of Eco-Schools / Green-Schools Programme (Green Flag) registration and conditioned for its continued enrolment.</p> <p>A5.13: Promote 23rd March every year as a climate change action day, internally and amongst the wider community through local media platforms.</p> <p>A5.14: Undertake annual monitoring and spot checks of existing refuse and segregation at all local authority owned and operated locations.</p> <p>A5.15: Facilitate community participation and/or micro-generation of renewable power, as well as community gain arrangements, while encouraging the development of small scale, community owned wind farms.</p> <p>A5.16: Convert all public streetlighting within the functional area to well designed and directed LED lights, with dimmable capabilities where preferable.</p> <p>A5.17: Source all building electricity demands from a renewable resource only.</p> <p>A5.18: Actively participate and achieve the targets as set out by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Public Sector Energy Efficiency Strategy.</p> <p>A5.19: Commission the feasibility study of Lanesborough becoming Ireland's first, 'Low Carbon Town', with reference to the Regional Enterprise Plan (REP) 2020.</p> <p>A5.20: Establish a program to prepare and publish a full Building Energy Rating (BER) inventory for all publicly owned social housing within its functional area, GDPR permitting.</p> <p>A5.21: Ensure all relevant developments take account of the Seveso-III Directive (e.g. storage of hazardous chemicals) and reduce excessive energy consumption / CO2 production.</p> <p>A5.22: Require the integration of a Building Management Systems (BMS) at its primary office locations for the benefit of reducing energy and maintenance costs.</p>		
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PPH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other higher-level planning and sectoral plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p>				

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the County's environment and sustainable development.

The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the planning framework for the future development of transport and sustainable mobility in County Longford and will, in combination with the implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans and programmes, contribute towards the overall development of the County. Many of these provisions would primarily contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air (including noise and greenhouse gas emissions), energy usage, air quality and human health. The facilitation of journeys by car, in particular, would give rise to emissions to air.

The Plan references various roads projects that are provided for by higher level plans and programmes e.g. N4 Mullingar to Longford route upgrade (RPO 8.10), measures for more recharging facilities and prioritisation of parking for Electric Vehicles in central locations (RPO 7.42), and preparation of Local Transport Plans for a number of selected settlements within the region, one of which is Longford Town (RPO 8.6). Any roads project would need to be subject to normal planning and environmental assessment processes, as well as complying with the Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure, outlined by Plan Objective CPO 5.17 in this Chapter.

Any transport plan (e.g. CPO 5.4 and CPO 5.9) will be subject to screening for SEA and AA and full assessments will be undertaken if appropriate.

The development of new and existing greenways, blueways, peatways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those between County Longford, adjoining counties and beyond has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those identified at Section 9 of this report and Objective CPO 5.17 that requires a Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments (including those for the preparation of lower tier plans and projects). The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

Objective CPO 5.81 facilitates and promotes the development of Abbeyshrule Aerodrome as a Midlands Regional Airport, subject to various, specific requirements being met. The development of an airport would have to be accompanied by significant amounts of infrastructure - including supporting public and private transport infrastructure and services and water services. Significant amounts of greenfield lands, away from existing settlements would be required with significant residual impacts likely on the landscape. Potential conflicts would be likely to arise between the project and ecology. The operation of an airport would be likely to generate significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage and would be likely to result in significant noise emissions that would have the potential to conflict with human health. The need for any airport and alternatives regarding location would have to be thoroughly examined at project-level environmental assessment. Consideration would have to be given to flight paths utilised by flights to and from existing airports. Notwithstanding these potential issues, mitigation has been integrated into CPO 5.81 requiring such an airport to: contribute towards the proper planning and sustainable development of the county; and comply with all environmental legislation and policies contained within the Plan and Higher level planning documents, including the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. CPO 5.82 would also require consideration of the surrounding heritage features including residential amenity and the architectural and amenity value of the village and the Royal Canal.

Provisions relating to water supply, wastewater and surface water management would, by protecting water resources, providing safe drinking water and appropriately treating waste water, contribute towards the protection of various environmental components including: human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna, the status of waters, flood risk management and soil. There would be potential for significant adverse environmental effects upon various environmental components to arise during construction of water services infrastructure. Such potential significant adverse effects could also arise during operation: the protection of human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the status of waters, could all be conflicted with by outflows and abstractions. CPO 5.98 requires private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, to be operated in compliance with, inter alia, EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended.

Provisions relating to the management of flood risk and surface water drainage would benefit the protection of human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, water status and existing infrastructure and services. Flood risk management infrastructure (if required) has the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas and adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects will be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan (including those identified at Section 9 of this report) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments.

Waste Management provisions incorporate circular economy principles that are supported in the RSES through RPO 10.25.

Provisions relating to energy, would contribute towards achieving various government objectives and targets including those relating to climate mitigation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the amount of energy to be consumed from renewable sources. Further general commentary on the types of potential effects arising from certain renewable energy types is provided below.

Wind Energy

This Chapter identifies that the Council will continue to support and encourage the principle of wind energy development in accordance with Government policy and having regard to the Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities or any update made thereto during the lifetime of the Plan.

Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets

Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:

- Potential impacts include those associated with construction and operation of the turbines and ancillary facilities and infrastructure (including roads and electrical infrastructure)
- Potential human health impact: shadow flicker, noise, and impacts arising from bog bursts and landslides
- Potential impact upon designated and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna including birdlife
- Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology and changes to drainage

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts on water status during construction – this could interact with drinking water sources and biodiversity • Potential impacts upon the context of protected archaeological and architectural heritage – including the context of this heritage – as well as unknown archaeological heritage • Potential impacts upon traffic during construction due to transportation of turbine components • Changes to the character of areas would be likely to occur however visual impacts would depend on various factors including the size, number and spacing of the turbines, perception of the relevant areas and any cumulative effect arising from multiple wind farms <p>Solar Energy</p> <p>Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets</p> <p>Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts on architectural heritage – including the context of this heritage – at micro scale • Potential impacts on habitats and species and micro scale • Large scale installations may have visual impacts – these would depend on perception of the relevant area, however these are unlikely to be provided for <p>Hydro-Energy</p> <p>Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets</p> <p>Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the scale and location of the development there is potential for impacts to occur on biodiversity, in particular aquatic biodiversity • Potential to impact upon the morphological, biological and chemical status of waters - this could interact with drinking water sources (in freshwater) and biodiversity • Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology • Operation could impact upon flood risk elsewhere • Potential impacts upon archaeological heritage or nearby architectural heritage, including context • Changes to the character of locations may occur however visual impacts would depend upon, inter alia, the size of the installation, ancillary facilities and the perception and visibility of the relevant area <p>Bio-Energy</p> <p>Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets. Can provide for the use of agricultural and other wastes</p> <p>Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact upon designated and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna arising from changes in vegetation. Soil structure may also be impacted upon. • Changes in farming practices may lead to changes in drainage and runoff which could impact upon biological and chemical status of waters - this could interact with drinking water sources and biodiversity • Potential human health impact: odour and noise from operation of plants • Potential impacts upon traffic during operation due to transportation of fuel to plants • Fuels derived from bio-mass still produce emissions however these are less than those derived from fossil fuels • Changes to the land cover of areas could occur however visual impacts would depend on perception of the relevant area; • Biomass plants may have visual impacts - these would depend on perception of the relevant area

8.7.5 Chapter 6: Regeneration

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Compact Growth Urban Regeneration (Housing) – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.1 Work with all relevant stakeholders in the promotion of urban 'compact growth' regeneration in County Longford and establish a database of strategic brownfield and infill sites so that a 'pipeline' of development opportunities can be kept under review through monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>CPO 6.2 Facilitate urban development on infill/brownfield sites through the redevelopment and regeneration of underused, vacant or derelict town centre and urban lands to create more desirable places in which people can live and work.</p> <p>Piecemeal development of individual plots will generally not be permitted, unless it is satisfactorily demonstrated that the development will not jeopardise the comprehensive redevelopment of surrounding lands.</p> <p>CPO 6.3 Enable infill and appropriate brownfield redevelopment in order to maximise the efficient use of existing infrastructure and services and promote a positive modal shift towards sustainable transport use.</p> <p>CPO 6.4 Promote increased urban densities and building heights at suitable locations in accordance with the settlement hierarchy, in accordance with Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2018), or any future amendments or updates of the same.</p> <p>CPO 6.5 Enhance accessibility and sustainable mobility within the town centres of Longford, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Ballymahon, Lanesborough and Drumlish, by improving links between the core and surrounding areas through the further integration of public transport, walking and cycling facilities.</p> <p>CPO 6.6 Set out measures to reduce vacancy and the underuse of existing building stock and support initiatives that promote the reuse, refurbishment and retrofitting of existing buildings within urban centres.</p> <p>CPO 6.7 Support efforts to deal with waste and contamination relating to brownfield regeneration.</p> <p>CPO 6.8 Deliver compact urban growth through the delivery of innovative adaptable urban schemes.</p> <p>CPO 6.9 Deliver compact growth and regeneration through active land management</p> <p>CPO 6.10 Encourage the development of improved connectivity, provision of services and good quality public realm in urban locations and create an environment for investment in high quality residential development and supporting services and amenities such as schools, shops, recreation areas and open spaces.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CHL</p>		<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CHL</p>	

<p>CPO 6.11 Carry out master planning to ensure that large areas of land, are appropriately planned and developed in a sustainable manner, which includes provision for phasing, infrastructure provision, community facilities, density, layout, open spaces, landscaping and development design briefs and statements.</p> <p>CPO 6.12 Require all development proposals for strategic brownfield and infill sites be accompanied by a site brief and/or masterplan that sets out a phased programme for the regeneration of the site and demonstrates how the proposal will comply with National Guidelines that seek to integrate principles of good urban design, planning and placemaking.</p> <p>Economic Urban Regeneration – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.13 Work with all relevant stakeholders in the promotion of economic regeneration and support infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO 6.14 Engage with communities, landowners, public and private sector agencies, the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and other council departments in terms of regeneration opportunities for the towns and County.</p> <p>CPO 6.15 Support the consolidation of the town centres of Longford, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Ballymahon, Lanesborough and Drumlish and the enhancement and linking of brownfield and outlying sites to the town centres, with a focus on the regeneration of underused buildings and strategic sites.</p> <p>CPO 6.16 Support the development and regeneration of publicly owned land banks in the 'Key Town' of Longford and the self-sustaining and growth towns of Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Lanesborough, Granard and Drumlish for residential, employment, education, community, cultural and recreational opportunities, and target the utilisation of available funding where available.</p> <p>CPO 6.17 Support social inclusion measures including the revitalisation of areas by physical regeneration, planning, investment and community development. In particular attention will be given to deprived areas in the urban areas of Longford Town, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesborough, Ballymahon and Drumlish.</p> <p>CPO 6.18 Support the development of projects which support community led themes of Local Action Plans, in terms of digital connectivity, enterprise creation opportunities, public realm and environment, tourism infrastructure, promotion and marketing.</p> <p>CPO 6.19 Secure projects to promote social inclusion and community integration in conjunction with EU initiatives on Urban Security.</p> <p>CPO 6.20 Develop an Action Plan for Town Centre Renewal which brings redundant, under-utilised and derelict land and buildings back into active use as a first preference ahead of peripheral areas, and which reduces the need for greenfield development, supporting the urban fabric and re using existing resources.</p> <p>CPO 6.21 Support the viability of small towns and villages through sustainable targeted measures that address vacant premises and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes targeted in core areas.</p> <p>CPO 6.22 Encourage pilot projects for the re-use of brownfield sites and encourage active temporary uses, where feasible, in order to encourage activation of vacant sites that require longer lead in time for regeneration.</p> <p>CPO 6.23 Ensure development proposals on infill sites within existing streetscapes provide active frontages.</p> <p>CPO 6.24 Ensure in accordance with the 'Framework for Town Centre Renewal, 2017' that 'health checks' are carried out for town centres and that more vibrant town centres are created in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility • Pedestrian Flows • Environmental Quality • Public Realm • Diversity of Uses <p>CPO 6.25 Promote access to sustainable transport and availability of alternative transport modes such as walking and cycling between strategic areas and services.</p> <p>CPO 6.26 Support and provision and development of serviced industrial and commercial sites in the towns and villages throughout the County, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 6.27 Support the provision and development of Enterprise Hubs in the towns and villages throughout the County, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 6.28 Promote high speed broadband availability to communities and the potential for remote working.</p> <p>CPO 6.29 Develop initiatives to promote the expansion of the Gas network in collaboration with Gas Networks Ireland.</p> <p>CPO 6.30 Promote measures to enhance investment opportunities in employment generation in conjunction with cross regional initiatives.</p> <p>Heritage Urban Regeneration – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.31 Work with all relevant stakeholders in the promotion of heritage led regeneration.</p> <p>CPO 6.32 Promote the sensitive and adaptive reuse of Protected Structures, historic building stock and industrial structures, where appropriate</p> <p>CPO 6.33 Undertake initiatives to promote placemaking and economic vibrancy in terms of Town Centre Health checks, historic and public realm plans and community led village design and enhancement statements.</p> <p>CPO 6.34 Seek where possible European, national and regional regeneration related funding to support heritage led regeneration projects.</p> <p>Rural Regeneration – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.35 Collaborate with all relevant stakeholders in the promotion of rural regeneration in County Longford.</p> <p>CPO 6.36 Encourage in rural areas that have experienced decline or stagnation, sustainable growth, having regard to the viability of smaller towns and rural settlements.</p> <p>CPO 6.37 Support the regeneration of rural towns and villages through identification of regeneration projects for rural villages and rural areas and utilisation of appropriate funding opportunities.</p> <p>CPO 6.38 Support the recommendations of the RIAI's Toolkit for Towns and Villages in relation to rural regeneration.</p> <p>CPO 6.39 Encourage provision of serviced or serviceable sites in a manner that provides a structured space for new enterprise in order to sustain smaller rural communities.</p> <p>CPO 6.40 Support the development of small industrial estates on the edge of towns in order to facilitate local enterprise and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>CPO 6.41 Support and protect existing rural economies and valuable agricultural lands to ensure sustainable food supply.</p>		
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<p>CPO 6.42 Support the diversification of rural economies to create additional jobs and maximise opportunities in emerging sectors, such as agri-business, renewable energy, rural tourism and forestry enterprise.</p> <p>CPO 6.43 Support the designation of the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park as a UNESCO Biosphere candidate site in the County.</p> <p>CPO 6.44 Support the development of Longford as a tourism hub having regard to its accessibility to key tourist destinations in the Region, including Center Parcs, and proximity to natural amenities and recreational opportunities.</p> <p>CPO 6.45 Support and encourage the provision of additional suitable tourist accommodation in appropriate locations throughout the County.</p> <p>Active Land Management – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.46 Promote more active land management and co-ordinate provision of enabling infrastructure particularly on publicly owned lands.</p> <p>CPO 6.47 Support the National Land Development Agency and other relevant agencies in co-ordinating and developing large, strategically located landbanks, particularly publicly owned lands, in town centres and other locations as deemed appropriate throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 6.48 Use, where appropriate, Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) and other incentives including development contributions in combination with the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 in order to encourage urban regeneration of brownfield lands over the development of greenfield sites</p> <p>CPO 6.49 Maintain and update a Vacant Sites Register in accordance with the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.</p> <p>CPO 6.50 Facilitate the implementation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, by utilising site activation measures, including the provision of the Vacant Site Levy, to assist in bringing vacant and underutilised zoned land into beneficial use.</p> <p>Regeneration Areas – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.51 Promote the appropriate development and regeneration of the designated 'regeneration areas' identified in this Plan and to include 'vacant sites'.</p> <p>CPO 6.52 Promote the development and regeneration of the strategic sites identified in the Longford Local Area Plan.</p> <p>CPO 6.53 Identify additional 'regeneration areas' as required, to include areas suffering from social and economic deprivation, both within Longford town and throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 6.54 Promote innovative solutions to ensure social, economic and environmental gain for communities.</p> <p>Master Plans – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.55 Masterplans shall be prepared in consultation with the community and also with relevant statutory bodies.</p> <p>CPO 6.56 Carry out master planning to ensure that large areas of land are appropriately planned and developed in a sustainable manner, which include provision for phasing, infrastructure provision, community facilities, density, layout, open spaces, landscaping and development design briefs and statements.</p> <p>CPO 6.57 Promote the development of the strategic sites identified in the Longford Local Area Plan on a masterplan basis.</p> <p>CPO 6.58 Finalise and agree a masterplan for the appropriate regeneration and reaturing of the floodplain areas of the Ballyminion area of Longford Town.</p> <p>CPO 6.59 Prepare masterplans for additional areas as required, such as the Ardmacassa area of Longford Town and other areas suffering from social and economic deprivation both within Longford town and throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 6.60 Encourage private development in accordance with a detailed and agreed masterplan that fully addresses the potential of the site in its wider context.</p> <p>CPO 6.61 Seek funding from a variety of local, national and EU sources as part of the dedicated County regeneration initiative.</p> <p>Longford Town Regeneration Opportunities – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.62 Support and prioritise Longford Town regeneration opportunities and the associated co-ordination of relevant stakeholders in recognition of its 'Key Town' status within the County.</p> <p>CPO 6.63 Support Longford Town as a strategic portal to the northwest.</p> <p>CPO 6.64 Support Longford Town in its role as a support centre to the regional growth centre of Athlone.</p> <p>CPO 6.65 Support Longford town in its role as a strategic employment centre.</p> <p>CPO 6.66 Support the development of Longford Town as a tourism hub.</p> <p>CPO 6.67 Support social inclusion measures including the revitalisation of areas by physical regeneration, planning, investment and community development, and recreational opportunities.</p> <p>CPO 6.69 Support the consolidation of the town centre and the enhancement and linking of brownfield and outlying sites to the town centre, with a focus on the regeneration of underused buildings and strategic sites.</p> <p>CPO 6.70 Enhance accessibility and sustainable mobility within the town centre by improving links between the core and surrounding areas through the further integration of public transport, walking and cycling facilities.</p> <p>CPO 6.71 Connect educational, recreational, employment, civic and town centre economic activity, and in particular improve the relationship between the Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall) and the town core.</p> <p>CPO 6.72 Build on tourism investment and the profile of the Camlin River in Longford Town through the strategic development of recreational trails and networks.</p> <p>CPO 6.73 Create north-south linkages from the Canal to the Camlin River incorporating the Royal Canal Greenway and Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall), linking areas of tourism and amenity potential such as; Connolly Barracks, St. Mel's Cathedral, the Backstage Theatre in relation to the town core.</p> <p>CPO 6.74 Promote the development of the Camlin Quarter area of Longford Town in accordance with the Camlin Quarter Plan, or other relevant subsequent plan / strategy.</p> <p>CPO 6.75 Develop the Camlin Quarter (including Connolly Barracks, Church St. Great Water Street, Little Water Street onto the Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall), by enhancing the public realm, investigation of potential land uses, landbank assembly and connectivity improvements.</p>		
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<p>CPO 6.76 Work with elected members and support community capacity building through Town Teams and the URBACT Local Group, in delivering improved regeneration.</p> <p>CPO 6.77 Recognise the importance of universal accessibility and promote relevant initiatives in conjunction with representative organisations which will include various interventions in the Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall), the progress of the Longford Connected Project to address targeted areas, and the acquisition of ORIS investment or other relevant funding stream for works to the Camlin Bridge.</p> <p>CPO 6.78 Support the development of projects identified in the Military Assets as Public Spaces Integrated Action Plan and any other relevant plan or strategy for Longford Town.</p> <p>CPO 6.79 Promote the development of the Ballyminion Area of Longford Town in accordance with an adopted Masterplan for the area, or other relevant subsequent plan / strategy.</p> <p>CPO 6.80 Address barriers to development in the Ballyminion area, consulting with the Enterprise, Infrastructure and Planning departments on potential land activation and flood control measures, and with other stakeholders in the public and private sector as appropriate</p> <p>Regeneration Opportunities (Other Locations) – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.81 Promote the delivery of resource-based tourism initiatives at Granard, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Lanesborough (in conjunction with Roscommon County Council) and Drumlish and provide enhanced, sustainable links between these in conjunction with the community, Waterways Ireland and Bord na Mona.</p> <p>CPO 6.82 Ensure a coordinated approach to development of rural and urban areas, greenways, blueways, and the development of Longford, Ballymahon and Lanesborough as destination towns which are part of wider national and regional networks.</p> <p>CPO 6.83 Recognise the importance of universal accessibility and promote relevant initiatives in conjunction with representative organisations, which will include provision of a walkway installation in Drumlish, and universal access to GAA facilities throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 6.84 Build on tourism investment in Center Parks and enhance Longford County as a destination, by enhancing the Royal Canal, Dublin-Westport Greenway, and Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park through the strategic development of recreational trails and networks.</p> <p>CPO 6.85 Promote the development of Lanesborough – Ballyleague in accordance with the adopted Economic and Enterprise Development Strategy for Lanesborough – Ballyleague, or other relevant subsequent plan / strategy.</p>	<p>Climate Action and 'Just Transition' Fund Opportunities – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 6.86 Support the development and delivery of projects in County Longford under the Just Transition Fund and as identified in any related Implementation Plans.</p> <p>CPO 6.87 Investigate the use of State Agency Lands in County Longford for Green Energy Projects.</p> <p>CPO 6.88 Examine the potential for using the existing infrastructure in the Lough Ree power plant in Lanesborough for the development of an energy/tourism hub in the midlands.</p> <p>CPO 6.89 Further expand the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure nationally, including the enhancement of the charging network in County Longford.</p> <p>CPO 6.90 Support the development of digital Hubs for Remote Working in County Longford.</p> <p>CPO 6.91 Work with Gas Networks Ireland, Teagasc, Irish Water, Bord na Mona, Just Transition process, and the private sector to develop and deliver renewable energy solutions.</p> <p>CPO 6.92 Prioritise regeneration proposals that focus heavily on sustainable responses to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>CPO 6.93 Seek to utilise the Council response to Climate Change as a catalyst for future regeneration within the county and ensure the alignment of all future proposals with its Climate Change Actions and relevant policy, and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024.</p> <p>Regeneration Climate Actions</p> <p>Longford County Council shall:</p> <p>A6.1 Discourage single land use and typologies within large scale developments, as considered by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>A6.2 Require all large-scale developments (as determined by the Planning Authority) to submit supporting and professionally prepared carbon footprint calculations, and an outline of the proposed measure to be implemented to offset same;</p> <p>A6.3 Seek an annual flagship Regeneration application, to exclude those relating to trails, exclusively for the benefit of climate change.</p> <p>A6.4 Prepare a marketing leaflet for Longford Town and towns within the functional area to encourage development within the serviced settlements.</p>	<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Regeneration provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan – including the important provisions relating to Regeneration included under this Chapter – will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p>
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<p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPO 6.1 "establish a database of strategic brownfield and infill sites so that a 'pipeline' of development opportunities can be kept under review through monitoring and reporting." CPO 6.2 "Facilitate urban development on infill/brownfield sites through the redevelopment and regeneration of underused, vacant or derelict town centre and urban lands to create more desirable places in which people can live and work." CPO 6.3 "Enable infill and appropriate brownfield redevelopment in order to maximise the efficient use of existing infrastructure and services and promote a positive modal shift towards sustainable transport use." CPO 6.5 "Enhance accessibility and sustainable mobility within the town centres of Longford, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Ballymahon and Lanesborough, by improving links between the core and surrounding areas through the further integration of public transport, walking and cycling facilities." CPO 6.7 "Support efforts to deal with waste and contamination relating to brownfield regeneration." CPO 6.31 "heritage led regeneration." CPO 6.32 "Promote the sensitive and adaptive reuse of Protected Structures, historic building stock and industrial structures, where appropriate" CPO 6.34 "support heritage led regeneration projects." Climate Action and 'Just Transition' Fund Opportunities Actions 	
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8.7.6 Chapter 7: Placemaking

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Healthy Placemaking – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 7.1 Support new development which supports public health policy.</p> <p>CPO 7.2 Promote the development of healthy and attractive places by ensuring exposure of children to the promotion of unhealthy foods is reduced such as through the careful consideration of the location of fast food outlets in the vicinity of schools and parks.</p> <p>CPO 7.3 Provide alternatives to the car and to prioritise and promote cycling and walking in the design of streets and public spaces.</p> <p>CPO 7.4 Promote and encourage connectivity improvements to promote sustainable travel in urban and rural areas in accordance with relevant funding initiatives.</p> <p>CPO 7.5 Encourage sustainable and low carbon transport modes through the promotion of alternative modes of transport and 'walkable communities', whereby a range of facilities and services between residential and employment centres will be accessible within short walking or cycling distance.</p> <p>CPO 7.6 Have regard to national policy as set out in 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' and the 'Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS)' and regional policy as set out in the Guiding Principles for 'Healthy Placemaking' and 'Integration of Land Use and Transport' in the EMRA RSES.</p> <p>CPO 7.7 Cater for all levels of disability, through the appropriate mitigation of the built environment, and in particular for the needs of an ageing population.</p> <p>CPO 7.8 Promote the development of healthy and attractive places by ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of open space should consider types of recreation and amenity uses required; Public open spaces to have good connectivity and be accessible by safe, secure walking and cycling routes; Open space to be planned for on a multi-functional basis incorporating ecosystem services, climate change measures, Green Infrastructure and key landscape features in their design. <p>Public Realm Improvements – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 7.9 Prepare Design Guidelines to provide for improvements in the appearance of streetscapes and for revitalising spaces.</p> <p>CPO 7.10 Promote the value of placemaking in town centres, by preparing a Placemaking Strategy for the towns of Longford, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard and Lanesborough, and any other urban areas as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 7.11 Seek funding to support the preparation of site-specific Public Realm Strategies to enhance the unique characteristics and assets of Longford's towns and villages.</p> <p>CPO 7.12 Ensure the best quality of design is achieved for all new commercial and residential development, which respects and enhances the specific characteristics of the different towns and villages in the County, by promoting quality urban design that accommodates creative patterns of use having regard to the physical, cultural, and social identities of individual settlements.</p> <p>CPO 7.13 Provide for improvements to the appearance of streetscapes and revitalisation of public spaces for example with cost effective, temporary uses that build on the longer-term vision for space.</p> <p>CPO 7.14 Apply the following key attributes when considering public realm and public space enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible - connected and linked permeable spaces to ensure ease of movement; Functional - safe, adaptable and social environments to attract and foster activity; Attractive - visually pleasing spaces with high quality design, materials and installations (lighting, furniture and signage) based on a singular common design theme; 	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	

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Distinctive - reference to local context and building on the character and identity of place.

- **Universal Design – County Policy Objectives**
It is the County Policy Objective to:
 - CPO 7.15 Require proposals for public realm and built environment enhancements, include inclusive universal design principles.
 - CPO 7.16 Require that all new developments and social infrastructure provision, including public open spaces, are accessible and inclusive for a range of users and provide for an age friendly and disability friendly society by way of appropriate design of the built environment.
 - CPO 7.17 Promote simple and considered design interventions in urban environments as follows:
 - Elimination of stepped features to facilitate wheelchair users and to assist people with prams, suitcases or shopping trolleys, those using walking or mobility aids and people with impaired vision;
 - Use of clear, well-placed signage and way-marking using recognised symbols or pictograms and visual supports to help the visually impaired and people with reading or cognitive difficulties and which can be understood by different language speakers;
 - Provision of sensory-friendly designs and layouts, with considered lighting and wayfinding installations together with sensory sensitive physical spaces to provide an inclusive and autism friendly environment;
 - Provision of designated parking spaces for older persons close to shopping centre entrances and any other such places as deemed appropriate;
 - Provision of outdoor retractable seating for older and infirmed persons;
 - Provision of seating areas for older persons and infirmed persons in commercial and retail premises.
- **Town Centre Placemaking – County Policy Objectives**
It is the County Policy Objective to:
 - CPO 7.18 Support investment in town and village centres so that they can become more sustainable places for communities to live, work and enjoy.
 - CPO 7.19 Promote a range of complimentary commercial activities in existing buildings previously in single commercial use.
 - CPO 7.20 Ensure that all town and village centre proposals positively enhance the public realm.
 - CPO 7.21 Support the key attributes and strategies of the Framework for Town Centre Renewal 2017.
 - CPO 7.22 Support the use of targeted financial incentives to strengthen the role of town and villages centres.
- **Industry and Enterprise Placemaking – County Policy Objectives**
It is the County Policy Objective to:
 - CPO 7.23 Require all new enterprise / industry proposals to submit Design Statements which provide a positive visual presence underpinned by sustainable and energy efficient principles.
 - CPO 7.24 Ensure Greenfield Developments integrate with existing landscape features and incorporate natural features into the site layout.
 - CPO 7.25 Require industry / enterprise proposals to be accompanied with a Mobility Management Plan (in accordance with NRA and TII threshold requirements) to include a site-specific programme to facilitate and promote sustainable operational practices, including the use of public transport services, walking and cycling.

- **Social and Community Infrastructure Provision – County Policy Objectives**
It is the County Policy Objective to:
 - CPO 7.26 Work collaboratively with relevant service providers and stakeholders to facilitate the provision of community services and social infrastructure, where appropriate, in order to meet the needs of new and existing communities.
 - CPO 7.27 Support the relevant actions of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Longford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to deliver social infrastructure needs and to reduce poverty and social exclusion.
 - CPO 7.28 Support the planned provision of easily accessible social, community, cultural and recreational facilities and ensure all communities have access to a range of facilities that meet their needs easily accessible by walking, cycling or public transport.
 - CPO 7.29 Encourage shared use and co-location of social and community facilities, in order to align service provision, use land more efficiently and facilitate opportunities for further inclusion and community participation.
 - CPO 7.30 Ensure crime prevention measures are incorporated into the design of community buildings and recreational areas.
 - CPO 7.31 Ensure the integration of age friendly and family friendly strategies in all design proposals and that provision is made for flexible housing typologies, and that buildings and public spaces are designed for all, including older people, disabled people and people with young children.
 - CPO 7.32 Support initiatives to increase social integration of minority groups, including non-Irish nationals and Travellers.
 - CPO 7.33 Secure the implementation of the Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme and to review this programme, if required and/or deemed to be necessary, during the Plan period.
- **Healthcare and Care Facilities – County Policy Objectives**
It is the County Policy Objective to:
 - CPO 7.34 Facilitate the development of primary health care centres, hospitals, clinics, and facilities to cater for the specific needs of an ageing population in accordance with the settlement strategy and core strategy.
 - CPO 7.35 Support and encourage the development of sustainable retirement villages and sheltered housing for older persons in appropriate serviced town and village locations in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
 - CPO 7.36 Implement the following criteria when designing proposals for residential care homes, retirement homes, nursing homes, retirement villages and sheltered accommodation:
 - Location/Placemaking - Locate new developments close (walking distance) to services and amenities;
 - Physical Considerations – Employment of Universal Design standards;
 - Technology - Integrate technology into developments, enhancing safety and security, health monitoring, comfort and social connectedness;
 - Social Supports - Integrate social supports into developments, access to information, find non-health service-based solutions;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate provision of open space informed by the need to cater for all levels of disability and in particular the needs of an ageing population and mobility impaired users, in line with Ministerial and Departmental guidelines; • Apply standards outlined in the Housing Options for Our Ageing Population and the Housing Agency document 'Thinking Ahead: Independent and Supported Housing Modes for an Ageing Population'; • Provision of adequate parking facilities; • Innovative high-quality design and materials; • Potential impact on the residential amenities of adjoining properties. <p>Education – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 7.37 Work collaboratively with the Department of Education and Skills and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to ensure a planned approach to education provision and to the location of school facilities within access to public transport and sustainable travel modes (i.e. walking, cycling).</p> <p>CPO 7.38 Ensure in areas where significant new housing is proposed, an assessment of need regarding schools' provision is carried out in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.</p> <p>CPO 7.39 Ensure Local Area Plans prepared over the lifetime of the Development Plan, designate new school sites at accessible, pedestrian, cycle and public transport friendly locations.</p> <p>CPO 7.40 Develop a programme for existing schools to facilitate safe walking, cycling or ease of access to public transport alternatives.</p> <p>CPO 7.41 To support the intensification of development (for educational purposes) on existing school sites.</p> <p>Recreation and Open Space Provision – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 7.42 Support the development of recreation and open space in accordance with the EMRA RSES Recreation and Open Space Guiding Principles and Guiding Principles for Healthy Placemaking.</p> <p>CPO 7.43 Promote the development of a wide variety of high quality accessible open space areas, for both active and passive use, and formal and informal activities in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 7.44 Provide multifunctional open spaces at locations deemed appropriate providing for both passive and active uses.</p> <p>CPO 7.45 Assess the existing parks and open space assets in the County over the life of the Development Plan to identify opportunities for improvements where necessary to increase their usefulness as recreational spaces.</p> <p>CPO 7.46 Resist the loss of existing public open space, unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.</p> <p>CPO 7.47 Ensure public open space is accessible and designed so that passive surveillance is provided.</p> <p>Sports Facilities – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 7.48 Support the provision of multi-purpose sports halls, all-weather playing pitches and associated facilities in appropriate locations and promote the provision, improvement and expansion of sports facilities within the County subject to normal planning criteria and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p> <p>CPO 7.49 Support local sports groups, community groups and other groups in the development of facilities through the reservation of suitable land, the provision and development of outdoor and indoor sporting and community facilities, and the provision of funding where available and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 7.50 Ensure that new leisure facilities, where possible, are located in proximity to public transportation routes and where they can best meet the needs of the community that the facilities are intended to serve.</p> <p>CPO 7.51 Facilitate the development of children's play areas and playgrounds in proximity to existing and proposed neighbourhoods, where feasible.</p> <p>CPO 7.52 Support the development of sport and recreational facilities and community-related projects through the Council's Capital Programme.</p> <p>Libraries – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 7.53 Continue to expand and improve the library service to meet the needs of the community, subject to finance and in line with the objectives and priorities of Our Public Libraries 2022: Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities.</p> <p>CPO 7.54 Enhance and improve library facilities in County Longford, and to retain and develop the library headquarters for the County.</p> <p>Fire Services – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 7.55 Acquire and provide an appropriate site for a new fire station in Ballymahon Town.</p> <p>CPO 7.56 Support the upgrade and extension of fire stations as appropriate to cater for the needs of the County.</p> <p>CPO 7.57 Ensure communities are adequately serviced by a modern and effective Fire Service and to facilitate the accommodation of fire service facilities in locations that allow ease of access and safe functioning with respect to the road network.</p> <p>CPO 7.58 Continue to assess and evaluate applications for fire safety certificates through the Chief Fire Officer and pursue its fire prevention programme.</p> <p>CPO 7.59 Provide advice and guidance with regard to proposed developments in order to ensure that appropriate provision is incorporated in the design of developments that reduce the likelihood of injury or damage to property.</p> <p>Places of Worship – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 7.60 Encourage and facilitate the development of places of worship in appropriate locations in urban centres and proximate to residential communities.</p> <p>Burial Grounds – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 7.61 Facilitate the provision of traditional burial grounds, eco-friendly burial grounds, crematoria, and the extension of existing cemeteries and associated facilities, as appropriate, to cater for the needs of the County.</p>
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<p>subject to appropriate planning considerations, including ground and surface water, environmental, noise and traffic impacts.</p> <p>CPO 7.62 Facilitate and support the development of multi-denominational burial grounds, having an awareness of the needs of multi-faith and non-religious communities.</p> <p>CPO 7.63 Ensure that the cemeteries and associated facilities for which the Council is responsible are accessible and appropriately maintained.</p> <p>CPO 7.64 Encourage local community groups to develop, manage and maintain burial facilities.</p> <p>CPO 7.65 Protect the cultural heritage of historical burial grounds within the County and encourage their management and maintenance in accordance with best conservation practice.</p> <p>Placemaking Climate Context and Associated Actions</p> <p>Longford County Council shall:</p> <p>A7.1 Prepare of an overarching landscaping plan for the towns of Longford, Ballymahon, Granard, Lanesborough and Edgeworthstown to identify pocket park, vertical landscaping, and green roof opportunities, and micro-spaces in Council public ownership to be immediately exploited, alongside an ambition to improve connectivity between green spaces, and the implement of same with stakeholder approval;</p> <p>A7.2 Prioritise the installation of soft-scaping over hardscaping within our towns and villages wherever possible, and ensure adequate understanding, adherence and address of the maintenance requirements of all existing and proposed surface treatments;</p> <p>A7.3 Encourage all large-scale development proposals to actively assess and demonstrate, increased and/or improved quality social spaces, both externally and internally;</p> <p>A7.4 The design of all open spaces to be professionally and adequately designed and orientated at its most preferred location within a scheme, and accompanied by a finishes schedule of highest quality and of sustainable materials;</p> <p>A7.5 Encourage the installation of awnings and retention of tree canopy cover where practicable, within the commercial areas of the county towns and villages;</p> <p>A7.6 Require all future residential developments over 10 no. or more units, to submit a Social and Community Statement, setting out the measures to be implemented that will bring about improved social benefit and amenity to the area (e.g. multiple house typologies, accessible housing, social services community housing, creche, etc).</p>			<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Placemaking provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan – including the important provisions relating to Placemaking included under this Chapter – will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by the placemaking initiatives outlined in this Chapter to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPO 7.2 "healthy and attractive places" • CPO 7.3 "to provide alternatives to the car and to prioritise and promote cycling and walking in the design of streets and public spaces" • CPO 7.4 "Encourage sustainable and low carbon transport modes through the promotion of alternative modes of transport and 'walkable communities'" • CPO 7.7 "Cater for all levels of disability, through the appropriate mitigation of the built environment, and in particular for the needs of an ageing population." • CPO 7.8 "Open space to be planned for on a multi-functional basis incorporating ecosystem services, climate change measures, Green Infrastructure and key landscape features in their design" • CPO 7.9 "Prepare Design Guidelines to provide for improvements in the appearance of streetscapes and for revitalising spaces." • CPO 7.10 "Placemaking Strategy for the towns of Longford, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard and Lanesborough" • CPO 7.14 Apply the following key attributes when considering public realm and public space enhancements: Accessible...; Functional...; Attractive...; Distinctive...; Placemaking Climate Context and Associated Actions
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8.7.7 Chapter 8: Economic Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Economic Development Strategy - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.1 Facilitate and support the growth of the economy in County Longford and the Midland Area in a sustainable manner, to create a viable and favourable economic environment for business and enterprise, whilst delivering sustainable jobs, employment opportunity and an enriched standard of living.</p> <p>CPO 8.2 Support and facilitate the economic development of the county in accordance with the Economic Development Strategy of the County Development Plan, across a range of sectors. There will be a general presumption against development that would prejudice the achievement of the Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Promote and facilitate regional-scale employment development as a priority in the Primary Economic Growth Centre of Longford Town, supported by the Secondary Economic Growth Town of Granard, and the Key Employment Centres of Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon and Lanesborough.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 Promote small towns and villages as local employment centres where investment can be focused on creating additional employment opportunities that will sustain a local rural hinterland.</p> <p>CPO 8.5 Ensure that sufficient land is zoned for economic activity through the County Development Plan and any relevant Local Areas Plan. Such land will normally be protected from inappropriate development that would prejudice its long-term development for employment and economic activity.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 Ensure that zoning for employment uses will be carried out in a manner which protects investment in the national road network, in accordance with Chapter 2 of the DECLG guidelines on 'Spatial Planning and National Roads'.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 Have regard to the County Policy Objectives contained in Section 5.2.3 of this Plan when assessing proposals for economic or employment generating development and their potential impact on the road and street network where the protection of routes of strategic importance within the County from further access creation and intensification of existing accesses and development on national routes is a key consideration. Development on the National and Regional Routes outlined in CPO 5.1.9 shall be carefully considered to preserve their strategic role and safeguard the strategic function of the national road network, in accordance with the provisions of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012).</p> <p>CPO 8.8 Collaborate with key agencies in the identification, scope, development and promoting of sites as potential enterprise landing spaces throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 Support economic development at locations that maximise existing infrastructure provision, particularly in relation to locating high employee generating enterprise and industry proximate to high capacity public transport networks and links.</p> <p>CPO 8.10 Support existing successful clusters in County Longford, such as those in the manufacturing, pharmaceutical, life sciences and agri-food sectors, and promote new and emerging clustering opportunities across all economic sectors within the County.</p> <p>CPO 8.11 Support and promote proposals for SME business development in centres where existing infrastructural facilities are available or where they can be provided with services and good communications.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 Support start-up businesses and small-scale industrial enterprises, particularly those that have a creative and innovative dimension.</p> <p>CPO 8.13 Support the use of town centre locations for new service-focussed enterprises.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 Identify suitable locations and support the provision of co-working facilities, digital hubs/eHubs and eWorking centres throughout the County that function as outreach hubs for city-based employers and promote flexible working arrangements.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 Accommodate valid propositions for enterprise development that may emerge for which there are strong locational or asset-based drivers that do not apply to the same extent elsewhere and to promote the development of 'niche' products.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 Encourage the reuse of sites and/or existing building stock where possible.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 Sites to be developed for industrial and commercial purposes shall be designed to the highest architectural standards to provide quality environments with adequate provision for landscaping, car and truck parking and circulation, and the disposal of foul and surface water following appropriate treatment.</p> <p>CPO 8.18 Ensure the protection of the environment in the installation of new developments through promoting the application of the Best Available Technology (BAT) principle in terms of control of emissions/potential pollutants.</p> <p>CPO 8.19 Seek to ensure that any significant future employment developments in the vicinity of the strategic road network will be accompanied by a mobility management plan that seeks to provide for an appropriate level of non-car-based transport options, utilising the strategic public transport network.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Promote rural economic development by adopting a policy framework that recognises the need to promote the long-term sustainable social and environmental development of rural areas, encourages economic diversification and facilitates the growth of rural enterprises.</p> <p>CPO 8.21 Promote the development of high-quality tourism, leisure and complementary activities that can build on and complement the existing attractions in the area.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 Promote the principles of good placemaking with an emphasis on quality employment and residential developments in proximity to each other in order to reduce the need to travel and ensure that suitable local accommodation is available to meet the needs of workers in the County.</p> <p>CPO 8.23 Ensure a high-quality living environment in Longford which will help to retain the county's indigenous skilled population and to attract additional high skilled labour into the county.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 Collaborate with agencies such as Enterprise Ireland, Connect Ireland and IDA Ireland in identifying key, strategic employment land banks within the County to principally accommodate prospective Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) employment and/or IDA Ireland affiliated enterprises and ensure that priority is given to sites and landbanks within settlement boundaries in the first instance and only where it can be demonstrated that no alternative landbank / landing space can be suitably identified, will a location outside of a defined settlement be considered.</p> <p>CPO 8.25 Facilitate the delivery of strategic employment landing space to principally accommodate FDI employment and IDA Ireland affiliated enterprises where appropriate and ensure that priority is given to sites and landbanks within settlement boundaries in the first instance and only where it can be demonstrated that no alternative landbank / landing space can be suitably identified, will a location outside of a defined settlement be considered.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

		<p>Primary Growth Centre – Longford Town - Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.26 Promote the Key Town of Longford Town as a primary centre of employment in the County and support the provision of increased employment through the expansion of the existing enterprise ecosystem in Longford and smart specialisation.</p> <p>CPO 8.27 Support the provision of physical infrastructure and zoned lands to realise the delivery of strategic employment lands in central accessible locations.</p> <p>CPO 8.28 Support and promote Longford Town as a key hub for employment, enterprise and tourism within the Gateway Region, and in its role as an economic driver complementing the Regional Growth Centre of Athlone.</p> <p>CPO 8.29 Support the development of a creative and innovation hub and co-working space within the settlement</p> <p>CPO 8.30 Support the development of a cross sectoral approach to promote Longford as a key tourism hub in the Midlands, building on Fáilte Ireland's Hidden Heartlands brand and the Shannon Tourism Masterplan.</p> <p>CPO 8.31 Develop the recreation and amenity potential of waterways including the River Shannon and Lough Ree and the development of a greenway network including the Galway to Dublin Cycleway, subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan 2017, including measures relating to environmental management and sustainable development</p> <p>CPO 8.32 Promote the plan led development and regeneration of publicly owned land banks in Longford Town for employment, education, community, cultural and recreational opportunities</p> <p>CPO 8.33 Support the economic development and regeneration of the town centre.</p> <p>Secondary Growth Centres (Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown) - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.34 Support proportionate economic growth and appropriately designed development in the secondary growth centres which make a positive contribution to regeneration and renewal.</p> <p>CPO 8.35 Seek to target investment and location of new businesses in the core areas of the Secondary Growth Centre of Granard through sustainable targeted measures that address vacancy, encourage economic development and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes.</p> <p>CPO 8.36 Support the development of high-quality e-working communal spaces and offices to facilitate increased levels of remote working.</p> <p>CPO 8.37 Support the development of tourism and heritage-based enterprises in Granard which complement the natural and cultural heritage value of the town, in particular the Motte and Bailey site.</p> <p>Key Employment Centres (Granard and Lanesborough) - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.38 Promote the proportionate economic growth of the Key Employment Centres, together with the enhancement of local infrastructure and amenities and improved transport links.</p> <p>CPO 8.39 Support the regeneration of the core areas of the Key Employment Centres through sustainable targeted measures that address vacancy, encourage economic development and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes.</p> <p>CPO 8.40 Support the development of high-quality e-working communal spaces and offices to facilitate increased levels of remote working within each of the Key Employment Centres.</p> <p>CPO 8.41 Support Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as key tourism hubs within the County and wider region and the further integration of the centres as features of the wider tourism network.</p> <p>CPO 8.42 Support the development of the food enterprise hub in Lanesborough in recognition of its key economic and direct employment value to the town and as a means of promoting local food production and suppliers.</p> <p>CPO 8.43 Seek to deliver the targeted economic regeneration of the Lough Ree Power Station site in Lanesborough following its decommissioning in cooperation with local stakeholders, sectoral partners, ESB and Bord na Móna.</p> <p>Local Employment Centres - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.44 Promote commensurate population and employment growth in the designated Local Employment Centres, providing for natural increases and to become more economically self-sustaining, in line with the quality and capacity of public transport, services and infrastructure available.</p> <p>CPO 8.45 Support proportionate economic growth of and appropriately designed development in Local Employment Centres that will contribute to their regeneration and renewal.</p> <p>CPO 8.46 Support the regeneration of the core areas of the Local Employment Centres through sustainable targeted measures that address vacancy, encourage economic development and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes.</p> <p>CPO 8.47 Support the development of high-quality e-working communal spaces and offices to facilitate increased levels of remote working within each of the Local Employment Centres.</p> <p>Rural Areas - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.48 Consider proposals for enterprise and employment uses on their merits in rural locations and where their specific location offers amenity, environmental and economic advantage. Such enterprises or considered industrial projects, new or expanded, may sometimes require sites outside settlements because of their size or other specific site requirements. Such projects will be assessed taking account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contribution of the proposed development to the county's economy; • The contribution of the proposed development to the county's environment and the principles of sustainable development; • Assessment of any potential environmental effects; • The economic viability and availability of alternative sites; and • National planning policy. <p>It will be the responsibility of the developer to consider all environmental impacts, both direct and indirect. The Council will consider not only the immediate needs and benefits, but the wider long-term environmental effects of the proposal.</p> <p>Strategic Retail - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.49 Promote and encourage major enhancement of town centre activities within Longford town to enable it to maintain its strategic role as defined in the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>
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Where possible, this retail innovation should be directed towards existing urban centres and settlements in the first instance but will not preclude the development of retail enterprises in other locations, where the retail innovation in question cannot be sustained within any alternative location. Such development proposals will be assessed on their own merits and must satisfy the assessment criteria of the Retail Planning Guidelines.</p> <p>CPO 8.63 Encourage and facilitate an appropriate range of day and evening activity thereby creating a vibrant, active and attractive in town and village centres.</p> <p>CPO 8.64 Facilitate LEO in supporting all existing retail business with an on-street presence in core retail areas to establish an online sales platform.</p> <p>CPO 8.65 Promote the reuse of vacant retail floorspace. Where no viable retail use can be sustained, alternative uses will be assessed on their own merits against the requirements of the proper planning and sustainable development of the areas within which they are located.</p> <p>CPO 8.66 Encourage the consolidation of other non-retail based services within the town centres of the County utilising existing vacant retail floorspace where necessary.</p> <p>CPO 8.67 Identify under-utilised and obsolete areas for potential renewal and encourage and facilitate the re-use and regeneration of derelict land and buildings in the county's main towns, villages and smaller centres. The Council will use its statutory powers, where appropriate, to facilitate this and will consider such buildings and lands for inclusion in the Register of Derelict Sites or the Vacant Sites Register.</p> <p>CPO 8.68 Undertake measures to improve the accessibility of town centres by developing a pedestrian and cyclist friendly environment, which improves safety and limits traffic congestion where possible.</p> <p>CPO 8.69 Encourage the further improvement and development of commercial, service, social and cultural functions which its town and village centres perform, while ensuring the protection of the important heritage and architectural quality of their streetscapes. This will apply to the skyline, shop fronts and advertising structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.70 Have regard to the principles provided in the Shopfront and Signage Design Guidelines 2021-2027, prepared by Longford County Council and included in Annex 8: Shopfront Design Guidelines of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027, and the Retail Design Manual 2012 (Department of arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) in the assessment of any retail development.</p> <p>CPO 8.71 Require that any proposals for the creation of new retail floorspace shall be accompanied by an assessment of the quality and suitability of existing and available floorspace in the County relative to the circumstances of their proposals.</p> <p>CPO 8.72 Have regard to the findings of the capacity assessment contained in the Longford County Retail Strategy 2021-2027, including the ability to counteract expenditure leakage, when assessing retail planning applications.</p> <p>The onus will be on any applicant to demonstrate in a Retail Impact Assessment that the proposed floorspace is appropriate, having regard to the quantum of floorspace required within that specific urban centre or settlement, in addition to evidencing all other relevant variables as specified within the Retail Planning Guidelines.</p> <p>CPO8.73 Impose a presumption against the provision of large scale out of town retail development located adjacent or close to existing, new or planned national roads in accordance with the provisions of the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012).</p> <p>CPO8.74 Prohibit the provision of comparison and convenience retail uses within all employment generating land uses on edge and out of edge centres unless such land is sequentially preferable and could contribute to compact growth.</p> <p>CPO8.75 Conduct a review of the Longford County Retail Strategy within two years of the adoption of the County Development Plan</p> <p>Longford Town Specific Retail - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.76 Permit retail development which is of an appropriate size, scale and type to a town centre location in Longford Town's core shopping area.</p> <p>CPO 8.77 Facilitate the expansion of high-end, high street comparison retailing in Longford Town.</p> <p>CPO 8.78 Improve the retailing environment of Longford Town by improving the public realm and facilitating a resolution to the centre traffic congestion problems.</p>
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County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 8.85 Promote tourism as an integral part of County Longford's overall economic profile supporting urban and rural enterprise, recognising the key strategic location of the County and promoting access to tourist sites and attractions.</p> <p>CPO 8.86 Promote the development of sustainable tourism as part of our economy, that recognises our landscapes, cultural heritage, environment and linguistic heritage.</p> <p>Green and Circular Economy County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>Ensure that the County is well positioned to capitalise on the economic benefits associated with the transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Engage with all relevant government stakeholders, enterprise agencies and sectoral representatives in pursuing 'green' approaches to economic development, and actively collaborate with key industry and educational bodies to promote Longford based initiatives across the economic sectors.</p> <p>CPO 8.89 Support the development of industries that create and employ green technologies and take measures to accelerate the transition towards a low carbon economy and circular economy.</p> <p>CPO 8.90 Support rural diversification through sustainable rural development practices, investment in rural towns and villages, and provision for access to technology and skills development networks.</p> <p>'Just Transition' - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 8.91 Engage with all relevant government stakeholders, sectoral representatives, ES and Bord na Móna in developing and supporting sustainable alternative economic development, guided by the principles of 'Just Transition', for those employees and communities affected by the closure of the ESB Lough Ree Power Station and associated Bord na Móna peat harvesting practices.</p> <p>CPO 8.92 Identify, in collaboration with all relevant government stakeholders, sectoral representatives, ESB and Bord na Móna, potential uses for the ESB Lough Ree Power Station site as part of an overall regeneration programme for the site underpinned by the principles of 'Just Transition'.</p> <p>CPO 8.93 Support the use of the former Lough Ree Power Station site in Lanesborough for energy generation and transmission, tourism, industrial, commercial or other suitable alternative use, subject to other planning considerations and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p>CPO 8.94 Support in principle the rehabilitation and restoration of bog habitats and any associated eco-tourism development underpinned by the principles of 'Just Transition', subject to other planning, environmental and ecological considerations.</p> <p>CPO 8.95 Support in principle, measures relating to the retrofitting of existing residential units, as part of the 'Just Transition' process, subject to other planning considerations.</p> <p>Home Based Economic Activity and Remote Working - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 8.96 Facilitate and enhance the collective offering of County Longford as an attractive place to live, work and invest in.</p> <p>CPO 8.97 Engage with all relevant stakeholders and broadband infrastructure providers to ensure the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan in County Longford, as well as supporting in principle improvements to existing broadband networks.</p> <p>CPO 8.98 Facilitate home-working and innovative forms of working which reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>CPO 8.99 Encourage local partnership, Town Team or community organisations to develop and implement local economic initiatives which enhance towns and villages.</p> <p>CPO 8.100 Give consideration to the establishment, or suitable expansion, of small-scale home-based economic activity where the main use of the dwelling remains as residential, subject to compliance with normal development management requirements and technical criteria</p> <p>Economic Development Climate Change Actions Longford County Council shall:</p> <p>A8.1 Require all future commercial and/or industrial development applications to be accompanied by a signed statement outlining the current and any future environmentally friendly / sustainable activities – prioritising energy efficiency, replacement of fossil fuels, careful management of materials and waste, and carbon abatement (e.g. in-house green team, carpooling, working-from-home, etc).</p> <p>A8.2 Consider planning applications for multiple and complementary use classes to encourage greater use of our existing infrastructure, and in support of the day/night economy.</p> <p>A8.3 Support enterprise and Local Enterprise Office (LEO) on the development of industries that create and employ green technologies and take measures to accelerate the transition towards a low carbon economy and circular economy.</p>	

<p>A8.4 Apply the principles of the voluntary Green Public Procurement (GPP) initiative in accordance with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) across all local authority procurement, wherever feasible.</p> <p>A8.5 Seek Environmental Management Systems accreditation (e.g. ISO 14001 and similar) within the lifetime of the plan, as part of the European Union's Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).</p> <p>A8.6 Provide community/public, 'hot desking' provision in Longford Town, Ballymahon, Lanesborough and Granard.</p>	<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Economic Development provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc., including the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. The NPF and RSES set out the planning policy approach for economic development at a national and regional level.</p> <p>The guiding principles for the identification of locations for strategic employment growth outlined in the RSES and the RSES's Economic Strategy's key objectives (Smart Specialisation, Clustering, Orderly Growth, Placemaking and Future Proofing and Risk Management) have been integrated into the Economic Development provisions in this Chapter. Longford Town is Designated as a 'Key Town' in the RSES and most economically active settlement that provides employment for its surrounding area with high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as a growth driver to complement the Regional Growth Centre of Athlone.</p> <p>The RSES recognises the key role played by Granard's retail function to its inhabitants and wider hinterland in designating it as a Level 3 retail centre. The designations for both Longford Town and Granard, prescribed by the RSES Regional Retail Hierarchy, has informed the Retail Hierarchy adopted in the County Longford Retail Strategy.</p> <p>Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPO 8.9 "maximise existing infrastructural provision, particularly in relation to locating high employee generating enterprise and industry proximate to high capacity public transport networks and links." • CPO 8.10 "Support existing successful clusters in County Longford" • CPO 8.18 "Ensure the protection of the environment in the installation of new developments through promoting the application of the Best Available Technology (BAT) principle in terms of control of emissions/potential pollutants" • CPO 8.31 "subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan 2017, including measures relating to environmental management and sustainable development" • CPO 8.33 "economic development and regeneration of the town centre." • CPO 8.34 "make a positive contribution to regeneration and renewal" • CPO 8.36 "development of high-quality e-working communal spaces and offices to facilitate increased levels of remote working" • CPO 8.38 "enhancement of local infrastructure and amenities and improved transport links" • CPO 8.40 "development of high-quality e-working communal spaces and offices to facilitate increased levels of remote working within each of the Key Employment Centres" • CPO 8.46 "regeneration of the core areas of the Local Employment Centres through sustainable targeted measures that address vacancy, encourage economic development and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes" • CPO 8.47 "development of high-quality e-working communal spaces and offices to facilitate increased levels of remote working within each of the Local Employment Centres" • CPO 8.86 "development of sustainable tourism as part of our economy, that recognises our landscapes, cultural heritage, environment and linguistic heritage" • CPO 8.87 "transition to a low carbon economy" • CPO 8.88 "green" approaches to economic development" • CPO 8.89 "take measures to accelerate the transition towards a low carbon economy and circular economy" • CPO 8.90 "Support rural diversification through sustainable rural development practices, investment in rural towns and villages, and provision for access to technology and skills development networks" • CPO 8.94 "Support in principle the rehabilitation and restoration of bog habitats and any associated eco-tourism development underpinned by the principles of 'Just Transition', subject to other planning, environmental and ecological considerations" • CPO 8.98 "Facilitate home-working and innovative forms of working which reduce the need to travel" • Economic Development Climate Change Actions
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8.7.8 Chapter 9: Rural Economy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Rural Enterprise and Economy County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 9.1 Liaise and co-operate with statutory, local development, sectoral community / voluntary agencies and groups to develop economic, social and cultural benefits for the rural community.</p> <p>CPO 9.2 Support and facilitate the work of Teagasc and other farming / local bodies within the county in the promotion of the rural economy, including agriculture development, rural diversification and in the development of initiatives to support farming, create inclusive rural communities and improve access and services in rural areas.</p> <p>CPO 9.3 Support the provision of a high-quality rural environment, encourage diversification and improved competitiveness of the rural economy, sustain the livelihood of rural communities and promote the development of the wider rural economy, all within the context of the sustainable management of land and resources.</p> <p>CPO 9.4 Promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.</p> <p>CPO 9.5 Support farm diversification, where a proposed business initiative is subordinate to the primary agricultural use of the site, subject to traffic and environmental safeguards.</p> <p>CPO 9.6 Protect agriculture and traditional rural enterprises from unplanned and/or incompatible urban development.</p> <p>CPO 9.7 Promote resource efficiency and support the shift toward a low-carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors.</p> <p>CPO 9.8 Enhance the competitiveness of rural areas by supporting innovation in rural economic development and enterprise through the diversification of the rural economy into new sectors and services, including ICT-based industries and those addressing climate change and sustainability.</p> <p>CPO 9.9 Prioritise the regeneration of rural towns and villages through identification of significant regeneration projects for rural villages and rural areas which could harness untapped assets with community and wider private and public sector support and investment, including the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.</p> <p>CPO 9.10 Explore mechanisms for the emergence of a diversified sectoral mix in rural areas. This includes the identification of appropriate locations to drive regeneration of rural towns and villages for example by the provision of serviced sites for housing and co-working/ incubator space.</p> <p>CPO 9.11 The development and expansion of appropriate new businesses in rural areas will normally be encouraged where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale and nature of the proposed new business are appropriate to the rural area and are in areas of low environmental sensitivity. • The development will enhance the strength and diversification of the rural economy. • The development involves the use of redundant or underused buildings that are of value to the rural area. <p>CPO9.12 Have regard to the County Policy Objectives contained in Section 5.2.3 of this Plan when assessing proposals for rural economic or employment generating development and their potential impact on the road network where the protection of routes of strategic importance within the County from further access creation and intensification of existing accesses and development on national routes is a key consideration. Development on the National and Regional Routes outlined in CPO 5.19 shall be carefully considered to preserve their strategic role and safeguard the strategic function of the national road network, in accordance with the provisions of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012).</p> <p>Agriculture - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 9.13 Maintain a vibrant and healthy agricultural sector based on the principles of sustainable development, whilst at the same time finding alternative employment in or close to rural areas to sustain rural communities.</p> <p>CPO 9.14 Support agricultural development as a contributory means of maintaining population and sustaining the rural economy, whilst maintaining and enhancing the standing of the rural environment through application of the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 9.15 Encourage and facilitate agricultural diversification into agri-businesses such as organic foods, rural tourism and small to medium sized enterprises, subject to the retention of the holding for primarily agricultural use and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area</p> <p>CPO 9.16 Support the rural economy and initiatives in relation to diversification, agri business, rural tourism and renewable energy so as to sustain employment opportunities in rural areas</p> <p>CPO 9.17 Facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby natural waters and watercourses, wildlife habitats, conservation areas and areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside.</p> <p>CPO 9.18 Ensure that agricultural-related development proposals do not give rise to any adverse negative impacts to archaeological and cultural heritage features of importance.</p> <p>CPO 9.19 Support local employment and training opportunities, particularly where existing farm income is in decline and requires alternative skills and enterprises.</p> <p>CPO 9.20 Support those who live and work in rural areas and who wish to remain on the landholding. Favourable consideration will be given to on-farm based diversification, which is complementary to existing agricultural practices, is operated as part of the farm holding and is intended to supplement existing farm income such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist farming practices e.g. horticulture, equine facilities, poultry, mushroom growing, specialised animal breeding and bee keeping and honey production; • Farm enterprises such as processing, coops, farm supply stores and agri-business; • Production of organic and speciality foods to meet the increase in demand for such products; 	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	

		<p>• Conversion of redundant farm buildings of vernacular importance for appropriate owner-run enterprises, such as agri-tourism.</p> <p>• CPO 9.21 Encourage proposals for farm shops where it can be clearly demonstrated that the products to be sold are primarily produce grown on the farm holding;</p> <p>• the scale and scope of the retailing proposed will not harm the viability or retail facilities in any nearby town or village; and</p> <p>• the proposed shop is operated by the owner of the farm and is ancillary to the main use of the property for agricultural activities.</p> <p>CPO 9.22 Ensure that agriculture development is in compliance with the EU "A Farm to Fork Strategy" 2020 and parallel to the 14 point EU Nature Restoration Plan in the EU "Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives."</p> <p>Forestry - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 9.23 Encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European Sites (SACs and SPAs); and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality.</p> <p>CPO 9.24 Promote forestry development of appropriate scale and character while ensuring that such development does not have a negative impact on the countryside, (including public access/rights of way, traditional walking routes and recreational facilities), or cause pollution or degradation of wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance.</p> <p>CPO 9.25 Promote the avoidance of deforestation or commercial afforestation within European Sites unless directly relating to the management of the site for its qualifying interests.</p> <p>CPO 9.26 Encourage the provision of public access in conjunction with relevant stakeholders to new forests through walking and bridle paths, recreational areas and other similar facilities.</p> <p>CPO 9.27 Encourage private forestry developers to provide access through their forests for walking routes, bike trails, bridle paths, and other non-noise generating activities as part of an integrated development.</p> <p>CPO 9.28 Actively partake in the Neighbour Wood Scheme (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) and identify areas at a local level that are suitable for woodland which are accessible and attractive to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 9.29 Encourage the planting of diverse and native species, with higher proportions of broadleaf, to ensure rich and varied biodiversity value, particularly in areas where there is evidence of a dominant conifer species planted cumulatively within the landscape.</p> <p>CPO 9.30 Require the repair of any road damaged due to forestry work by the forestry company responsible.</p> <p>CPO 9.31 Ensure that buffer zones or exclusion zones are applied to aquatic zones and sites of archaeological importance respectively as deemed appropriate by the planning authority.</p> <p>CPO 9.32 Support the development of appropriate and sustainable tourism development within forestry locations.</p> <p>Horticulture - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 9.33 Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable horticultural practices; to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.</p> <p>CPO 9.34 Support the horticulture and nursery stock industry as a means of diversifying agriculture and contributing to maintaining population in the rural area.</p> <p>CPO 9.35 Support the development of country and farmers' markets as key trading areas for the sale of local agricultural and craft produce and to support their role as visitor attractions.</p> <p>Equine - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 9.36 Support equine related activities (e.g. farrriers, bloodstock sales etc.) of an appropriate size and at suitable locations.</p> <p>CPO 9.37 Ensure that equine based developments are located on suitable and viable landholdings and are subject to normal planning, siting and design considerations and related establishments.</p> <p>CPO 9.38 Protect the equine industry from inappropriate development which would adversely affect its continued operation.</p> <p>Extractive Industry - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 9.39 Recognise the role and facilitate the exploitation of County Longford's natural aggregate resources in a manner which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality and the visual and residential amenity of an area, while continuing to regulate the extraction of aggregates and to seek the delivery of environmental benefits in the form of sustainable habitat creation in conjunction with the restoration phases of development.</p> <p>CPO 9.40 Facilitate the sourcing of aggregates for and the operation of the extractive industry in suitable locations; subject to the protection of landscape, environment, road network, heritage, visual quality and amenity of the area.</p> <p>CPO 9.41 Ensure that development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing and Candidate European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and/or Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) • Existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) • Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna and biodiversity value • Zones of archaeological potential • Important aquifers and sensitive groundwater resources • The vicinity of a recorded monument • Sensitive landscape areas • Established rights of way and walking routes 	
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<p>CPO 9.42 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), with regard to any developments likely to have an impact on Sites of Geological Importance listed in the County Development Plan (Appendix XX).</p> <p>CPO 9.43 Ensure that extraction activities address key environmental, amenity, traffic and social impacts and details of rehabilitation.</p> <p>Rural Economy Climate Change Actions</p> <p>Longford County Council shall:</p> <p>In the assessment of planning applications for new development, intensification of use or diversification of activity, the Council will have regard to the nature of the proposal, the scale of activity proposed, the impact on the adjoining road network, the effect on the environment including important groundwater and aquifer sources, natural drainage patterns and surface water systems and the likely effects that any proposed extractive industry may have on the existing landscape and amenities of the county, including public rights of way and walking routes.</p> <p>CPO 9.44 Ensure that all extractions shall be subjected to landscaping requirements and that worked out quarries should be rehabilitated to a use agreed with the Planning Authority which could include recreational, biodiversity, amenity or other end-of-life uses. The use of these rehabilitated sites shall be limited to inert waste and sites shall be authorised under the appropriate waste regulations.</p> <p>A9.1 Require high-speed broadband connection for commercial and/or industrial developments applications, where proposed in rural areas.</p> <p>A9.2 Require all agricultural applications to be accompanied by evidence of valid GLAS (Green Low Carbon Agri-Environmental Scheme) or equivalent scheme, where available.</p> <p>A9.3 Require all future agricultural applications to be accompanied by a 'Soil Fertility and Soil Nutrient Management Plan', unless deemed otherwise by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>A9.4 Encourage the development of agriculture under the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The scaling up of cereal, fruit and vegetable production - Training people in the proper stewardship of the land - Protection of our environment - Elimination of all chemical use - Remediation of our freshwater lakes - Recovery of biodiversity - The building of regenerative systems - Educating people on home economics - Incentivising food technologists to create better systems for managing scarce resources. <p>A9.5 Require forestry applications to adhere to the Department of Agriculture's 'Forest Biodiversity Guidelines' (2000) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Favour broadleaf where appropriate site conditions exist; planted in swathes; - Provide for a minimum 80/20 mix of silvicultural compatible tree species; - Designate 15% of the forest area (including neighbouring land use in sites less than ten hectares as 'Areas of Biodiversity Enhancement' (e.g. 5/10% open space alongside 5/10% retained habitats). <p>A9.6 Professionally prepare an implement the recommendation therein of a county wide Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plan, to include protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increased efforts to prevent forest degradation.</p> <p>A9.7 Seek access permission and use to all existing or planned service access routes and entraceways within a forestry development, for the sole amenity of Local Authority developed trackways or similar, wherever considered advantageous to improved connectivity across its functional area.</p> <p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Rural Economy provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, including by the various Rural Economy provisions included in this Chapter, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities in rural areas, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other higher-level planning and sectoral plans, programmes, strategies, etc, including the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. In regard to rural areas the RSES sets out a number of Regional Policy objectives which include (RPO 4.84) supporting the rural economy and initiatives in relation to diversification, agri-business, rural tourism and renewable energy so as to sustain the employment opportunities in rural areas. It also supports the longer-term strategic planning for the industrial peatland areas. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Many of the Rural Economy provisions are essential to the sustenance of rural populations and associated existing sustainable rural management practices, which can often sustain biodiversity.</p> <p>Agriculture is essential to the sustenance of rural populations and associated existing sustainable rural management practices which can often sustain biodiversity. Agriculture is however a source of waste and emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter can have significant effects on water, soil, water, biodiversity and human health. Provisions have been integrated into the Agricultural related measures in the Plan requiring the standing of the rural environment to be maintained and enhanced through application of the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Habitats Directive (Objective CPO 9.13) and</p>	
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facilitating the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby natural waters and watercourses, wildlife habitats, conservation areas and areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside (Objective CPO 9.16).

Forestry and access to forestry for amenity would contribute towards the sustenance of rural populations and can improve the biodiversity value of the countryside. Depending on how it is developed, forestry has the potential to adversely affect various environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna, water and human health, the landscape. CPO 9.23 encourages the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European Sites (SACs and SPAs); and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality.

An extractive industry is essential for sustainable development however it presents the potential for significant adverse environmental effects to arise with regard to all environmental components, if unmitigated. CPO 9.41 ensures that development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact upon various environmental components.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.7.9 Chapter 10: Tourism

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>General Tourism - County Development Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO10.1 Continue to support the implementation of the County's Tourism Strategy in line with national and regional policy in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, EMRA, adjoining Local Authorities, tourism businesses and communities and other supporting agencies. As part of this process Longford County Council will liaise with Fáilte Ireland as required on the development of its strategy, as well as any smaller scale plans or programmes that are prepared to give effect to that strategy. Any such plans, programmes or policies shall be screened or assessed in full compliance with EU Directives including the SEA Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 10.2 Ensure all tourism developments shall integrate climate change adaptation, the enhancement of nature and biodiversity measures and the protection of the natural environment and the County's heritage into their activities, plans and proposals.</p> <p>CPO 10.3 Utilise the County's natural and heritage resources to foster the development of tourism in a sustainable manner which complements the scale, quality and unique features of the location and the County. Protecting and enhancing these sensitive resources shall be the primary aim of any tourism development.</p> <p>CPO 10.4 Engage and collaborate with key stakeholders including Fáilte Ireland, relevant agencies, sectoral representatives and local communities to develop the tourism sector in Longford to ensure that the economic potential is developed for the County, to support local business development and encourage new enterprise opportunities.</p> <p>CPO 10.5 Promote the development of sustainable and high-quality visitor attractions, activities and infrastructure, enabling an increase in the overall capacity, encouraging longer area-based stays and long-term development of the county's tourism industry, subject to appropriate siting and design criteria and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p>CPO 10.6 Identify all funding opportunities, including local, national and European funding schemes and seek to maximise the benefit of such funding opportunities for the County.</p> <p>CPO 10.7 Protect and conserve the natural, built recreational and cultural heritage features which add value to the visitor experience in County Longford and seek to restrict and prevent developments which would damage or detract from the quality of scenic areas and identified natural and cultural heritage assets. Particular care shall be taken in regard to the siting of noise generating sports and golf course development so as not to conflict with the enjoyment of areas used for informal recreation and existing public rights of way and walking routes.</p> <p>CPO10.8 Promote increased access to state and semi-state lands such as Bord na Móna Bogs, Coillte Forests, Waterways, etc., together with monuments and historic properties, for recreation and tourism purposes, subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, National Monuments Act and other provisions and policies to protect and safeguard these resources and the relevant local infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO10.9 Support the Shannon Tourism Masterplan and tourism projects as a result of the Just Transition process and to support an application for UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for the Lough Ree area during the lifetime of this plan. Continue to support the development and expansion of tourism-related enterprise including visitor attractions, services and accommodation, food and craft businesses.</p> <p>CPO10.10 Prepare and update a comprehensive tourism mapping and signage plan for the county, in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, ensuring that new signage is consistent and complementary to signage planned for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Experience Brand. Signpost and waymark walking and cycle routes with appropriately designed quality signage and information boards and public lighting where appropriate shall be developed.</p> <p>CPO10.11 To support the future development of Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDP's) which may be developed by Fáilte Ireland during the lifetime of this development plan and to ensure continued collaboration and alignment with Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of these DEDP's.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	

<p>CPO10.12 Support opportunities for increased local tourism and the move to more sustainable home holidays as a result of climate change and warmer summers, within limits of existing infrastructure and sensitive habitats.</p> <p>CPO10.13 Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant detrimental impacts, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO10.14 Consider applications for tourism development in line with the planning criteria as set down in this plan (see Chapter 15: Development Management Standards), and which will also be subject to high standards of design and materials particularly given their sensitive locations.</p> <p>CPO10.15 Support and promote the use of the Sustainable Tourism and where appropriate, 'Ecotourism Principles of Tourism Development' in all proposed tourism activities in the County.</p> <p>CPO10.16 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>Destination Towns – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 10.17 Continue to support the development and promotion of Longford and its destination towns as urban tourism destinations, providing memorable and high-quality visitor experiences in their own right and providing services for visitors to the range of attractions and activities in the surrounding area. Support and promote Longford's destination towns by maximising the impact of branding and marketing through providing and sharing resources.</p> <p>CPO10.18 Encourage the celebration of the unique attributes of our towns and villages in the design and delivery of all visitor interpretation, signage and public realm schemes in order to provide tourists with a strong 'Sense of Place' and a more memorable visit.</p> <p>CPO10.19 Support the development and promotion of Longford town as the principle visitor services centre and hub for Fáilte Ireland's Hidden Heartlands in the County. Promote and develop its historical and cultural attractions and its recreation and amenity potential having regard to its natural amenities including the River Camlin, the Royal Canal and its links to the Longford Bogs and River Shannon.</p> <p>CPO10.20 Facilitate the enhancement and development of Longford's Camlin Quarter, as a location where cultural heritage and artistic visitor attractions can be clustered, offering a unique and marketable tourism proposition. Promote the location of the Camlin River, Connolly Barracks and the unique Mall Park on the town trail as part of the Longford Rebel Trail.</p> <p>CPO10.21 Support community projects and industry-led collaborative tourism initiatives which aim to enhance and promote the visitor offering in towns and villages. These shall include trail heads for the Rebel Trail, Literary Trail and Mid Shannon Wildemess Park (see Appendix 5: Tourism - Literary & Rebel Trail Map)</p> <p>CPO10.22 Support the development and promotion of Granard's Knights & Conquests Heritage Centre, Edgeworthstown's Maria Edgeworth Centre, Ballinalee, Corlea, Ballinamuck visitor centres and Ardaugh Heritage and Creativity Centre.</p> <p>CPO10.23 Support the local community and businesses to expand and enhance the visitor offering at Lanesborough, taking account of the natural heritage at this location and to animate the story of Bord na Móna and the power station.</p> <p>CPO10.24 Support the repurposing of the Lough Ree Power Station and Bord na Móna Mount Dillon infrastructure and associated work depots for alternative uses in association with the Just Transition process. A Lough Ree Visitor Centre shall be developed in Lanesboro to tell the story of Lough Ree and its unique position not only in human life but also its importance for a natural heritage.</p> <p>CPO10.25 Support the development of a strong evening and night-time tourism economy, in collaboration with arts and music venues, festivals and events committees, the Longford and local Chambers of Commerce and Town Teams. This shall include support for various festivals including the Marquee in Drumlish, the Padraic Colum, the Goldsmith and Edgeworth Literary Festivals and Lanesboro's food festival 'The Taste of the Lakelands'.</p> <p>CH10.26 Develop public open spaces in all of Longford's towns that have good connectivity and are accessible for safe, secure walking and cycle routes.</p> <p>CH10.27 To facilitate, where appropriate, proposals to improve access for all at existing tourism sites and facilities, and to require all new tourism related developments to ensure the development is accessible to everyone, regardless of their age, or ability. It is an objective of the Council to support the provision of accessible tourism and to achieve this, all projects and improvements will adopt the principles of Universal Design. The Council shall undertake an Accessibility Audit within the lifetime of the Development plan to inform Accessible Tourism priority investments at key tourism hubs subject to the necessary resources.</p> <p>Tourism Infrastructure and Visitor Services – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO10.28 Facilitate the development of high-quality tourist accommodation such as hotels, hostels, B&B's / guesthouses, camping and glamping etc. at suitable locations, in both urban and rural settings throughout the county, subject to ensuring a high standard of design, layout, landscape and environmental protection, the provision of adequate infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO10.29 Encourage the upgrade of existing accommodation facilities including to meet Fáilte Ireland's Standards' as appropriate, subject to development management standards as set out in this plan, ensuring that new and existing developments do not negatively impact on sensitive environments.</p> <p>CPO10.30 Facilitating the development of visitor infrastructure linked to natural physical, geological and heritage environments, while ensuring that it does not detract from the status, quality and value of these environments.</p> <p>CPO10.31 Support, implement and require best-practice environmental management and climate proofing of tourism related developments and activities, such as accommodation, restaurants, activity providers, festivals and events and tourism enterprises, to include zero climate impact, energy efficiency, waste management, and recycling.</p> <p>CPO10.32 Support rural tourism initiatives such as agri-farm tourism, health and wellbeing centres, glamping, trekking and trails together with new opportunities to promote food and nature tourism, in order to sustain employment in rural areas.</p> <p>CPO10.33 Encourage land owners and private businesses to cooperate with the development of off-road tracks and trails and tourism infrastructure in rural areas. Where necessary to ensure the provision and completion of this infrastructure the Council shall use its CPO powers to acquire the required property. The Council will endeavour to exhaust all options of voluntary agreements before considering using these CPO powers.</p>			
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History, Heritage and Ancient Sites - County Policy Objectives

It is the County Policy Objective to:

CPO10.34 Support the implementation of the County Heritage Plan by encouraging sustainable tourism enterprise development associated with rural life style, landscape, natural and heritage locations to develop the Longford's infrastructure and gain the benefit from increased visitors, subject to development management standards.

CPO10.35 Prepare and implement a strategy for access to heritage routes by identifying, promoting and supporting the development of a network of heritage trails, with a focus on publicly accessible heritage sites and attractions in co-operation with community groups, landowners and other stakeholders incorporating features of heritage interest.

CPO10.36 Identify locations where heritage interpretation would add to the visitor experience and take account of Fáilte Ireland's Toolkit for Storytelling Interpretation in the design and delivery of interpretation media, with a focus on animating stories and encouraging greater engagement with our heritage.

CPO10.37 Continue to promote and develop the Corlea Trackway Centre as a sustainable visitor offering and enhanced access to the site, including an extension to the premises and the creation of walking and cycling connections with Ballymahon and Lanesborough across the proposed Bog Greenway.

CPO10.38 Promote the enhancement and development of Granard's Knights & Conquests, Edgeworthstown's Maria Edgeworth and Ballinamuck Visitor Centres as world-class visitor attractions, enabling visitors to have an enjoyable and engaging experience, while protecting the cultural heritage, natural environment and landscape value.

CPO10.39 Continue to develop and promote the Rebel Trail, Literary Trail, Tain Trail and the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park as part of Longford's primary tourism offer and experience (see Appendix 5: Tourism - Literary & Rebel Trail Map and Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park Map).

CPO10.40 Support appropriate protection and conservation works to planned/designed landscapes heritage structures, historic properties, historic urban centres and other built heritage assets, in order to safeguard these amenities for the long term. In this regard the five themes of the National Policy on Architecture shall be taken into account including mitigating the negative impact of new developments on the historic character of areas and buildings.

CPO10.41 Support the conservation and development of Newcastle House, Carriglass Manor and demesnes and other heritage structures by way of facilitating appropriate development that contributes to their economic viability and tourism potential.

CPO10.42 Support sustainable initiatives and projects that enable visitors to enjoy and connect with our natural heritage, including walking or cycling trails, glamping, viewing points, facilities for bird-watching and angling, tours and events, subject to the requirements for protecting this valuable and sensitive heritage.

CPO10.43 Support enhanced access to state, semi-state and private lands such as Bord na Móna bogs, forests, waterways, together with National Monuments and Historic Properties, for recreation and tourism purposes. Access should be planned and managed in a sustainable manner that protects heritage, environmental sensitivities, ecological corridors, and the ability of local infrastructure to support increased tourism.

CPO10.44 Continue to engage with the Waterways Ireland, NPWS, Collite, ESB, Bord Na Móna and other stakeholders and agencies with regard to tourism related uses of Lough Ree, forests, cut-away peatlands, restored bogs and related infrastructure and support the development of greenways/peatways and blueways at appropriate locations (see Appendix 5: Tourism - Longford County Trails Map).

CPO10.45 Support the diversification and innovation of our tourism product with opportunities arising for the development of new tourism offerings such as nature, culturally curious and slow tourism.

Lakes, Bogs and Waterways – County Policy Objectives

It is the County Policy Objective to:

CPO10.46 Facilitate increased access to Longford's waterways, from towns and villages where visitor services are located, with an emphasis on providing a strong visitor experience associated with the lakes and waterways and their heritage and amenity value, including trails, bird hides, and water sports facilities, subject to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

CPO10.47 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Longford's waterways, including boating, marina/berthing, kayaking, angling, blueways and harbour amenities while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.

CPO10.48 Provide for small-scale enterprise development that will provide for visitor engagement in water-based activities, subject to development management principles, the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives and the protection of sensitive environments.

CPO10.49 Prioritise development proposals which support the Shannon Tourism Masterplan's Gateway, Towns and villages and utilise existing infrastructure and disused structures in close proximity to Longford's waterways for the provision of visitor services, including changing facilities, boat storage, glamping, where appropriate. (See Appendix - Tourism Map No. 5 Longford County Waterways).

CPO10.50 Support development, in co-operation with various stakeholders to promote, preserve, improve, encourage public access to lakes, islands, riversides, uplands and other areas that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation and extend recreational amenities including riverside and canal walks and walking and cycling routes. This shall include the provision of walking and cycling links between lakes, rivers, bogs and nearby towns, villages and visitor attractions, provided such developments do not negatively impact on sensitive environments.

CPO10.51 Continue to work with Waterways Ireland and local communities in the enhancement and promotion of the Royal Canal, including the provision of ancillary infrastructure and services for blueway and greenway users, such as water access, bike and boat storage, rest areas, shelters, toilets, wet rooms, changing and other facilities which will enhance the user experience (see Appendix 5: Tourism - Longford County Waterways Map).

CPO10.52 Continue to work closely with Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and neighbouring counties to realise the potential of Lough Ree and the Mid-Shannon region for tourism, taking account of recommendations arising from the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands 'Shannon Tourism Masterplan' and 'Spirit Level' and the Longford Tourism Strategy.

CPO10.53 Promote and encourage the recreational use of rivers and the development of blueways which provide opportunities for walkers, cyclist and canoers. Examine the potential for development of fishing and canoe trails on the rivers and the inner lakes of Lough Ree and work with Waterways Ireland to develop facilities where appropriate, subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.

CPO10.54 Continue to work with Waterways Ireland and Inland Fisheries to develop mooring points for boats and facilities for kayaking and fishing along our waterways including at the Red Bridge, Ballymahon.

<p>CPO10.55 Continue to work closely with Bord na Móna, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, NPWS, Coillte, Just Transition related groups and neighbouring counties to realise and develop the potential of the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park and Lough Ree Biosphere Nature Reserve. In this consideration shall be given to Bord na Móna's integrated land use-strategy and be mutually inclusive of any of Bord na Móna's future uses of their land banks.</p> <p>CPO10.56 Support the development and expansion of tourism/recreation facilities including forest-based tourism accommodation at appropriate locations while ensuring minimum impact on the natural environment, biodiversity and public recreation.</p> <p>CPO10.57 Support and develop opportunities to access, enjoy and understand Longford's significant archaeological, early Christian Heritage, natural heritage and historical locations including the lake islands which contain many of these sites.</p> <p>CPO10.58 Cooperate with NPWS in the preparation of Habitat Management Plans for Lough Ree and Longford's protected areas where particular sensitivities occur, in order to support the protection and conservation of our natural environment resources.</p> <p>Greenways, Cycling and Walking – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO10.59 Continue to develop the greenways in the county and to augment the visitor experience through the provision of infrastructure, including car parking and access barriers, having regard to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport various Guidelines along with high quality signage and links to nearby visitor attractions and places of interest.</p> <p>CPO10.60 Support the provision of visitor services within existing towns and villages, such as cafes, accommodation, and changing facilities, by providing linkages with greenways and trails where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO10.61 Continue to support the development of the Longford Bogs Greenway, the Royal Canal Greenway, the National Famine Way, a River Shannon Greenway and a Longford to Westport Greenway by working with Bord na Móna, Regional Authorities (EMRA and NWRA), neighbouring counties and national bodies to develop and complete these routes (see Appendix 5: Tourism - Longford County Trails Map).</p> <p>CPO10.62 Support increased opportunities for off-road walking, including looped walks and longer distance trails, taking account of 'positive control points' in trail design, such as areas of natural beauty, lakeshores or rivers, bogs, built heritage and archaeological features and with links to towns and villages. In designing walking trails, the Sport Ireland Guide to Planning and Developing Recreational Trails will be consulted.</p> <p>CPO10.63 Continue to maintain and further enhance the County's walking and cycling trails, striving to achieve National Trails accreditation and other standards as set by Sport Ireland, in partnership with local communities and landowners.</p> <p>CPO10.64 Continue to develop the Longford Bogs Greenway utilising the Bord na Móna Rail lines from Longford Town to Clondra, Lanesborough, Corlea and Ballymahon interconnected with the Royal Canal Greenway at selected locations (see Appendix 5: Tourism – Longford County Trails Map).</p> <p>CPO10.65 Support the conversion of the Bord na Móna Kilmacarrow Rail Bridge to a greenway crossing of the River Shannon and facilitate a link through the Roscommon bogs to Roscommon, Strokstown and Roosky, Co. Leitrim.</p> <p>CPO10.66 Support the development of a Shannon Way, subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives, to link the Royal Canal at Clondra to the Grand Canal in Offaly via Athlone in collaboration with local communities, Offaly County Council and Westmeath County Council. This trail shall be located close to the river and linked to scenic areas where possible.</p> <p>CPO10.67 Support the provision of various county greenways to link Clondra, Newtownforbes, Roosky, Drumlish, Cairn Hill, Ballinamuck, Lough Gowna, Derrycassin Woods, Aughmaciffe, Granard, Ballinalee, Edgeworthstown, Ardagh and Abbeyshrule subject to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.</p> <p>CPO10.68 Develop the Mosstown Mill and Mill Race walk at Keenagh to connect to the Royal Canal greenway and to incorporate the addition of the Limetree Avenue from the old Mosstown estate which would create a looped walk of natural and heritage interest.</p> <p>CPO10.69 Support the provision of visitor interpretation along walking and cycling trails, including storyboards, artworks and other media, to create a greater sense of place, connecting and immersing visitors in our local heritage and stories.</p> <p>CPO10.70 Support the provision of services for visitors using walking and cycling trails which are appropriate to the location and activity, including bike rental and service points, picnic benches at scenic locations, public toilets, and other ancillary services in remote areas.</p> <p>CPO10.71 Promote the principles of 'Leave no Trace' in all trail information panels, promotional materials and events and use all statutory procedures to deter negative environmental impact resulting from use of our trails and outdoor recreation amenities.</p> <p>Arts, Culture, Environment and Festivals – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO10.72 Support the continued development of Tidy Towns, local food, culture, sport, visual and performing arts and craft through the various environmental activities, fairs, festivals, arts, music and cultural centres, galleries and craft shops.</p> <p>CPO10.73 Continue to support activities, events and evolving visitor experiences such as Creative Ireland, the County Library Service, and the Backstage and Bog Lane Theatres etc. as important tourist offerings.</p> <p>CPO10.74 Continue to support activities such as Tidy Towns, community groups, and festivals in the county, with a particular focus on events which have the potential to attract a wider audience and spotlight the county as a visitor destination.</p> <p>CPO10.75 Continue to provide supports to community groups, sporting organisations, indigenous enterprises and organisations which create locally produced food, products, activities and events.</p> <p>CPO10.76 Support the setting up of a 'Green Festival' and a 'National Cycling Festival' initiative.</p> <p>CPO10.77 Encourage and support Tidy Towns organisations, festivals and event organisers to incorporate green principles in their event planning and management.</p> <p>CPO10.78 Identify opportunities to capture and celebrate the rich musical and creative heritage of the county.</p>			
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Commentary

The assessment of the Plan's Tourism provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and

- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. This includes the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that identifies growth enablers for the region which includes supporting rural areas by harnessing natural resources to develop renewables, recreation and tourism opportunities including green infrastructure planning and the development of an integrated network of Greenways, Blueways and Peatways while ensuring that high value assets and amenities are protected and enhanced. The RSES recognises Longford as having a rich cultural heritage with potential to develop as a recreation and tourism hub, building on its proximity to attractions such as Center Parcs, the Royal Canal and the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park. In regard to rural areas the RSES sets out a number of Regional Policy objectives which include (RPO 4.84) supporting the rural economy and initiatives in relation to diversification, agri-business, rural tourism and renewable energy so as to sustain the employment opportunities in rural areas. It also supports the longer-term strategic planning for the industrial peatland areas. The RSES also seeks to support tourism development and promotional branding to ensure that areas associated with Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Ireland's Ancient East are developed and promoted to tap into the economic potential of rural areas. In this regard, the RSES makes specific reference to the proposed Granard Motte Heritage Park as a case study in the use of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) to develop a major tourism and amenity attraction at the site.

This Chapter contributes towards the provision of land use activities and developments relating to tourism – and would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors and associated potential adverse effects. Such effects would include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, including tourism. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, energy, access or accommodation. The mitigation of potential adverse effects arising would be contributed towards by Plan provisions including those relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management, green infrastructure and ecosystem services.

The development of new and existing greenways, blueways, peatways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those between County Longford, adjoining counties and beyond has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those identified at Section 9 of this report and Objective CPO 5.17 that requires a Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments (including those for the preparation of lower tier plans and projects). The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:

- CPO10.13 "Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant detrimental impacts; including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate."
- CPO10.14 "Consider applications for tourism development in line with the planning criteria as set down in this plan (See Chapter 15: Development Management Standards), and which will also be subject to high standards of design and materials particularly given their sensitive locations."
- CPO10.15 "Support and promote the use of the 'Ecotourism Principles of Tourism Development' in all proposed tourism activities in the County."
- CPO10.16 "Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals."
- CPO10.47 "ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives"
- CPO10.53 "subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives"
- CPO10.66 "subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives"

8.7.10 Chapter 11: Built and Cultural Heritage

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Architectural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to: CPO11.1 Promote and direct users to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) website (www.buildingsofireland.ie) wherever appropriate. CPO11.2 Cooperate with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in assessing and celebrating historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens. CPO11.3 Implement the County Heritage Plan 2019-2024 and seek to update the Heritage Plan over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CHL	BFF PHH S W MA A C CHL	BFF PHH S W MA A C CHL	

<p>CP011.4 Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of the existing building stock.</p> <p>CP011.5 Ensure that all development should be appropriate to its setting in the landscape or townscape and responds to and reinforces local character and heritage.</p> <p>CP011.6 Encourage the enhancement, management, protection and the promotion of access to and understanding of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CP011.7 Recognise and protect the unique historical, mythological and cultural significance of Ardagh Mountain. Developments which materially impinge on the character of the mountain will not be permitted.</p> <p>CP011.8 Provide detailed guidance notes and continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CP011.9 Ensure that proposals for development to structures included as part of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (DoEHLG) and any updated version, maintain and enhance the character of these structures.</p> <p>CP011.10 Ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner with a view to minimal detractor from the monument or its setting.</p> <p>CP011.11 Require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are outstanding remains, a visual impact assessment may be required.</p> <p>CP011.12 Refer any proposed development which may impact on the integrity and/or setting of any monuments, sites, objects or areas of archaeological, cultural, architectural, historical or heritage importance under the protection of this Development Plan and/or the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the relevant section of the DoAHG for observations/comment prior to a grant of permission/approval being obtained.</p> <p>CP011.13 Ensure applications for housing developments shall include provision for the naming of estates in recognition of the cultural heritage of the area in which they are situated.</p> <p>Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CP011.14 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.</p> <p>CP011.15 For the purposes of the RPS, identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, light fixtures and signage, as appropriate.</p> <p>CP011.16 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to Protected Structures.</p> <p>CP011.17 Ensure the protection of structures included in the Record of Protected Structures by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling development which would alter the character of Protected Structures and proposed Protected Structures. • Monitoring the condition of Protected Structures and proposed protected structures to identify those endangered by neglect, vandalism or unauthorised development and taking appropriate action. • Preventing the endangerment of Protected Structures in the Council's ownership. <p>CP011.18 Consider the acquisition of Protected Structures, where possible and where economic constraints permit, if this is necessary to protect the structure.</p> <p>CP011.19 Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing older buildings/ buildings of architectural merit, where appropriate, in preference to their demolition and redevelopment. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CP011.20 Facilitate contemporary and innovative design providing that they are of a sufficient high quality and do not detract from the character of the historic fabric of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CP011.21 Require applications for development where a Protected Structure or its setting is likely to be materially affected, to submit a detailed assessment of the building.</p> <p>CP011.22 Protect the setting of Protected Structures and refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a Protected Structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.</p> <p>CP011.23 Issue Declarations as to the type of works that would affect the character of a Protected Structure and therefore require planning permission.</p> <p>CP011.24 Administer the DoAHG Historic Structures Fund including the assessment of applications, ensuring that the works enhance and do not adversely affect the character of a Protected Structure and have been carried out in accordance with the conditions of the fund.</p> <p>CP011.25 Promote and support the funding sources available for Protected Structures and built heritage within the County.</p> <p>CP011.26 Identify and seek further funding for the upkeep of Protected Structures within the County.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CP011.27 Prepare and review, where necessary, detailed character statements and planning guidance for the 2 no. ACA's in the County, within the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CP011.28 Protect the character of Architectural Conservation Areas in County Longford and ensure the preservation of the character of the Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>CP011.29 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to buildings of historic significance within Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>CP011.30 Identify and designate new Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) as appropriate.</p> <p>Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Designed Landscapes Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CP011.31 Support the publication of a County Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, in order to promote the intrinsic character of those within the county.</p>		
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<p>CPO11.32 Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.33 Discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components of, or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.</p> <p>CPO11.34 Require that proposals for development in designated landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, in order to inform site appropriate design proposals and ensure the on-going and future sustainability of the estate.</p> <p>CPO11.35 Continue the development, expansion and the protection of the (Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall) in Longford town.</p> <p>Vernacular Architecture Policies – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.36 Encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features.</p> <p>CPO11.37 Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of County Longford and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burrage plots and townland boundaries, into re-developments.</p> <p>CPO11.38 Actively promote the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings as a key component of the built heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.39 Create and maintain and update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County and to promote available grant schemes to assist owners with their retention and repair.</p> <p>CPO11.40 Ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building.</p> <p>CPO11.41 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vernacular buildings, where appropriate and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of historic buildings.</p>	<p>Industrial and Agricultural Heritage Policies – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.42 Create and maintain an inventory of Industrial and Agricultural Heritage assets within the County.</p> <p>CPO11.43 Support the retention and appropriate repair/maintenance of historic bridges and other significant industrial heritage features in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.44 Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice, subject to compliance with normal planning criteria.</p> <p>CPO11.45 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vacant traditional farm buildings, where appropriate, and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of interest.</p> <p>Financial support Incentives for Built Heritage and National Monument assets Policies – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is Policy Objective of the Council to</p> <p>CPO11.46 Ensure the protection and enhancement of the built and cultural heritage of County Longford by securing and promoting the provision of suitable funding initiatives where possible.</p>	<p>Archaeological Heritage Policy – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.47 Protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.48 Protect the integrity of the settings of archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.49 Protect the National Monuments and monuments protected under Preservation Orders in the County (see Table 11.1: National Monuments In County Longford, Table 11.2: Monuments Protected under Preservation Orders and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).</p> <p>CPO11.50 Protect the monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest in the County (see Table 11.3: County Longford Monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).</p> <p>CPO11.51 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of the County's rich archaeological heritage, to include community initiatives.</p> <p>CPO11.52 Encourage and promote access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.53 Seek to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the archaeological heritage for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners.</p> <p>CPO11.54 Investigate and promote the provision of improved access to important archaeological sites.</p> <p>CPO11.55 Presume in favour of the physical preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and their settings, where appropriate, feasible and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.56 Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p> <p>CPO11.57 Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.</p> <p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Built and Cultural Heritage provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p>
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The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, access and visitor accommodation.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the County's cultural heritage - including archaeological and architectural heritage.

8.7.11 Chapter 12: Natural Heritage and Environment

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>General Natural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO12.1 Protect, conserve and enhance to the County's natural heritage and biodiversity. This includes wildlife (flora and fauna), habitats, landscapes and/or landscape features of importance to wildlife, or which play a key role in the conservation and management of natural resources.</p> <p>CPO12.2 Encourage and promote access to and understanding of the natural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO12.3 Protect important geological or geomorphological sites in the County, including any sites designated or proposed to be designated as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs).</p> <p>CPO12.4 Pursue in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the preparation, establishment and implementation of Habitat mapping and a Wetland Survey for the County.</p> <p>Designated Sites - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.5 Protect and conserve the conservation value of Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.6 Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects). Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CPO12.7 Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CPO12.8 Ensure that all development proposals relating to European Sites will comply with the DoECLG publication 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities'.</p> <p>CPO12.9 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives to comply with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO12.10 Permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where an appropriate level of assessment can clearly demonstrate that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>CPO12.11 Consult and have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site, or a site proposed for such designation.</p> <p>CPO12.12 Identify and provide appropriate buffer zones between Designated Sites and local biodiversity features and areas zoned for development.</p> <p>CPO12.13 Undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) subject to available resources.</p> <p>CPO12.14 Prepare Strategic Habitat Management Plans for European Sites in the County in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>CPO12.15 Require an ecological appraisal, in addition to an Appropriate Assessment, for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites, or a proposed European Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S S W M A A C C H L</p>		<p>BFF PHH S W M A A C C H L</p>	

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These are important because they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) form part of a network of habitats, corridors and 'stepping stones' essential for wildlife to flourish, thus providing a high-quality natural environment for all, and/or b) protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and are essential as part of the integrated approach to the management of water resources, necessary to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as set out in the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy). <p>Geological Sites – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.24 Contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 12.5.</p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Geological Audit (2015) and facilitate a review of the Geological Audit.</p> <p>CPO12.26 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Contribute towards the appropriate protection of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of the Plan from inappropriate development.</p> <p>CPO12.28 Encourage and promote, where appropriate, public access to geological and geomorphological sites and avoid inappropriate development through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, subject to environmental and habitats assessment.</p> <p>Wetlands, Turloughs, Watercourses and Fens - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.29 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the Longford County Wetlands Fields Survey 2017 and 2019 and subsequent versions thereof.</p> <p>CPO12.30 Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites surveyed in 2019 (see Appendix 7: Natural Heritage and Environment).</p> <p>CPO12.31 Protect and conserve wetlands from infilling, fragmentation, degradation and resist development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.32 Ensure that development proposals or activities that may impact on sensitive water habitats, in particular turloughs and wetlands, shall not be permitted without the introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Proposals to drain or otherwise interfere with the sources of turloughs will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO12.33 Implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such applications for permission would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Inland Lakes, Waterways and Broadzones – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.34 Preserve, protect and enhance the Counties inland lakes and waterways for their amenity and recreational resource amenity, including the Royal Canal, the Rivers Shannon, Inny and Camlin and Lough Ree, Lough Gowra as well as the County's other rivers and lakes.</p> <p>CPO12.35 In order to build on amenity potential, the Council will support the development and upgrading of the Inland Waterways and their associated facilities in accordance with relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and bodies including Waterways Ireland. An inter-regional approach shall also be taken in association with Leitrim, Roscommon, Westmeath and Offaly to develop the North Shannon Tourism area.</p> <p>CPO12.36 Protect Lough Ree from unsustainable, large-scale and high volume abstraction of water resources for use in areas external to County Longford.</p> <p>CPO12.37 Ensure all abstractions of water from Lough Ree will be subject to assessment for compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>
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In areas adjacent to inland waterways, lakes, canals and rivers where planning permission is sought, conditions may be attached requiring the retention or creation of public access to the waterway in order to facilitate the creation or expansion of walking/ cycling routes.</p> <p>CPO12.39 Require that land adjacent to lakeshores and river and canal banks in the County be protected and reserved for public access provision.</p> <p>CPO12.40 Protect the broadzones of the lakes, rivers, canals and deciduous woodlands from inappropriate development (see Appendix 7: Natural Heritage and Environment), i.e. development which adversely affects high amenity and landscape quality in relation to their setting, such as the environs of Newcastle House and Woods, particularly adjoining the River Inny Bridge.</p> <p>CPO12.41 Protect, enhance and preserve the built and natural heritage of the Royal Canal and its associated structures including the maintenance of the broadzone protection area at 100m either side of the Canal. This shall include a visual assessment zone of 500m from each bank in which all development proposals are assessed for their impact on the natural setting of the canal and its views and prospects. If a proposed development is deemed to have a detrimental negative impact on the integrity of the Royal Canal, then it shall not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO12.42 Restrict development in the broadzones of the major rivers and lakes of the County, as illustrated in Appendix 7: Natural Heritage and Environment, to extensions of existing dwellings, which shall be sensitively designed in terms of the individual site and materials.</p> <p>CPO12.43 Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</p> <p>CPO12.44 Promote and encourage ongoing works to improve the navigability of the Royal Canal, and to investigate the provision of mooring points in appropriate locations along the Canal and on the islands within the major lakes of the County</p> <p>CPO12.45 Protect the historical, cultural and scenic importance of the Islands on the lakes and rivers within the County from inappropriate development, whether on the Islands themselves, or at locations that interferes with their integrity and setting.</p> <p>CPO12.46 Support and promote, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access to islands in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.47 Adopt bye-laws prohibiting or restricting jet-skiing, water skiing and any other noise generating activities during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.48 Reserve land adjacent to the canal, riverbanks and other waterbodies to promote and facilitate the creation of waterside linear routes to link with existing routes and amenity spaces and to facilitate the provision of walking/cycling routes along canals and watercourses. Protect, enhance and improve existing public rights of way and, where possible, provide additional access to inland waterways through agreement, permissive access and/or the acquisition of land for public rights of way and parking and lay-by facilities.</p> <p>CPO12.49 Development on or within the vicinity of the Royal Canal Spur and/or Harbour that potentially hinders the continued preservation or future reinstatement of either is to be discouraged.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.50 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p>CPO12.54 Support the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and restoration works which will be both a positive conservation measure and help to reduce carbon loss in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.55 Designated and non-designated peatlands may be subject to the requirements of the planning code, Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA screening and EIA where applicable) and the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Planning permission will be required where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications will need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Mid Shannon Wilderness Park – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.56 Work with partners and stakeholders to progress the development of the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park and Biosphere.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.57 Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy the National Biodiversity Plan and the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024.</p> <p>CPO12.58 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites.</p> <p>CPO12.59 Improve the biodiversity and ecological value of the County through the promotion of the planting of native and heritage / traditional varieties and grass-cutting schemes amended to encourage local wildflower growth.</p> <p>CPO12.60 Require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.61 Assess proposed large-scale developments, particularly on greenfield sites and in environmentally sensitive areas, in terms of their impact on the biodiversity of the area.</p>	

<p>CPO12.62 Screen all projects and plans arising from this plan for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. All such projects and plans will also be required to comply with statutory Environmental Impact Assessment requirements where relevant.</p> <p>CPO12.63 Require mitigating measures in certain cases where it is evident that biodiversity is likely to be affected. These measures may, in association with other specified requirements, include establishment of wildlife areas/corridors/parks, tree planting, wildflower meadows/marshes and other areas. With regard to residential development, in certain cases, these measures may be carried out in conjunction with the provision of open space and/or play areas.</p> <p>CPO12.64 Facilitate increased awareness of the County's biodiversity and natural heritage through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in cooperation with statutory and other partners.</p> <p>CPO12.65 Investigate and encourage the establishment of wildlife areas and corridors, particularly in the context of educational, recreational and amenity facilities.</p> <p>CPO12.66 Enhance the County's biodiversity and natural heritage, including its landscape, by promoting appropriate recreational and amenity schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.67 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values.</p> <p>CPO12.68 Conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>CPO12.69 Maintain a biodiversity zone of not less than 10 metres from the top of the bank of all watercourses in the county, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Council, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. (Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments).</p> <p>CPO12.70 Identify and map the identified wildlife corridors within the County during the lifetime of the Plan, as resources and capacity exists. To review the Ecosystems Service Scoring mechanism as a potential tool to support the evaluation of these identified habitats and their biodiversity value across the County.</p> <p>CPO12.71 Any development that is visible from any of our protected areas or waterways shall be substantially screened with multiple lines of native tree and hedge planting on all sides.</p> <p>Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.72 Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources, the preparation and adoption of an Indicative Forestry Strategy for the County, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County's biodiversity, natural resources and landscape and developing tourism product.</p> <p>CPO12.73 Preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the County, by promoting the protection of trees, groups of trees and ancient woodlands, of significant amenity value, especially native and broadleaf species.</p> <p>CPO12.74 Undertake a survey of trees and woodlands within the County in order to identify individual trees and or groups and stands of trees of value worthy of protection, including those in Demense landscapes.</p> <p>CPO12.75 Protect trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and seek to designate additional Tree Preservation Orders, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.76 Protect the following important stands of trees identified in Appendix 7: Natural Heritage and Environment from inappropriate development and unmanaged tree felling not part of an overall plan to ensure their sustainability;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avenue at Smithfield, Legan 2. Woods at Carriglass, Castlerforbes and Cashesel. The perimeter deciduous woodland of Newcastle Woods but not the interior areas of commercial forestry. 3. Portanure Pine Woods 4. Derrycassan Woods 5. Culinagore Wood 6. Rathcline Wood 7. Trees along Regional Road R393 at Knockahaw 8. Woodlands at Erne Head, Woodville and Golaroe 9. Lime trees at Mossstown, Keenagh 10. Trees at Rathsalagh 11. Wood at Farragh, Killoe <p>The Council reserve the right, through the appropriate process, to add to this list of protected trees over the period of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.77 Discourage the felling of mature trees and hedgerow, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows to facilitate development and seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.</p> <p>CPO12.78 Protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest within the County, other than areas of commercial forestry. Proposals for development in these areas should seek to interact with the landscape character of the forested areas and its limits, recognising the importance of working with the forest to achieve sustainable development proposals, and enhancing and building on aspects of the forested areas that increase biodiversity and the natural habitat.</p> <p>CPO12.79 Encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands and community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.80 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works, or other works, seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.</p> <p>CPO12.81 Investigate the potential of completing a review of the Hedgerow Survey 2006.</p> <p>Invasive Species - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.82 Promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out of its functions in association with relevant authorities.</p> <p>CPO12.83 Develop and implement a programme of public awareness on the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.</p> <p>CPO12.84 Require landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.</p>		
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If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011).</p> <p>Prevention of Pollution - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.86 Pursue the preparation, establishment and implementation of compliance with the following (and any future updates):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region. • National Hazardous Waste Plan. • EU and National legislation on the prevention of Air and Noise Pollution. <p>CPO12.87 Encourage and promote environmental awareness and environmentally friendly practices in all aspects of life, particularly in industry, agriculture and all other commercial and leisure activities.</p> <p>CPO12.88 Reduce the impacts of existing pollutant activities through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation of a reduction in the pollutant activity to a non-polluting level or a revision of operating times to reduce the impact of the activity on adjacent land uses. • Relocation to a more appropriate location where adjacent land uses are more compatible. • Imposition of conditions restricting emissions/activity • Use of enforcement action against unauthorised developments/uses. <p>CPO12.89 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p> <p>CPO12.90 Encourage energy efficient design solutions, such as optimising solar gain and geothermal or air source heating, in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase environmental quality.</p> <p>CPO12.91 Assess any application for planning permission for new development, extension to existing development, or intensification or change of use, in terms of its potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where such development would have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, planning permission will not be forthcoming, prior to the proposal and introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>Water Quality and Groundwater Protection Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 12.92 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources in conformity with the EU Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, and any subsequent plan and the Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO12.93 Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan</p> <p>Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>CPO 12.94 Collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of protecting existing and potential water resources and achieving 'good status' in all water bodies in accordance with the requirements and guidance of relevant EU Directives and Regulations, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>CPO 12.95 Ensure licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).</p> <p>CPO 12.96 Discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>CPO 12.97 Ensure implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010), which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources (the Nitrates Directive), dangerous substances in water, and protection of groundwater.</p> <p>CPO 12.98 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the National River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.99 Protect ground and surface water resources from pollution by ensuring the appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability, the recognition of ground water resources and abstraction points and any identified major catchment areas of surface water bodies capable of use as a potable water resource and ensuring that such sources, their zones of contribution, and areas of aquifer vulnerability are protected.</p> <p>Development of a potentially pollutant nature in these areas and any future areas identified shall be prohibited.</p> <p>CPO12.100 Seek to control and manage any potential point and/or diffuse sources of pollution with a view towards improving and maintaining 'good' water quality. Such activities include, but are not restricted to, wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines, contaminated land, agricultural activities, wastewater from unsewered properties, forestry activities and the use and discharge of dangerous substances.</p> <p>CPO12.101 Consider development proposals that involve the physical modification of water bodies, including abstraction of water, having regard to the potential effect on habitats and plant and animal species, with particular consideration given to European Sites and specific actions proposed where negative impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>CPO12.102 Incorporate water protection measures into initial site selection and design and produce a Water Protection Plan for all planning applications. Water Protection Plans should aim to prevent contamination of storm water, minimise soiled and waste waters, install proper containment for material storage, install appropriate treatment and disposal arrangements for soiled and waste waters and take account of legal requirements for discharges to ground and surface waters.</p>
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CPO12.107 Promote alternative and sustainable transport methods in order to maintain good air quality and support the introduction of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the county and will seek to replace its fleet with EVs where feasible. CPO12.108 Promote the retention of trees, in-particular broad leaf-species, hedgerows and other vegetation where possible, and encourage afforestation and tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering.</p> <p>Noise and Light Pollution County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO12.109 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these regulations. CPO12.110 Support the Implementation of the Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any revision made thereto) CPO12.111 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels, including the use of noise / vibration attenuation measures as appropriate. CPO12.112 Require the submission of a Noise Impact Assessment for all developments likely to introduce noise generating uses in proximity to noise sensitive uses. CPO12.113 Control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance. CPO12.114 (a) Require the use of energy efficient public lighting in all new development proposals. (b) New/Replacement LED luminaires with warmer colours (i.e. CCT values at or below 2700K) be specified for future installations to avoid environmental impacts associated with blue-rich LED light.</p> <p>Soil Protection – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO12.115 Recognise and protect fertile agricultural soils in the County as an important non-renewable natural resource and protect soils identified as agriculturally important in the Landscape Assessment through the prevention of inappropriate use in the development management process. CPO12.116 Identify areas of poorer soil in the County and respect their limitations, particularly in terms of their assimilative properties to prevent pollution CPO12.117 Prevent pollution in areas of poor soils through the implementation of relevant EPA and Department of Agriculture guidance and regulations in the percolation and/or spreading of domestic and agricultural effluent to land. CPO12.118 Investigate the potential uses of cutaway bogs in the County for re-naturing and amenity and particularly consider the development of sustainable and renewable energy projects. CPO12.119 Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed. CPO12.120 Require that the EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites. CPO12.121 Ensure all undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment. All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas. CPO12.123 Require that the treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>CPO12.124 Require that prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will carry out a full contaminated land risk assessment to demonstrate: • How the proposed land uses will be compatible with the protection of health and safety (including the durability of structures and services) - during both construction and occupation; and • How any contaminated soil or water encountered will be appropriately dealt with.</p> <p>Natural Heritage and the Environment - Climate Change Actions Longford County Council shall: A12.1 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of their protection and preservation. A12.2 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Longford. A12.3 Discourage and ban the use of glyphosate weed killers in public spaces in favour of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and concentrated vinegar. A12.4 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased. A12.5 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022. A12.6 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands.</p>	
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<p>A12.7 Fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels will not be encouraged within Longford's functional area. A12.8 Engage the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared amongst neighbouring Local Authorities. A12.9 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible.</p>			
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Natural Heritage and Environment provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. The RSES specifically refers to enhanced green infrastructure with an objective to identify, protect and enhance green infrastructure and ecosystem services in the region and to promote the sustainable management of strategic natural assets such as our farmlands, peatlands, uplands woodlands and wetlands (RPO 7.16). The RSES identifies the strategic importance and value of Peatlands and includes specific guiding principles to be considered for development on peatlands and it supports collaboration between local authorities, the Bord na Móna Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management that incorporate any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans (RPO 7.29).</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the natural heritage and the environment (including biodiversity, water, air, soil, noise and human health).</p>			

8.7.12 Chapter 13: Green Infrastructure

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>General Green Infrastructure – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Council Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CP013.1 Develop the green infrastructure network to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the protection of European Sites; - the provision of accessible parks, open spaces and recreational facilities (including allotments and community gardens); - the sustainable management of water; - the maintenance of landscape character including historic landscape character; the protection and enhancement of the architectural and archaeological heritage. - Any new greenway, blueway and peatway projects shall comply with CPO 5.15 in relation to Infrastructure corridor and route selection processes. <p>CP013.2 Seek a net gain in green infrastructure through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the protection and enhancement of existing assets; - the provision of new green infrastructure as an integral part of the planning process; - taking forward priority projects including preparing green infrastructure maps during the lifetime of the Development Plan. <p>CP013.3 Resist development that would fragment or prejudice the County's strategic green infrastructure network.</p> <p>CP013.4 Ensure green infrastructure protection and provision promotes pedestrian access, cycling, and public transport in preference to the car, as appropriate, while protecting biodiversity and other landscape resources.</p> <p>CP013.5 Facilitate the conservation and enhancement of significant non-designated areas containing ecological importance and located in green corridors.</p> <p>CP013.6 Protect green infrastructure including both natural and man-made from the threat of pollution.</p> <p>CP013.7 Ensure the protection, enhancement and maintenance of Green Infrastructure in the Development Management Process. Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) for all development proposals on lands zoned Recreation / Amenity / Green Space, to ensure that the potential impacts on protected species and habitats can be assessed.</p> <p>CP013.8 Survey lands zoned Recreation/Amenity/Green Space and to apply the Ecosystem Scoring Service to assess the habitat and species value of the subject lands zoned in the key settlements of the County as resources and opportunities allow during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	

		<p>New Green Infrastructure – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Council Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CP013.9 Require that all Local Area and Land Use Plans to protect, manage and provide, where possible, Green Infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner.</p> <p>CP013.10 Facilitate the ongoing development and improvement of green infrastructure, including green networks, green amenities and linked green corridors which ensure the provision of natural areas for the growth of wildlife and biodiversity.</p> <p>CP013.11 Develop a green infrastructure network for urban areas, connecting both natural and semi-natural corridors including green spaces, open spaces, rivers and canals. Enhancements along natural features may include the provision of riparian buffers and wild areas for pollination.</p> <p>CP013.12 Ensure that residual land in developments can be used for the provision of green infrastructure including community food programmes (allotments) and areas for pollination.</p> <p>CP013.13 Ensure all planning applications for development have regard to the County's Green Infrastructure resources and that they provide for the protection of existing green infrastructure, and, where appropriate, the provision of new green infrastructure.</p> <p>CP013.14 Require significant and large green infrastructure or extensions (multiple residential developments, retail, industrial, mineral extraction, renewable etc) (at the discretion of the council) to submit a Green Infrastructure Plan as part of a planning application.</p> <p>(This plan should identify environmental assets and include proposals which protect, manage and develop green infrastructure resources in a sustainable manner).</p> <p>Network of Blueways, Greenways and Peatways – Council Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Council Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CP013.15 Support the delivery of sustainable strategic Greenways, Blueways and Peatways projects in the County in accordance with the Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways.</p> <p>CP013.16 Develop an integrated network of Blueways both within County Longford and to adjoining counties.</p> <p>CP013.17 Support the development of Blueways and associated infrastructure such as mooring points within the key settlements as part of the tourist offering of the County.</p> <p>CP013.18 Investigate the provision of mooring points on the islands within the major lakes of the County.</p> <p>CP013.19 Support the development of an integrated Strategic Greenway Network of national and regional routes and maximise connectivity to existing greenways through linkages of cycling and walking infrastructure.</p> <p>CP013.20 Protect, enhance and preserve the built and natural heritage of the Royal Canal and its associated structures including the maintenance of the broadzone at 100m either side of the Canal. This shall include the natural setting of the canal and its views and prospects.</p> <p>CP013.21 Proposals for greenway/blueway development should contribute towards the protection or enhancement of existing green infrastructure and have regard to the "Connecting with nature for health and wellbeing" EPA Research Report 2020.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Strategy – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Council Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CP013.22 Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County in partnership with key stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>CP013.23 Identify and map Green Infrastructure assets and sites of local biodiversity value over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>CP013.24 Ensure the Green Infrastructure Strategy reflects a long-term perspective, including the need to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>CP013.25 Sets targets in the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the provision of different green infrastructure elements in urban areas, such as trees in urban areas, so that a net gain in green infrastructure is achieved over the lifetime of this development plan.</p> <p>CP013.26 Ensure the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County safeguards important agricultural and horticultural lands.</p> <p>CP013.27 Ensure the Green Infrastructure Strategy connects and integrates existing and new communities through appropriate planning, ongoing management and governance.</p> <p>CP013.28 Ensure Green Infrastructure responds to and reflects landscape character including historic landscape character, conserving and enhancing the existing landscapes and townscapes of the County and which contribute to a distinctive sense of place.</p> <p>CP013.29 Support and increase investment in the provision and on-going maintenance of existing Green Infrastructure and support the provision of new public parks, Greenway, Blueway and Peatway corridors and other public open spaces to create green, healthy settlements throughout the County by accessing relevant National and European funding mechanisms and opportunities including tourism related funding.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Council Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CP013.30 Review and protect existing public rights of way and trails for the common good and bring forward proposals for the creation of additional public rights of way.</p> <p>CP013.31 Cooperate with Coillte, Bord na Mona, private land owners and other Public Bodies in the establishment of access ways, nature trails etc. with a view to the opening up of state forests and cut away bogs for recreational use, compatible with forestry requirements.</p> <p>CP013.32 Identify links to established public rights of way with adjoining counties, where appropriate.</p> <p>CP013.33 Ensure that existing Public Rights of Way and trails are appropriately waymarked, signposted and accessible.</p> <p>CP013.34 Encourage and facilitate the creation of additional rights of way and extend existing ones for pedestrian, cycling, amenity or recreational purposes, either by agreement or by the use of compulsory powers, for the creation of public rights of way, particularly in areas of high amenity and recreational importance.</p> <p>CP013.35 Promote the preservation, protection, enhancement, maintenance and improvement, for the common good of all public rights of way particularly those giving access to lakes, riverbanks, geomorphological features of heritage value and other places of natural beauty or recreational utility/activity.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Climate Change Actions:</p> <p>Longford County Council shall:</p> <p>A13.1 Maintain existing green infrastructure and encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved through the following:</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of open space amenities; Sustainable management of water; Protection and management of biodiversity; Protection of cultural heritage; Protection of protected landscape sensitivities; Planting drought resistant plants. <p>A13.2 Expand the footprint and improve existing connections to the existing Albert Reynolds Peace Park (The Mall) Longford Town, while supporting the development of all other parks within its functional area.</p> <p>A13.3 Undertake a feasibility study identifying 'pocket park' opportunities for all towns within its functional area.</p> <p>A13.4 Seek to implement the principals of the 'Green Street' concept for all future, urban regeneration of streets, prioritising the integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).</p> <p>A13.5 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>A13.6 Require the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) for all future developments with an identified need.</p>			
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Green Infrastructure provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. The RSES specifically refers to enhanced green infrastructure with an objective to identify, protect and enhance green infrastructure and ecosystem services in the region and to promote the sustainable management of strategic natural assets such as our farmlands, peatlands, uplands woodlands and wetlands (RPO 7.16). The RSES identifies the strategic importance and value of Peatlands and includes specific guiding principles to be considered for development on peatlands and it supports collaboration between local authorities, the Bord na Móna Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management that incorporate any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans (RPO 7.29).</p> <p>The development of new and existing greenways, blueways, peatways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those between County Longford, adjoining counties and beyond has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those identified at Section 9 of this report and Objective CPO 5.17 that requires a Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments (including those for the preparation of lower tier plans and projects). The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 			

8.7.13 Chapter 14: Landscape Character

	<p>Likely to Improve status of SEOs</p> <p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Mitigated Conflicts</p> <p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>No Likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>Landscape Character - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.1 Support and implement objectives contained in any Regional Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>CPO14.2 Review in the context of a regional approach to landscape assessment, the County Landscape Character Assessment following publication of statutory guidelines for Planning Authorities on local Landscape Character Assessments, as outlined in the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025.</p> <p>CPO14.3 Protect the landscapes and natural environments of the County by ensuring that any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of their area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes will not be permitted.</p>				

		<p>CPO14.4 Ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape in new development proposals. Any new development should respect and reinforce the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character types, including the retention of important features or characteristics, taking into account the various elements which contribute to their distinctiveness.</p> <p>CPO14.5 Conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>CPO14.6 Discourage proposals necessitating the removal of an extensive number of trees, hedgerows and historic walls or other distinctive boundary treatments and consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders in respect of trees or groups of trees of particular landscape value.</p> <p>CPO14.7 Require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals to be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity.</p> <p>CPO14.8 Preserve views and prospects as illustrated on the accompanying map as part of Appendix 9: Landscape Character and as listed in Tables 14.2 and 14.3.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 1 – Northern Drumlin Lakeland - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.9 Support appropriate development in areas of population decline.</p> <p>CPO14.10 Encourage setting back of dwellings into fields retaining existing plot size and boundary treatment.</p> <p>CPO14.11 Permit hedgerow removal only where necessary for road safety and, where removal is required, encourage replacement with native hedgerow species</p> <p>CPO14.12 Encourage access to lakes and watercourses and development of tourist accommodation within or in the vicinity of settlements, while monitoring amenity development /restricting access in environmentally sensitive locations.</p> <p>CPO14.13 Restrict housing on lakeshores and within their visual areas.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 2 – Northern Upland – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO14.14 Provide for the development of coherent countywide framework for large-scale utility infrastructure including identification and designation of permitted and restricted areas.</p> <p>CPO14.15 Investigate the concentration of heritage artefacts and features in the eastern section of this unit in terms of whether they may warrant the designation of a specific historic landscape to ensure heightened public awareness and their continued protection.</p> <p>CPO14.16 Facilitate co-ordination between Coillte/Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and natural Resources forestry strategies and development Plan Policy</p> <p>CPO14.17 Develop identity and character in new developments in towns and villages through the application of area specific design criteria laid out in design guide.</p> <p>CPO14.18 Protect views and prospects.</p> <p>CPO14.19 Preserve, maintain and enhance these important landscapes and protect the amenity value and visual integrity of the northern upland areas. Discourage inappropriate development in open countryside and prohibit developments which are likely to have material adverse visual impacts, either individually or cumulatively, on the character of these uplands. Ensure that new development will not materially interfere or detract from the scenic uplands and require that proposed developments demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impacts (including excessive bulk and inappropriate siting) and that visually prominent sites have been avoided to minimise visibility from scenic routes, lakes, walking trails, public amenities, settlements and roads. In regard to the potential impacts of development on sensitive upland areas potential developments shall consider the difficulty of establishing and maintaining screening vegetation.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 3 – Shannon Basin/Lough Ree – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.20 Restrict development in the vicinity of the lakes and maintain aquifer protection zone for 1km around boreholes at Carrowroe</p> <p>CPO14.21 Effluent treatment systems in the vicinity of the lake to have nitrogen and phosphorous cleansing capabilities</p> <p>CPO14.22 Prepare Village policy statement for Newtowncashel to include provision for the protection of scenic route</p> <p>CPO14.23 Promote appropriate schemes for the control/eradication of invasive species</p> <p>Landscape Unit 4 – Central Corridor – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.24 Restrict development in pressure areas</p> <p>CPO14.25 Relax restrictions in areas of high capacity</p> <p>CPO14.26 Install Groundwater protection scheme around potential groundwater supplies</p> <p>CPO14.27 Identify and protect important areas of agricultural land from further fragmentation</p> <p>CPO14.28 Encourage use of existing large-scale communications infrastructure for future proposed developments</p> <p>Landscape Unit 5 – Inny Basin – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.29 Target growth to existing settlements</p> <p>CPO14.30 Encourage provision of facilities to strengthen settlements</p> <p>CPO14.31 Consider rural housing where appropriate and in accordance with normal planning criteria with the exception of high sensitivity areas in the vicinity of protected woodlands and riverbanks. Rural housing shall not be permitted in close proximity to the River Inny.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 6 – Peatlands – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.32 Identify appropriate areas for development.</p> <p>CPO14.33 Develop guidelines for screening and siting measures to facilitate development.</p> <p>CPO14.34 Seek to identify opportunity to collaborate and/or partner with Bord na Mona.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 7 – Open Agricultural – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to:</p>	
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<p>CPO 14.35 Fast track the formulation of Local Area Plans/ village policy statements throughout the county to create, preserve and enhance village character. CPO14.36 Promote the development of adequate community and social facilities in smaller villages to maintain character, identity and pedestrian scale. Protected Views and Prospects – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.37 Preserve the views and prospects listed in Table 14.2 and 14.3 and detailed in Appendix 9: Landscape Character with accompanying maps and to protect these views from development which would interfere unduly with the character and visual amenity of the landscape. Landscape Character Climate Change Actions Longford County Council shall: A12.1 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation. A12.2 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Longford. A12.3 Discourage and ban the use of glyphosate weedkillers in public spaces in favour of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar. A12.4 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased. A12.5 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022. A12.6 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands. A12.7 Discourage fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels within Longford’s functional area. A12.8 Engage the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities. A12.9 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible. A12.10 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Midlands Climate Action Region.</p>		<p>Commentary The assessment of the Plan’s Landscape Character provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. The RSES specifically refers to enhanced green infrastructure with an objective to identify, protect and enhance green infrastructure and ecosystem services in the region and to promote the sustainable management of strategic natural assets such as our farmlands, peatlands, uplands woodlands and wetlands (RPO 7.16). The RSES identifies the strategic importance and value of Peatlands and includes specific guiding principles to be considered for development on peatlands and it supports collaboration between local authorities, the Bord na Móna Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management that incorporate any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans (RPO 7.29).</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the landscape.</p> </p></p>
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8.7.14 Chapter 15: Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>This chapter sets out detailed on Plan Implementation and Monitoring including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory 2-year Review of Development Plan • Approach and Priorities for Monitoring • Recommendations from Oversight Bodies: OPR, EMRA and NOAC • Securing Funding Initiatives </p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	

The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

8.7.15 Chapter 16: Development Management Standards

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>This chapter sets out the standards and guidelines, which will be applied in the assessment of development proposals. Sectors covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change and Sustainable Buildings • Urban Design • Shopfronts • Residential Development • Other Residential Developments • Community Facilities • Road Safety and Access • Car parking • Cycle Parking • Retail • Service Stations • Fast Food/Takeaway Outlets • Industrial, Warehousing, Business Parks and Enterprise Hubs • Home Based Economic Activity • Rural Enterprise • Renewable Energy Developments • Telecommunications and Broadband • Applications Proximate to Overhead Power Lines • Tourism and Recreation • Built and Cultural Heritage • Natural Heritage Protection • Landscape Character • Flooding 	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	

The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The standards in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Environmental considerations have been integrated into various Development Management Standards, some as a result of the SEA/AA/SFRA processes, including those under the headings of

- Climate Change and Sustainable Buildings
- Renewable Energy Developments
- Tourism and Recreation
- Built and Cultural Heritage
- Natural Heritage Protection
- Landscape Character
- Flooding

8.7.16 Appendix I: Land Use Zoning

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs BFF PHH S W MA A C H L	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>The Plan includes Land Use Zoning for Longford Town, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard, Lanesborough, Aughnaciffe, Ballinalee, Keenagh, Legan, Newtownforbes, Abbeysrule, Ardagh, Ballinamuck and Clondra. For full detail on zonings and settlement provisions please refer to the main Plan document. The Plan also includes development envelopes for Rural Settlement Clusters.</p> <p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Land Use Zoning against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Environmental considerations were integrated into the zoning for the County’s settlements through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high flood risk. Various provisions have been inserted into the Plan which provide for flood risk management at project level. Also taken into account were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.</p> <p>Where alternatives in relation to the application of land use zoning were identified by the Planning Team as being available (for Longford Town, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard, Lanesborough, Aughnaciffe, Ballinalee, Drumlish, Keenagh, Legan, Newtownforbes, Ardagh and Ballinamuck), these were assessed by the SEA process and informed the selection of the Plan (see Sections 6 and 7 of this report). Furthermore, consideration of Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters was also provided as part of the consideration of alternatives by the SEA (Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters).</p> <p>The land use zoning provided for within the Plan, in combination with other parts of the Plan and other plans and programmes in force, will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Longford County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 				

Section 9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to the Council through the SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. By integrating all related recommendations into the Plan, the Council have ensured that both the beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan have been and will be maximised and that potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset.

Mitigation was achieved through the:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan;
- Integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan; and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.

9.2 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan on public display, Longford County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Appropriate Assessment;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- Core Strategy;
- Settlement Strategy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Retail Strategy;
- Sustainable mobility provisions;
- Infrastructure and Green Infrastructure provisions;
- Provisions for Sustainable Mobility.
- Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Landscape Designations;

- Economic Development; and
- Climate Action.

9.3 Consideration of Alternatives

Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 6), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Council considered a number of alternatives for the Plan.

These alternatives were assessed by the SEA process (see Section 7) and the findings of this assessment informed the selection of preferred alternatives, facilitating an informed choice with respect to the type of Plan that was prepared and placed on public display.

9.4 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach.

Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES.

The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process sought to facilitate zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high flood risk. Various provisions have been inserted into the Plan that provide for flood risk management at project level.

Also taken into account were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

9.5 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan

Various provisions have been integrated into the text of the Plan through the Plan-preparation and SEA, SFRA and AA processes. Both the Planning and the assessment teams contributed towards the mitigation which was developed over multiple iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

Table 9.1 links key mitigation measure(s) to the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
All	Various	CP0 4.69 United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 no. Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.
All	Various	CP0 4.70 Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management Cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management, including compliance with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2001/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.
All	Various	CP0 4.71 Information to be included at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc.); • Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; • Entries to the Record of Monuments; • Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; • Architectural Conservation Areas; and • Landscape/amenity designations.
All	Various	CP0 5.17 Undertake the following Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report) and opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options; • Potentially feasible corridors within which infrastructure could be accommodated will be identified and these corridors assessed. The selection of the preferred route corridor will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists; and • In addition to the constraints identified above, site-specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate corridors. Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially feasible routes within the preferred corridor will be identified and assessed. The selection of preferred routes will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists, taking into account project level information and potential mitigation measures that are readily achievable; • In addition to the constraints identified above, site specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate routes; and • In addition to environmental considerations, the identification of route corridors and the refinement of route lines is likely to be informed by other considerations.
All	Various	DMS16.70 Construction Environmental Management Plan All development proposals of five or more residential units shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with planning application documentation. Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP). Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP).
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	Arising from both construction and operation of development and infrastructure associated with both biodiversity and designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat fragmentation and loss; 	Designated Sites - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: <p>CP012.5 Protect and conserve the conservation value of Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>CP012.6 Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects). Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CP012.7 Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CP012.8 Ensure that all development proposals relating to European Sites will comply with the DoECLG publication 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities'.</p> <p>CP012.9 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives to comply with the Habitats Directive.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<p>CPO12.10 Permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where an appropriate level of assessment can clearly demonstrate that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>CPO12.11 Consult and have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site, or a site proposed for such designation.</p> <p>CPO12.12 Identify and provide appropriate buffer zones between Designated Sites and local biodiversity features and areas zoned for development.</p> <p>CPO12.13 Undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) subject to available resources.</p> <p>CPO12.14 Prepare Strategic Habitat Management Plans for European Sites in the County in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>CPO12.15 Require an ecological appraisal, in addition to an Appropriate Assessment, for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites, or a proposed European Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.</p> <p>CPO12.16 Ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects.</p> <p>CPO12.17 Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EiA) for any proposed development which may have a significant impact on rare, threatened and or protected species and non-designated habitats of biodiversity value.</p> <p>CPO12.18 Where surveys carried out for the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA/EcIA)/Natura Impact Statement or other assessments generate biodiversity data previously unknown or unrecorded in the County this data be submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC).</p> <p>12.5.3 European Sites and Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>A plan or project will only be authorised after the Council has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and subsequent Appropriate Assessment where necessary that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European Site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) or The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000 or The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. <p>Following a finding that a proposed development will adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, planning permission may only be granted in exceptional cases, in the absence of any alternatives, for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) subject to the strict requirements of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Non-Designated Sites – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.15 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites and to require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.16 Co-operate with statutory and other relevant agencies to identify and protect a representative sample of the County's wildlife habitats, of local or regional importance, not otherwise protected by legislation.</p> <p>CPO12.17 Protect Ramsar sites under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as Waterfowl Habitat).</p> <p>CPO12.18 Enhance and sustain landscapes and features within the County in order to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safeguard, sustain and improve the quality and character of landscapes which are important and valued or, promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes or, promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism development. <p>CPO12.19 Protect and enhance important landscape features and their setting including rivers, streams, canals, lakes and associated wetlands such as reedbeds and swamps; ponds; springs; bogs; fens; trees; woodlands and scrub; hedgerows and other field boundary types such as stone walls and ditches. These are important because they;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> form part of a network of habitats, corridors and 'stepping stones' essential for wildlife to flourish, thus providing a high-quality natural environment for all, and/or protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and are essential as part of the integrated approach to the management of water resources, necessary to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as set out in the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy). <p>Wetlands, Turloughs, Watercourses and Fens - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the Longford County Wetlands Fields Survey 2017 and 2019 and subsequent versions thereof.</p> <p>CPO12.26 Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites surveyed in 2019 listed and mapped in Appendix xx.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Resist development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.28 Ensure that development proposals or activities that may impact on sensitive water habitats; in particular turloughs and wetlands, shall not be permitted without the introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Proposals to drain or otherwise interfere with the sources of turloughs will not be permitted.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO12.29 Implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such applications for permission would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Inland Lakes, Waterways and Broadzones – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.30 Preserve, protect and enhance the Counties inland lakes and waterways for their amenity and recreational resource amenity, including the Royal Canal, the Rivers Shannon, Inny and Camlin and Lough Ree, Lough Gowra as well as the County's other rivers and lakes.</p> <p>CPO12.31 In order to build on amenity potential, the Council will support the development and upgrading of the Inland Waterways and their associated facilities in accordance with relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and bodies including Waterways Ireland. An inter-regional approach shall also be taken in association with Leitrim, Roscommon, Westmeath and Offaly to develop the North Shannon Tourism area.</p> <p>CPO12.32 Protect Lough Ree from unsustainable, large-scale and high volume abstraction of water resources for use in areas external to County Longford.</p> <p>CPO12.33 Ensure all abstractions of water from Lough Ree will be subject to assessment for compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO12.34 Provide additional accesses to lake shores, river and canal banks, through the acquisition of land for public rights of way, parking and lay-by facilities, where appropriate. In areas adjacent to inland waterways, lakes, canals and rivers where planning permission is sought, conditions may be attached requiring the retention or creation of public access to the waterway in order to facilitate the creation or expansion of walking/ cycling routes.</p> <p>CPO12.35 Require that land adjacent to lakeshores and river and canal banks in the County be protected and reserved for public access provision.</p> <p>CPO12.36 Protect the broadzones of the lakes, rivers, canals and deciduous woodlands from inappropriate development (see Appendix 10), i.e. development which adversely affects high amenity and landscape quality in relation to their setting, such as the environs of Newcastle House and Woods, particularly adjoining the River Inny Bridge.</p> <p>CPO12.37 Protect, enhance and preserve the built and natural heritage of the Royal Canal and its associated structures including the maintenance of the broadzone at 100m either side of the Canal. This shall include the natural setting of the canal and its views and prospects.</p> <p>CPO12.38 Restrict development in the broad zones of the major rivers and lakes of the County, as illustrated in Appendix 12, to extensions of existing dwellings, which shall be sensitively designed in terms of the individual site and materials.</p> <p>CPO12.39 Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</p> <p>CPO12.40 Promote and encourage ongoing works to improve the navigability of the Royal Canal, and to investigate the provision of mooring points in appropriate locations along the Canal and on the islands within the major lakes of the County</p> <p>CPO12.41 Protect the historical, cultural and scenic importance of the Islands on the lakes and rivers within the County from inappropriate development, whether on the Islands themselves, or at locations that interferes with their integrity and setting.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.42 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.43 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.44 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.45 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p>Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.46 Work with partners and stakeholders to progress the development of the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park and Biosphere.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.47 Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy the National Biodiversity Plan and the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024.</p> <p>CPO12.48 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites.</p> <p>CPO12.49 Improve the biodiversity and ecological value of the County through the promotion of the planting of native and heritage / traditional varieties and grass-cutting schemes amended to encourage local wildflower growth.</p> <p>CPO12.50 Require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Assess proposed large-scale developments, particularly on greenfield sites and in environmentally sensitive areas, in terms of their impact on the biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Screen all projects and plans arising from this plan for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. All such projects and plans will also be required to comply with statutory Environmental Impact Assessment requirements where relevant.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Require mitigating measures in certain cases where it is evident that biodiversity is likely to be affected. These measures may, in association with other specified requirements, include establishment of wildlife areas/corridors/parks, tree planting, wildflower meadows/marshes and other areas. With regard to residential development, in certain cases, these measures may be carried out in conjunction with the provision of open space and/or play areas.</p> <p>CPO12.54 Facilitate increased awareness of the County's biodiversity and natural heritage through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in cooperation with statutory and other partners.</p> <p>CPO12.55 Investigate and encourage the establishment of wildlife areas and corridors, particularly in the context of educational, recreational and amenity facilities.</p> <p>CPO12.56 Enhance the County's biodiversity and natural heritage, including its landscape, by promoting appropriate recreational and amenity schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.57 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO12.58 Conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>CPO12.59 Maintain a biodiversity zone of not less than 10 metres from the top of the bank of all watercourses in the county, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Council, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities.</p> <p>(Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments).</p> <p>CPO12.60 Any development that is visible from any of our protected areas or waterways shall be substantially screened with multiple lines of native tree and hedge planting on all sides.</p> <p>Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.61 Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources, the preparation and adoption of an Indicative Forestry Strategy for the County, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County's biodiversity, natural resources and landscape and developing tourism product.</p> <p>CPO12.62 Preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the County, by promoting the protection of trees, groups of trees and ancient woodlands, of significant amenity value, especially native and broadleaf species.</p> <p>CPO12.63 Undertake a survey of trees and woodlands within the County in order to identify individual trees and or, groups and stands of trees of value worthy of protection, including those in Demense landscapes.</p> <p>CPO12.64 Protect trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and seek to designate additional Tree Preservation Orders, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.65 Protect the following important stands of trees identified in Appendix X from inappropriate development and unmanaged tree felling not part of an overall plan to ensure their sustainability;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avenue at Smithfield, Legan 2. Woods at Carriglass, Castleforbes and Cashel. The perimeter deciduous woodland of Newcastle Woods but not the interior areas of commercial forestry. 3. Portanure Pine Woods 4. Derrycassan Woods 5. Culmagore Wood 6. Rathline Wood 7. Trees along Regional Road R393 at Knockahaw 8. Woodlands at Erne Head, Woodville and Golaroe 9. Lime trees at Mosstown, Keenagh 10. Trees at Rathallagh 11. Wood at Farragh, Killoe <p>The Council reserve the right, through the appropriate process, to add to this list of protected trees over the period of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.66 Discourage the felling of mature trees and hedgerow, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows to facilitate development and seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.</p> <p>CPO12.67 Protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest within the County, other than areas of commercial forestry. Proposals for development in these areas should seek to interact with the landscape character of the forested areas and its limits, recognising the importance of working with the forest to achieve sustainable development proposals, and enhancing and building on aspects of the forested areas that increase biodiversity and the natural habitat.</p> <p>CPO12.68 Encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands and community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.69 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments; particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works, or other works, seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.</p> <p>CPO12.70 Investigate the potential of completing a review of the Hedgerow Survey 2006.</p> <p>Invasive Species - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.71 Promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out of its functions in association with relevant authorities.</p> <p>CPO12.72 Develop and implement a programme of public awareness on the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.</p> <p>CPO12.73 Require landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.</p> <p>CPO12.74 Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species.</p> <p>If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011)</p> <p>Tourism Related Objectives</p> <p>CPO10.13 Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant detrimental impacts, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO10.14 Consider applications for tourism development in line with the planning criteria as set down in this plan (see Chapter 15: Development Management Standards), and which will also be subject to high standards of design and materials particularly given their sensitive locations.</p> <p>CPO10.15 Support and promote the use of the Sustainable Tourism and where appropriate, 'Ecotourism Principles of Tourism Development' in all proposed tourism activities in the County.</p> <p>CPO10.16 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
<p>Population and human health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 		<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Major Accidents Directive – County Policy Objective</p> <p>CPO 5.177 Have regard to the following in assessing applications for new developments (including extensions);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Major Accidents Directive (Seveso II – 96/082/EEC and Seveso III 2012/18/EU); - The potential effects on public health and safety; - The need to ensure adequate distances between such developments and residential areas, areas of public use and any areas of sensitivity. <p>CPO 5.178 Any proposals for developments within the vicinity of major accident hazard sites shall have cognisance of the required minimum separation distances as required by the Major Accidents Directive. In this regard all future proposals of this nature shall be forwarded to the Health and Safety Authority.</p> <p>Radon</p> <p>CPO12.89 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p>
<p>Soil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank erosion. 		<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Prevention of Pollution - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.86 Pursue the preparation, establishment and implementation of compliance with the following (and any future updates):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region. • National Hazardous Waste Plan. • EU and National legislation on the prevention of Air and Noise Pollution. <p>CPO12.87 Encourage and promote environmental awareness and environmentally friendly practices in all aspects of life, particularly in industry, agriculture and all other commercial and leisure activities.</p> <p>CPO12.88 Reduce the impacts of existing pollutant activities through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation of a reduction in the pollutant activity to a non-polluting level or a revision of operating times to reduce the impact of the activity on adjacent land uses. • Relocation to a more appropriate location where adjacent land uses are more compatible. • Imposition of conditions restricting emissions/activity • Use of enforcement action against unauthorised developments/uses. <p>CPO12.89 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p> <p>CPO12.90 Encourage energy efficient design solutions, such as optimising solar gain and geothermal or air source heating, in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase environmental quality.</p> <p>CPO12.91 Assess any application for planning permission for new development, extension to existing development, or intensification or change of use, in terms of its potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Where such development would have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, planning permission will not be forthcoming, prior to the proposal and introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>Landfills</p> <p>CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>Geological Sites – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.24 Contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 12.5.</p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Geological Audit (2015) and facilitate a review of the Geological Audit.</p> <p>CPO12.26 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Contribute towards the appropriate protection of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of the Plan from inappropriate development.</p> <p>CPO12.28 Encourage and promote, where appropriate, public access to geological and geomorphological sites and avoid inappropriate development through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, subject to environmental and habitats assessment.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.50 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p>

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		<p>CPO12.54 Support the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and restoration works which will be both a positive conservation measure and help to reduce carbon loss in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.55 Designated and non-designated peatlands may be subject to the requirements of the planning code, Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA screening and EIA where applicable) and the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Planning permission will be required where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications will need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Soil Protection – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.115 Recognise and protect fertile agricultural soils in the County as an important non-renewable natural resource and protect soils identified as agriculturally important in the Landscape Assessment through the prevention of inappropriate use in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO12.116 Identify areas of poorer soil in the County and respect their limitations, particularly in terms of their assimilative properties to prevent pollution</p> <p>CPO12.117 Prevent pollution in areas of poor soils through the implementation of relevant EPA and Department of Agriculture guidance and regulations in the percolation and/or spreading of domestic and agricultural effluent to land.</p> <p>CPO12.118 Investigate the potential uses of cutaway bogs in the County for re-naturing and amenity and particularly consider the development of sustainable and renewable energy projects.</p> <p>CPO12.119 Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p> <p>CPO12.120 Require that the EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites.</p> <p>CPO12.121 Ensure all undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment. All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p> <p>CPO12.123 Require that the treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>CPO12.124 Require that prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will carry out a full contaminated land risk assessment to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the proposed land uses will be compatible with the protection of health and safety (including the durability of structures and services) - during both construction and occupation; and • How any contaminated soil or water encountered will be appropriately dealt with. <p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p>
<p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<p>Water Quality and Groundwater Protection Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 12.92 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources in conformity with the EU Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, and any subsequent plan and the Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO12.93 Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan</p> <p>Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>CPO 12.94 Collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of protecting existing and potential water resources and achieving 'good status' in all water bodies in accordance with the requirements and guidance of relevant EU Directives and Regulations, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>CPO 12.95 Ensure licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).</p> <p>CPO 12.96 Discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>CPO 12.97 Ensure implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010), which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ('the Nitrates Directive'), dangerous substances in water, and protection of groundwater.</p> <p>CPO 12.98 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the National River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.99 Protect ground and surface water resources from pollution by ensuring the appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability, the recognition of ground water resources and abstraction points and any identified major catchment areas of surface water bodies capable of use as a potable water resource and ensuring that such sources, their zones of contribution, and areas of aquifer vulnerability are protected.</p> <p>Development of a potentially pollutant nature in these areas and any future areas identified shall be prohibited.</p> <p>CPO12.100 Seek to control and manage any potential point and/or diffuse sources of pollution with a view towards improving and maintaining 'good' water quality. Such activities include, but are not restricted to, wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines, contaminated land, agricultural activities, wastewater from unsewered properties, forestry activities and the use and discharge of dangerous substances.</p> <p>CPO12.101 Consider development proposals that involve the physical modification of water bodies, including abstraction of water, having regard to the potential effect on habitats and plant and animal species, with particular consideration given to European Sites and specific actions proposed where negative impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>CPO12.102 Incorporate water protection measures into initial site selection and design and produce a Water Protection Plan for all planning applications.</p>	

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Water Protection Plans should aim to prevent contamination of storm water, minimise soiled and waste waters, install proper containment for material storage, install appropriate treatment and disposal arrangement for soiled and waste waters and take account of legal requirements for discharges to ground and surface waters.</p> <p>CPO12.103 Support, where possible, the development and implementation of a Groundwater Protection Scheme in tandem with the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).</p> <p>Surface Water Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.100 Support in conjunction with Irish Water the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>CPO 5.101 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>CPO 5.102 Require surface water storage measures to be provided in new developments where it is considered that the surface water run-off levels exceed permissible discharge rates. Storm water run-off design should be carried out in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) standards such as The SUDS Manual (CIRIA, 2015), "Dublin Corporation Stormwater Management Policy Technical Guidelines" and "Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works" incorporating "Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, Volume 2, New Developments" or any future updates.</p> <p>CPO 5.103 Ensure that in public and private developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>CPO 5.104 Maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in the county and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems including integrated constructed wetlands and to promote and support the retrofitting of SUDS in established urban areas.</p> <p>CPO 5.105 Prohibit the discharge of surface water run-off and rainwater into foul sewer systems.</p> <p>Flood Risk Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.106 Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.</p> <p>CPO 5.107 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO 5.108 Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding versions). This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines, the risk of flooding within the flood risk areas indicated in the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report, including fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding, and any other flood risk areas that may be identified during the period of the plan or in relation to a planning application. • Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Justification Test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, (or any superseding document) and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts. • Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted. • Where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or European sites downstream, such measures will undergo environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate. <p>The Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding. Future amendments to the plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM's Flood Risk Management Plans and as recommended in the SFRA for the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.109 Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in DMS 16.205. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). In Flood Zone C, (Please also refer to Development Management Standard, Development Management Standard, DMS 16.205, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date CFRAM Programme climate scenario mapping should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council.</p> <p>Flood Zone maps should not be used to suggest that any areas are free from flood risk as they do not include groundwater or artificial drainage system flood risk.</p> <p>Applications for development on land identified as Benefitting Land (under Arterial Drainage Schemes / Drainage Districts) may be prone to flooding, and as such site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas. The Council will ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.</p> <p>CPO 5.110 Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) and available information from the CFRAM Studies shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>CPO 5.111 Require all applications in areas prone to flooding to be subject to the Justification Test set out in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. Compensatory flood storage provision or the provision of flood defences will not override the need for completion of the justification test.</p> <p>CPO 5.112 Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict under the Plan and development aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>CPO 5.1.13 Actively work with the CFRAM Programmes and catchment-based Flood Planning Groups, including where catchments go beyond the Council's administrative boundary, in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk - including those relating to storage and conveyance.</p> <p>CPO 5.1.14 Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Longford County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO 5.1.15 Ensure that the reasonable requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures in the county.</p> <p>CPO 5.1.16 Protect water bodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>CPO 5.1.17 Recognise the important role of peatland and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidance.</p> <p>CPO 5.1.18 Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO 5.1.19 Facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk areas designated as 'Constrained Land Use' on Settlement Plan zoning maps. Future development on these lands is limited to minor development where plan-making Justification Tests have not been undertaken and the Constrained Land Use applies.</p> <p>SFRA datasets will be made available to the lower-tier forward planning and Development Management and associated SFRA/FRA processes in the Council. These processes may lead to the identification of areas where the Constrained Land Use Zoning provisions contained within this Plan may apply. In this regard, prospective applicants for developments in areas that have been previously developed and are at elevated levels of flood risk are encouraged to consult with the Planning Department at the earliest opportunity. Appendix II of the SFRA that accompanies the Plan includes mapping at a County level of historic (page 2) and predictive (page 3) flood risk indicators.</p> <p>CPO 5.1.20 Ensure that applications to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following - floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events.</p> <p>(Please Refer to CPO 5.1.19 and Development Management Standard DMS 16.206).</p> <p>Air Quality - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.104 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>CPO12.105 Support the collation of air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring data in support of a regional air quality and greenhouse gas emission inventory.</p> <p>CPO12.106 Seek to ensure in tandem with the EPA, that all developments are operated in a manner that does not contribute to deterioration in air quality.</p> <p>CPO12.107 Promote alternative and sustainable transport methods in order to maintain good air quality and support the introduction of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the county and will seek to replace its fleet with EVs where feasible.</p> <p>CPO12.108 Promote the retention of trees, in-particular broad leaf-species, hedgerows and other vegetation where possible, and encourage afforestation and tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering.</p> <p>Noise and Light Pollution County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.109 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these regulations.</p> <p>CPO12.110 Support the Implementation of the Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any revision made thereto)</p> <p>CPO12.111 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels, including the use of noise / vibration attenuation measures as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.112 Require the submission of a Noise Impact Assessment for all developments likely to introduce noise generating uses in proximity to noise sensitive uses.</p> <p>CPO12.113 Control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>CPO12.114 (a) Require the use of energy efficient public lighting in all new development proposals. (b) New/Replacement LED luminaries with warmer colours (i.e. CCT values at or below 2700K) be specified for future installations to avoid environmental impacts associated with blue-rich LED light.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>CPO 3.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions); • National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions); • Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the EMRA RSES; • Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and • Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. <p>CPO 3.2 Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation having regard to the measures detailed in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 (these have been informed by available guidance on Climate Action and Mitigation, including that from the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 3.3 Support the implementation and adoption of the Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and promote the County as a key driver of the transition to a low carbon economy within the Region.</p>

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		<p>CPO 3.4 Contribute towards climate mitigation and adaptation, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage).</p> <p>CPO 3.5 Promote the benefits to quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>CPO 3.6 Provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated future development which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the County Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 3.7 Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors</p> <p>CPO 3.8 Support the delivery of sustainable development projects under the European Green Deal and the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>CPO 3.9 Support collaboration between local authorities, the Midland Regional Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Mona Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 3.10 Work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and relevant stakeholders to deliver a number of sustainable energy communities throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 3.11 Consider the use of heat mapping to support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted.</p> <p>CPO 3.12 Carry out a feasibility assessment for district heating and any subsequent Local Area Plans or other statutory planning documents shall identify local waste heat sources, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 3.13 Seek to ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.</p> <p>CPO 3.14 Maintain existing green infrastructure and encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of open space amenities; • Sustainable management of water; • Protection and management of biodiversity; • Protection of cultural heritage; and • Protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 3.15 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>CPO 3.16 Complete a detailed local survey and audit of greenhouse gas emissions for the County in order to effectively target and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a targeted approach at the County level and support the development of a Regional Inventory of GHG Emissions.</p> <p>CPO 3.17 Seek the integration of positive climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in all planning applications.</p> <p>CPO 3.18 Provide training on climate mitigation measures to include the agricultural, construction, industry and transport sector.</p> <p>CPO 3.19 (i) Create an 'Implementation Plan' of adequate detail that will allow for continued monitoring of Local Authority actions, responsibilities and progress specifically related to Climate Action.</p> <p>(ii) Consider a variation of the development plan within a reasonable period of time, or to include such other mechanism, as may be appropriate, to ensure the Development Plan will be consistent with the approach to climate action recommended in the revised Development Plan Guidelines as adopted or any other relevant guidelines.</p> <p>Also refer to: Section 8.5 "Interactions with Climate Mitigation and Adaptation"; the overall approach to compact development and sustainability provided by the Plan; and Chapter 4 Housing Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 5 Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications - Climate Actions, Chapter 6 Climate Action and 'Just Transition' Fund Opportunities – County Policy Objectives, Chapter 7: Placemaking Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 8 Economic Development Climate Change Actions, Chapter 9 Rural Economy Climate Change Actions, Chapter 10 Tourism Climate Change Actions, Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage Climate Actions, Chapter 12 Natural Heritage and the Environment - Climate Change Actions, Chapter 13 Green Infrastructure Climate Change Actions and Chapter 14 Landscape Character Climate Change Actions</p> <p>Also see measures under CEEMP requirement, other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions from the Plan.</p>
<p>Material Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water runoff that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water 		<p>Water Supply and Distribution - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.83 Work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.</p> <p>CPO 5.84 Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment.</p> <p>CPO 5.85 Have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County in conjunction with Irish Water.</p> <p>CPO 5.86 Support recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failure to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List in conjunction with Irish Water.</p> <p>CPO 5.87 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 5.88 Ensure that adequate water services is available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission and to require developers to consult Irish Water regarding available capacity, prior to applying for planning permission.</p> <p>CPO 5.89 Promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation in existing and new development within the County by encouraging demand management measures among all water users and requiring new developments to incorporate water conservation measures.</p> <p>CPO 5.90 Provide guidance and advice regarding the protection of water supply to private wells with the overall responsibility remaining with the householder.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. 	<p>Wastewater - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.91 Liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan in the provision, upgrading or extension of wastewater collection and treatment systems in the County to serve existing and planned future populations and enterprise in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 5.92 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</p> <p>CPO 5.93 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.</p> <p>CPO 5.94 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate future growth in the County.</p> <p>CPO 5.95 Have regard to the capacity of the Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon wastewater treatment plants (and any other plants within the County of limited capacity to accommodate the core strategy and settlement hierarchy), with any further growth in these settlements contingent on the upgrading of these treatment plants, or the submission of appropriate temporary engineering solutions for individual developments which suitably address wastewater treatment and disposal to the satisfaction of the Council and Irish Water and in accordance with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.96 Resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems.</p> <p>CPO 5.97 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>CPO 5.98 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's. 'Promote changeover from septic tanks to public collection networks in all cases where this is feasible.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended. EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) and EPA Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater (EPA 2011), as may be amended. <p>CPO 5.99 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County..</p> <p>Waste Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.121 Support the implementation of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.122 Continue to facilitate and promote the provision of civic amenity sites, including 'bring centres' for the purposes of providing a collection point for the recycling of domestic waste, subject to siting, location, compatibility with adjacent land uses and other relevant development management criteria.</p> <p>CPO 5.123 Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</p> <p>CPO 5.124 Promote and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>CPO 5.125 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>CPO 5.126 Promote and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure/technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, with the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p> <p>CPO 5.127 Require, where necessary, Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plans as part of applications for development in accordance with "Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects" (DoEHLG, 2006). Such plans should be submitted for developments above the stated thresholds within these guidelines and as required by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>CPO 5.128 Control development within its powers through the planning process in order to prevent and/or limit the impact of potential air, water and soil pollution.</p> <p>CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>CPO 5.130 Ensure that all waste collectors and householders who use the services of authorised waste collectors are fully compliant with the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended and the Waste Management (Collection Permits) Regulations 2007, as amended.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.1 Promote and direct users to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) website (www.buildingsofireland.ie) wherever appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.2 Cooperate with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in assessing and celebrating historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens.</p> <p>CPO11.3 Implement the County Heritage Plan 2019-2024 and seek to update the Heritage Plan over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO11.4 Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of the existing building stock.</p> <p>CPO11.5 Ensure that all development should be appropriate to its setting in the landscape or townscape and responds to and reinforces local character and heritage.</p> <p>CPO11.6 Encourage the enhancement, management, protection and the promotion of access to and understanding of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.7 Recognise and protect the unique historical, mythological and cultural significance of Ardagh Mountain. Developments which materially impinge on the character of the mountain will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO11.8 Provide detailed guidance notes and continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.9 Ensure that proposals for development to structures included as part of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (DoEHLG) and any updated version, maintain and enhance the character of these structures.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO11.10 Ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner with a view to minimal detracting from the monument or its setting.</p> <p>CPO11.11 Require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are outstanding remains, a visual impact assessment may be required.</p> <p>CPO11.12 Refer any proposed development which may impact on the integrity and/or setting of any monuments, sites, objects or areas of archaeological, cultural, architectural, historical or heritage importance under the protection of this Development Plan and/or the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the relevant section of the DoAHG for observations/comment prior to a grant of permission/approval being obtained.</p> <p>CPO11.13 Ensure applications for housing developments shall include provision for the naming of estates in recognition of the cultural heritage of the area in which they are situated.</p> <p>Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.14 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.15 For the purposes of the RPS, identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, light fixtures and signage, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.16 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO11.17 Ensure the protection of structures included in the Record of Protected Structures by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling development which would alter the character of Protected Structures and proposed Protected Structures. • Monitoring the condition of Protected Structures and proposed protected structures to identify those endangered by neglect, vandalism or unauthorised development and taking appropriate action. • Preventing the endangerment of Protected Structures in the Council's ownership. <p>CPO11.18 Consider the acquisition of Protected Structures, where possible and where economic constraints permit, if this is necessary to protect the structure.</p> <p>CPO11.19 Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing older buildings/ buildings of architectural merit, where appropriate, in preference to their demolition and redevelopment. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CPO11.20 Facilitate contemporary and innovative design providing that they are of a sufficient high quality and do not detract from the character of the historic fabric of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CPO11.21 Require applications for development where a Protected Structure or its setting is likely to be materially affected, to submit a detailed assessment of the building.</p> <p>CPO11.22 Protect the setting of Protected Structures and refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a Protected Structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.23 Issue Declarations as to the type of works that would affect the character of a Protected Structure and therefore require planning permission.</p> <p>CPO11.24 Administer the DoAHG Historic Structures Fund including the assessment of applications, ensuring that the works enhance and do not adversely affect the character of a Protected Structure and have been carried out in accordance with the conditions of the fund.</p> <p>CPO11.25 Promote and support the funding sources available for Protected Structures and built heritage within the County.</p> <p>CPO11.26 Identify and seek further funding for the upkeep of Protected Structures within the County.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.27 Prepare and review, where necessary, detailed character statements and planning guidance for the 2 no. ACA's in the County, within the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO11.28 Protect the character of Architectural Conservation Areas in County Longford and ensure the preservation of the character of the Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>CPO11.29 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to buildings of historic significance within Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>CPO11.30 Identify and designate new Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) as appropriate.</p> <p>Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Designed Landscapes Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.31 Support the publication of a County Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, in order to promote the intrinsic character of those within the county.</p> <p>CPO11.32 Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.33 Discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components of, or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.</p> <p>CPO11.34 Require that proposals for development in designated landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, in order to inform site appropriate design proposals and ensure the on-going and future sustainability of the estate.</p> <p>CPO11.35 Continue the development, expansion and the protection of the (Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall) in Longford town.</p> <p>Vernacular Architecture Policies – County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.36 Encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features.</p> <p>CPO11.37 Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of County Longford and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burghage plots and townland boundaries, into re-developments.</p> <p>CPO11.38 Actively promote the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings as a key component of the built heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.39 Create and maintain and update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County and to promote available grant schemes to assist owners with their retention and repair.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO11.40 Ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building.</p> <p>CPO11.41 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vernacular buildings, where appropriate and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of historic buildings.</p> <p>Industrial and Agricultural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.42 Create and maintain an inventory of Industrial and Agricultural Heritage assets within the County.</p> <p>CPO11.43 Support the retention and appropriate repair/maintenance of historic bridges and other significant industrial heritage features in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.44 Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice, subject to compliance with normal planning criteria.</p> <p>CPO11.45 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vacant traditional farm buildings, where appropriate, and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of interest.</p> <p>Financial support Incentives for Built Heritage and National Monument assets Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is Policy Objective of the Council to</p> <p>CPO11.46 Ensure the protection and enhancement of the built and cultural heritage of County Longford by securing and promoting the provision of suitable funding initiatives where possible.</p> <p>Archaeological Heritage Policy – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.47 Protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.48 Protect the integrity of the settings of archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.49 Protect the National Monuments and monuments protected under Preservation Orders in the County (see Table 11.1: National Monuments In County Longford, Table 11.2: Monuments Protected under Preservation Orders and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).</p> <p>CPO11.50 Protect the monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest in the County (see Table 11.3: County Longford Monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).</p> <p>CPO11.51 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of the County's rich archaeological heritage, to include community initiatives.</p> <p>CPO11.52 Encourage and promote access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.53 Seek to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the archaeological heritage for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners.</p> <p>CPO11.54 Investigate and promote the provision of improved access to important archaeological sites.</p> <p>CPO11.55 Presume in favour of the physical preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and their settings, where appropriate, feasible and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.56 Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p> <p>CPO11.57 Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.</p>
<p>Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 		<p>Landscape Character - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.1 Support and implement objectives contained in any Regional Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>CPO14.2 Review in the context of a regional approach to landscape assessment, the County Landscape Character Assessment following publication of statutory guidelines for Planning Authorities on local Landscape Character Assessments, as outlined in the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025.</p> <p>CPO14.3 Protect the landscapes and natural environments of the County by ensuring that any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of their area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO14.4 Ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape in new development proposals. Any new development should respect and reinforce the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character types, including the retention of important features or characteristics, taking into account the various elements which contribute to their distinctiveness.</p> <p>CPO14.5 Conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>CPO14.6 Discourage proposals necessitating the removal of an extensive number of trees, hedgerows and historic walls or other distinctive boundary treatments and consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders in respect of trees or groups of trees of particular landscape value.</p> <p>CPO14.7 Require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals to be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity.</p> <p>CPO14.8 Preserve views and prospects as illustrated on the accompanying map as part of Appendix 9: Landscape Character and as listed in Tables 14.2 and 14.3.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 1 – Northern Drumlin Lakeland - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.9 Support appropriate development in areas of population decline.</p> <p>CPO14.10 Encourage setting back of dwellings into fields retaining existing plot size and boundary treatment.</p> <p>CPO14.11 Permit hedgerow removal only where necessary for road safety and, where removal is required, encourage replacement with native hedgerow species</p> <p>CPO14.12 Encourage access to lakes and watercourses and development of tourist accommodation within or in the vicinity of settlements, while monitoring amenity development /restricting access in environmentally sensitive locations.</p> <p>CPO14.13 Restrict housing on lakeshores and within their visual areas.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Landscape Unit 2 – Northern Upland – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to: CPO14.14 Provide for the development of coherent countywide framework for large-scale utility infrastructure including identification and designation of permitted and restricted areas. CPO14.15 Investigate the concentration of heritage artefacts and features in the eastern section of this unit in terms of whether they may warrant the designation of a specific historic landscape to ensure heightened public awareness and their continued protection. CPO14.16 Facilitate co-ordination between Coillte/Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and natural Resources forestry strategies and development Plan Policy CPO14.17 Develop identity and character in new developments in towns and villages through the application of area specific design criteria laid out in design guide. CPO14.18 Protect views and prospects. CPO14.19 Preserve, maintain and enhance these important landscapes and protect the amenity value and visual integrity of the northern upland areas. Discourage inappropriate development in open countryside and prohibit developments which are likely to have material adverse visual impacts, either individually or cumulatively, on the character of these uplands. Ensure that new development will not materially interfere or detract from the scenic uplands and require that proposed developments demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impacts (including excessive bulk and inappropriate siting) and that visually prominent sites have been avoided to minimise visibility from scenic routes, lakes, walking trails, public amenities, settlements and roads. In regard to the potential impacts of development on sensitive upland areas potential developments shall consider the difficulty of establishing and maintaining screening vegetation.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 3 – Shannon Basin/Lough Ree – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.20 Restrict development in the vicinity of the lakes and maintain aquifer protection zone for 1km around boreholes at Carrowroe CPO14.21 Effluent treatment systems in the vicinity of the lake to have nitrogen and phosphorous cleansing capabilities CPO14.22 Prepare Village policy statement for Newtowncashel to include provision for the protection of scenic route CPO14.23 Promote appropriate schemes for the control/eradication of invasive species</p> <p>Landscape Unit 4 – Central Corridor – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.24 Restrict development in pressure areas CPO14.25 Relax restrictions in areas of high capacity CPO14.26 Install Groundwater protection scheme around potential groundwater supplies CPO14.27 Identify and protect important areas of agricultural land from further fragmentation CPO14.28 Encourage use of existing large-scale communications infrastructure for future proposed developments</p> <p>Landscape Unit 5 – Inny Basin – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.29 Target growth to existing settlements CPO14.30 Encourage provision of facilities to strengthen settlements CPO14.31 Consider rural housing where appropriate and in accordance with normal planning criteria with the exception of high sensitivity areas in the vicinity of protected woodlands and riverbanks. Rural housing shall not be permitted in close proximity to the River Inny.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 6 – Peatlands – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.32 Identify appropriate areas for development. CPO14.33 Develop guidelines for screening and siting measures to facilitate development. CPO14.34 Seek to identify opportunity to collaborate and/or partner with Bord na Mona.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 7 – Open Agricultural – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to: CPO 14.35 Fast track the formulation of Local Area Plans/ village policy statements throughout the county to create, preserve and enhance village character. CPO14.36 Promote the development of adequate community and social facilities in smaller villages to maintain character, identity and pedestrian scale.</p> <p>Protected Views and Prospects – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.37 Preserve the views and prospects listed in Table 14.2 and 14.3 and detailed in Appendix 9: Landscape Character with accompanying maps and to protect these views from development which would interfere unduly with the character and visual amenity of the landscape.</p> <p>Landscape Character Climate Change Actions Longford County Council shall: A12.1 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation. A12.2 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Longford. A12.3 Discourage and ban the use of glyphosate weedkillers in public spaces in favour of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar. A12.4 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased. A12.5 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022. A12.6 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands. A12.7 Discourage fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels within Longford's functional area.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		A12.8 Engage the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities. A12.9 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible. A12.10 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Midlands Climate Action Region.

Section 10 Monitoring Measures

10.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan.

Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

The occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects not predicted and mitigated by this assessment, which are directly attributable to the implementation of the Plan, would necessitate consideration of these effects in the context of the Plan and potential remediation action(s) and/or review of part(s) of the Plan.

10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 5 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the measures identified in that RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring programmes.

Table 10.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental

effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

Many of the indicators below relate to more than one of the freshwater and terrestrial environments, for example: indicator B1 'Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive' relates to freshwater and terrestrial habitats and species.

10.3 Sources

The Plan will form part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland RSES, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. At lower tiers of the hierarchy, Local Area Plans and individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

In implementing the Monitoring Programme the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring.

Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council would provide monitoring of certain indicators on a *grant of permission*¹⁰⁰ basis. Where significant adverse effects as a result of the

¹⁰⁰ The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process.

Documenting any identified effects as a result of a development to be permitted can help to fulfill monitoring requirements.

development to be permitted are identified, such effects could be identified, recorded and used to inform monitoring evaluation.

10.4 Reporting

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan. This report will seek to address the indicators set out on Table 10.1. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 10.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. Status of water quality in the County's water bodies Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 12 "Natural Heritage and Environment" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024 For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 12 "Natural Heritage and Environment" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years). DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years) Consultations with the NPWS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 "Economic Development" Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 "Economic Development" No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures. Implementation of Green Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA CSO data Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications in key growth towns are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the waste water treatment plant or failure of the waste water treatment plant to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will contribute towards a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Soil Land	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield Volume of contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill Number of AA determinations and environmental assessments undertaken to support applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF. Achieve the 40% target for growth on infill as per NPF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Geoport Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the River Basin Management Plan by 2021 (and subsequent iterations as relevant) Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Proportion of population within who report regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County. All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Increased budget spends on water and waste water infrastructure By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) CSO data Consultations with Irish Water DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities Department of Public Expenditure and Reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels. Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets as provided for by Plan provisions including those provided for and referenced in Chapter 3 "Climate Change" Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures climate reduction targets as provided for by Plan provisions including those provided for and referenced in Chapter 3 "Climate Change" Increase in the proportion of people resident in the County reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by 2020 Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office Consultations with DECC CSO data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Cultural Heritage	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) Consultation with DHLGH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation
Landscape	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan To seek to align with the National Landscape Strategy To seek to align with the National Landscape Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

Legislation, Plan, etc. European Level	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones; re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an integrated approach • best available techniques, • flexibility; and • public participation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. <p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry Sustainable management of fish stocks Reducing invasive alien species Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</p>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complementary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. 	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (EU Air Framework Directive)</p> <p>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAPE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</p>	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective and for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and 2013/30/EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. 	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</p>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Bali Road Map (2007)</p>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Cancun Agreements (2010)</p>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</p>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Common Agricultural Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. 	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Stockholm Convention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner To target additional POPs Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Level Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan (2021-2030)	<p>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It is an ambitious plan that balances the significant demand for public investment across all sectors and regions of Ireland with a major focus on improving the delivery of infrastructure projects to ensure speed of delivery and value for money. <p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	<p>The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services <p>In preparation</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. 	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrates and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations include measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with</p>

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Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. 	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective; The policy of the Government on climate change; Climate justice; Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Climate Action Plan 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Climate Action Plan 2021 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021. 	<p>The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, including in 2022, to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. 	<p>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)	<p>These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites; in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).</p>	<p>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</p> <p>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</p> <p>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</p> <p>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</p> <p>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</p> <p>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</p> <p>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations, and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. 	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing on and offshore wind, Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, Growing sustainable transport; and Building out robust and efficient networks. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives. 	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Policy Framework Decarbonising Electricity Generation Decarbonising the Built Environment Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. 	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; "Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country, to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>All Island Grid Study 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system. 	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</p>	<p>Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>“Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”</i> 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</p>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</p>	<p>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i> 	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</p>	<p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. • Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ To reduce overall travel demand. ◦ To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. ◦ To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. ◦ To reduce transport emissions. ◦ To improve accessibility to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ reducing distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ◦ ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking ◦ improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies ◦ strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades. 	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. • Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Security of Supply ◦ Sustainability of Energy ◦ Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand • Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland • Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation • Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks • Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production • Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. • Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. • Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. • Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</p>	<p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% • Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	<p>Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Broadband Plan (2012)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. 	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. Outlines surface water quality standards. Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. Sets groundwater quality standards. Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. 	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute for water pollution offences. Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution in the manner and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. 	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Waste water. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Food Harvest 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	<p>Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment</p>	<p>not applicable</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Rural Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas 	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. 	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afforestation and Creation of Woodland NeighbourWood Scheme Forest Roads Reconstitution Scheme Woodland Improvement Scheme Native Woodland Conservation Scheme Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions Producer Groups Innovative Forest Technology Forest Genetic Reproductive Material Forest Management Plans 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
River Basin Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</p>	<p>This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.</p>	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. 	<p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</p>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. 	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</p>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC. On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DITAS) 2017- 2030</p>	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</p>	<p>Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.</p>	<p>Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% increase in value added to €1.3 billion. 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development. Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative 	<p>Combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. 	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</p>	<p>The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.</p>	<p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Context Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination Enhancing the Visitor Experience Research in the Irish Tourism Sector Supporting Local Communities in Tourism Wider Government Policy International Context Co-ordination Structures 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</p>	<p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)</p>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC. On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc. National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DITAS) 2017- 2030	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	Relevance to the Plan Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DITAS, 2014)	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	<p>The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present. • There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025. <p>The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	<p>Four objectives of the Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. • Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. • Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. • Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Development and Innovation – A strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	<p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; • To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; • To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and • To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy;	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus; • Light Rail; • Heavy Rail; • Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Longford Tourism Strategy 2017-2022</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out the overall Vision for tourism in County Longford over the relevant period. The primary goal of the Longford Tourism Strategy is to achieve positive outcomes in a set of identified actions over the year life of this strategy.</p>	<p>The Vision will be achieved through the fulfilment of the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing tourism infrastructure • Delivery of visitor centric experiences • Development of a Longford Tourism Brand • Generating greater awareness of Longford as a tourism destination 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Shannon, Mighty River of Ireland, A Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon 2020 – 2030</p>	<p>The objective of this plan is to reposition the River Shannon as a key destination in Ireland identifying visitor experiences based on the region's natural and cultural assets.</p>	<p>Longford is identified as part of 'Discovery Zone 2; Mid Shannon' in the Shannon Tourism Masterplan. This area stretches from Clondra in the north to Portumna in the south of the region. The area is described as an elemental zone where lakes, rivers and canals meander through wetlands, peatlands and lowland farms, creating the distinctive 'soft' landscapes of the region. Lough Ree is described as the beating heart of Mid Shannon, a wonderful mosaic of open waters, hidden bays, monastic islands and wooded shorelines, renowned for angling, cruising, sailing and kayaking.</p> <p>Specifically, for Longford and the Mid Shannon zone the Shannon Tourism Masterplan recommends Priority Project D22.3 'Wet'n'Wild Peatlands of Mid Shannon. This involves developing an integrated Discovery Zone focused on peatlands, environmental and industrial heritage, recreational opportunities such as walking, hiking, cycling, guided tours and outdoor classrooms to demonstrate nature, biodiversity and the impact of climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</p>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<p>• A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Groundwater Protection Schemes</p>	<p>A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</p>	<p>• The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Longford LECP 2016-2022</p>	<p>The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities</p>		

SEA Environmental Report for the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

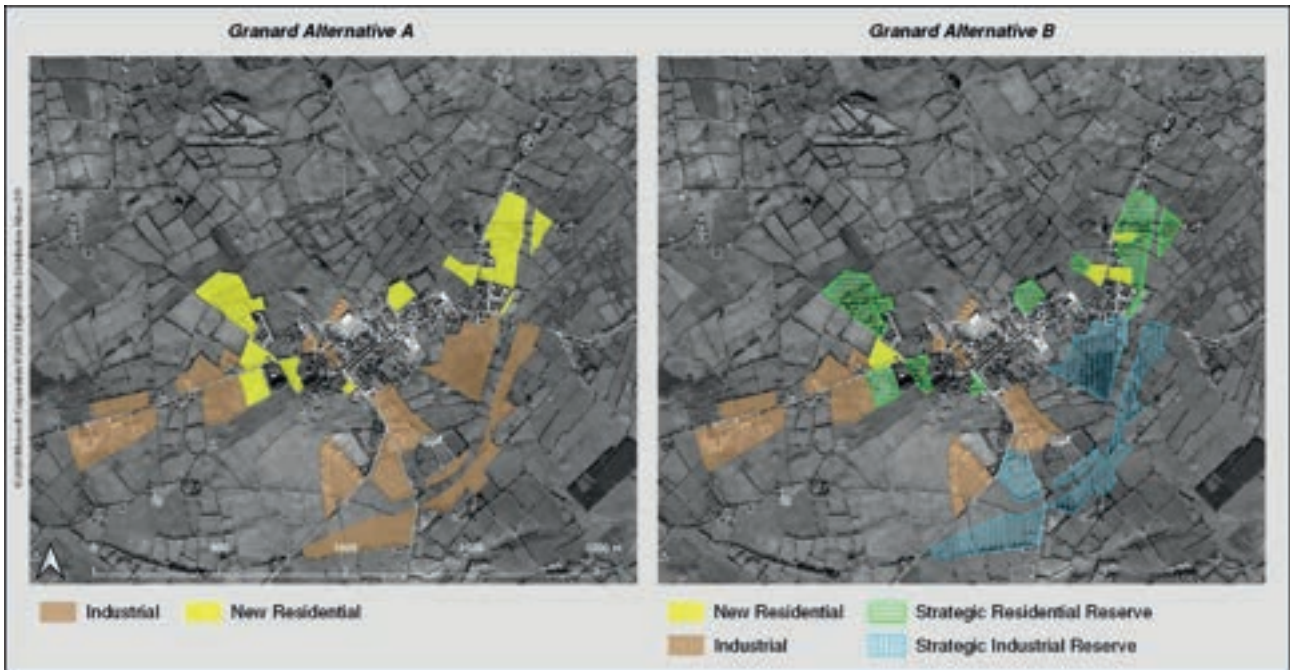
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Land Use Plans (those in force in County Longford and in other adjoining planning authorities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhance amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>County Longford Heritage Plan 2019-2024 (Incorporating Longford Biodiversity Action Plan)</p>	<p>Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore heritage, biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.</p>	<p>Plan's objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement key Strategic Actions over the lifetime of the Heritage Plan to achieve greater awareness and protection of all aspects of the heritage of County Longford To develop knowledge, appreciation and access to Longford's heritage through research and innovation. Promote the protection and best practice in heritage management within the county Promote heritage education and awareness. Support organisations and communities in promoting sustainable enjoyment of Longford's countryside, waterways and heritage Implement the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>County Longford Landscape Character Assessment</p>	<p>Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</p>	<p>These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023</p>	<p>Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.</p>	<p>The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Longford County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p>	<p>Respond to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have. Attempt to climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>	<p>The Plans' objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that climate action awareness and adaptation responses are embedded within governance and management structures in Longford County Council. Incorporate climate action awareness and responses throughout Council policy. Ensure that structures are in place to secure continuity of service and business operations as part of adaptation mechanisms. Ensure/increase the resilience of infrastructural assets and inform investment decisions. Maintain the integrity of public infrastructure against negative climate change impacts and increase the design resilience of planned developments into the future. Promote a combined climate action response to infrastructure provision. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

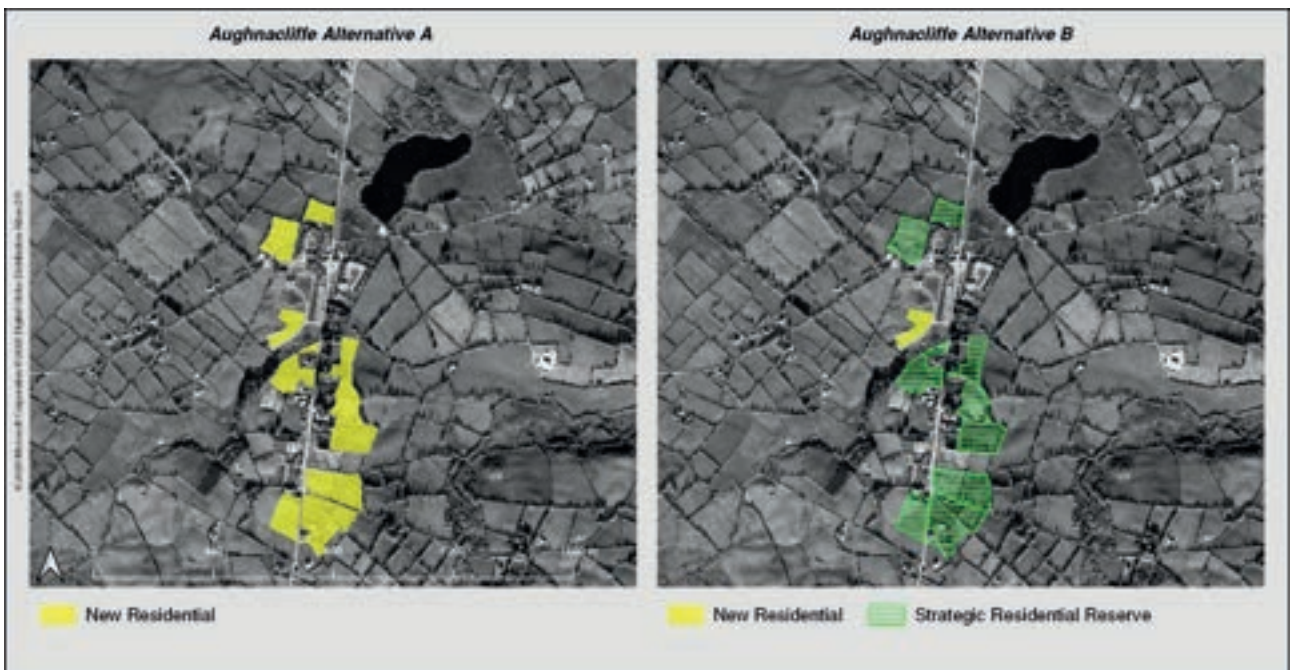
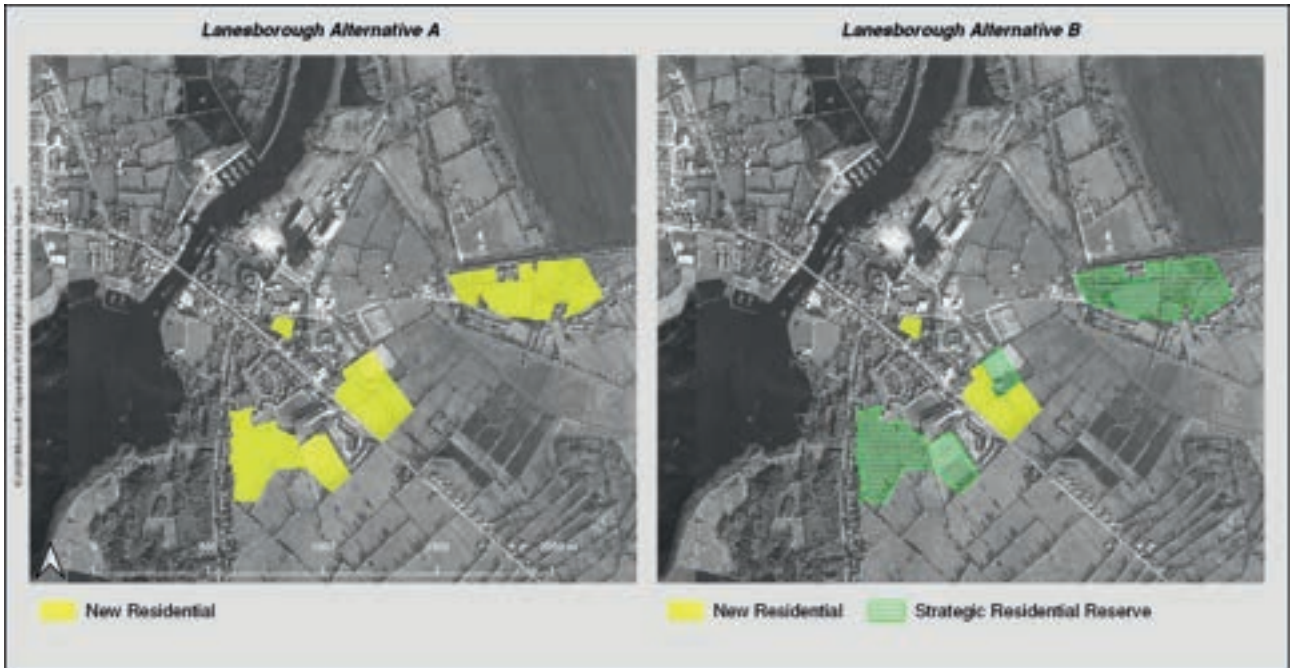
SEA Environmental Report for the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

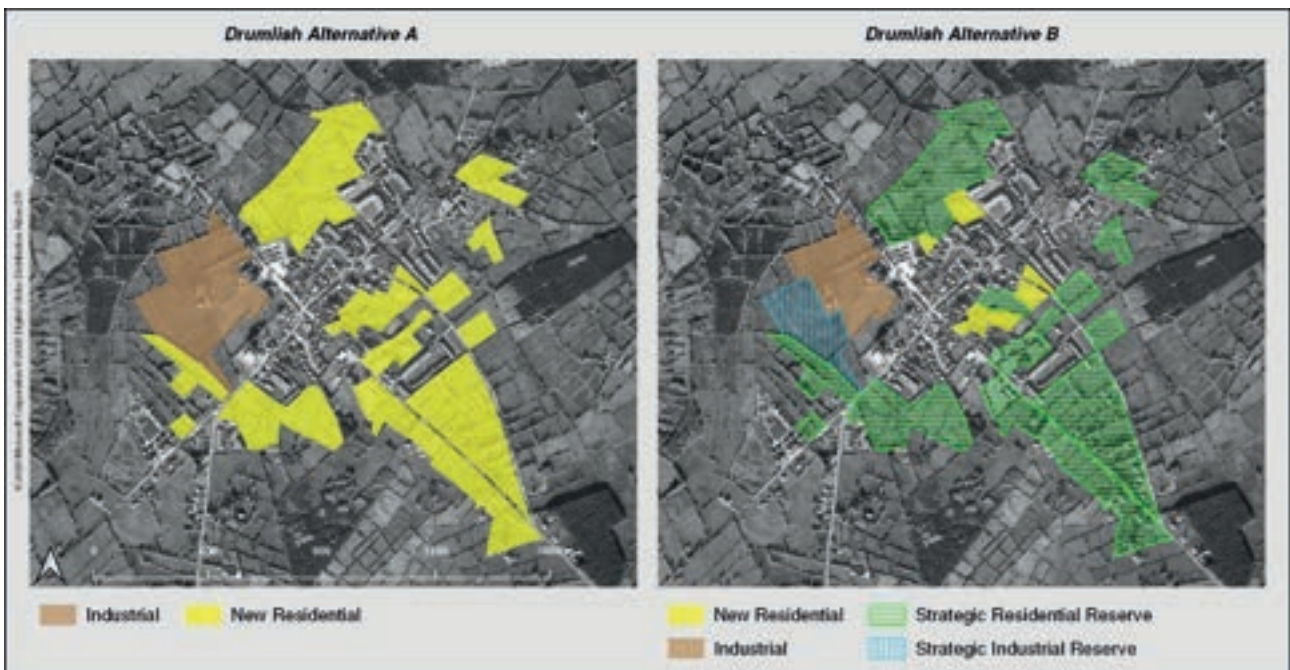
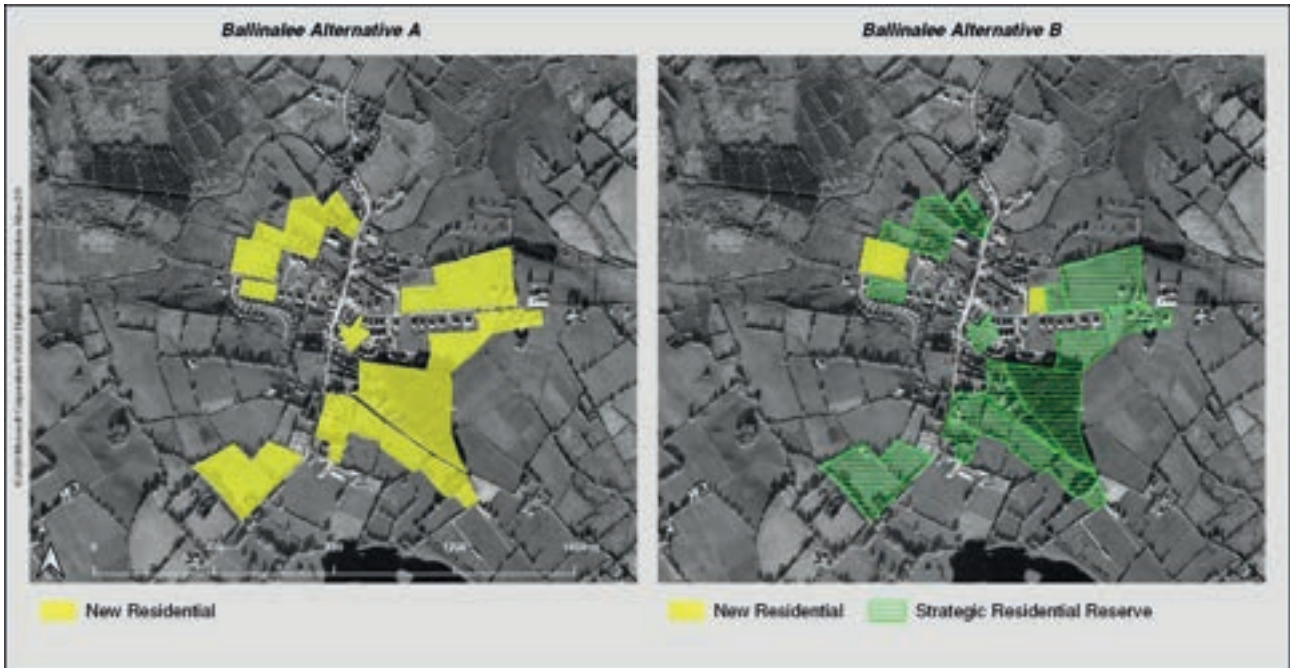
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Hidden Heartlands brands</p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate climate action considerations into land use planning policy and influence positive behaviour. Manage the risk of flooding through a variety of responses and to mitigate the risk and impact of flooding. Provide for enhancement of natural environment to work positively towards climate action, to promote effective bio-diversity management and enhance protection of natural habitats and landscapes and to protect heritage and cultural infrastructure. Support climate action initiatives in line with Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) actions. Build capacity and resilience within communities. <p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</p>	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

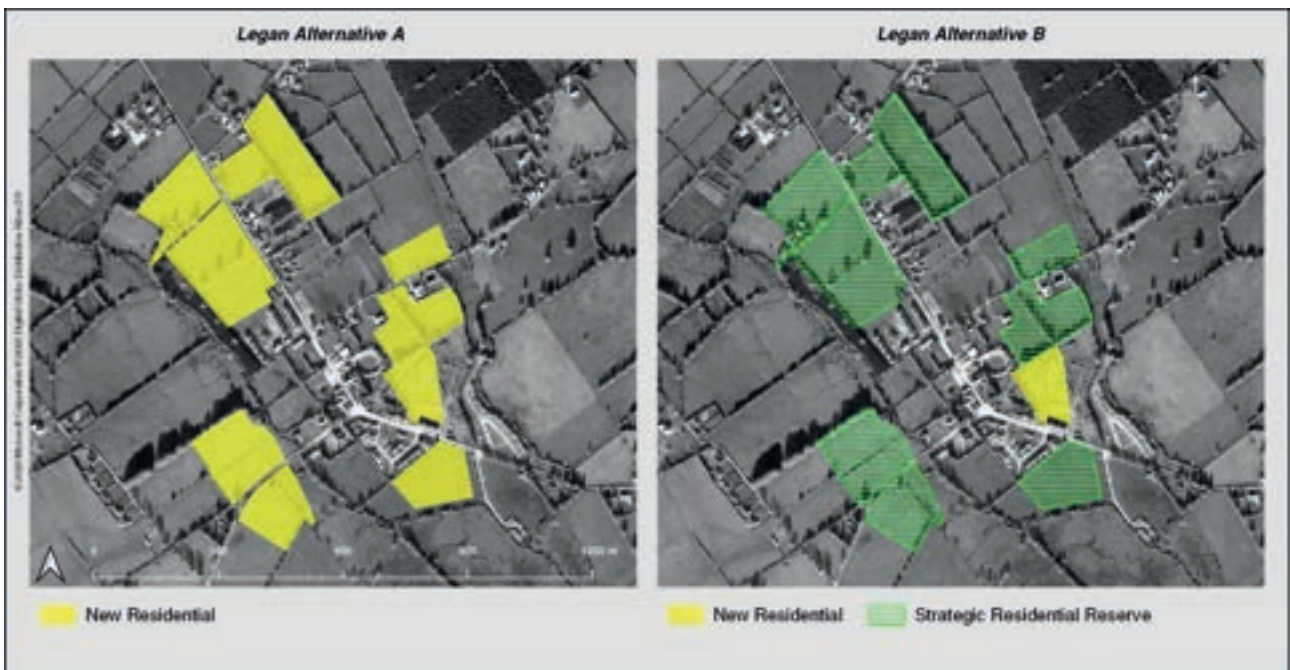
Appendix II Indicative Mapping of Land Use Zoning Alternatives

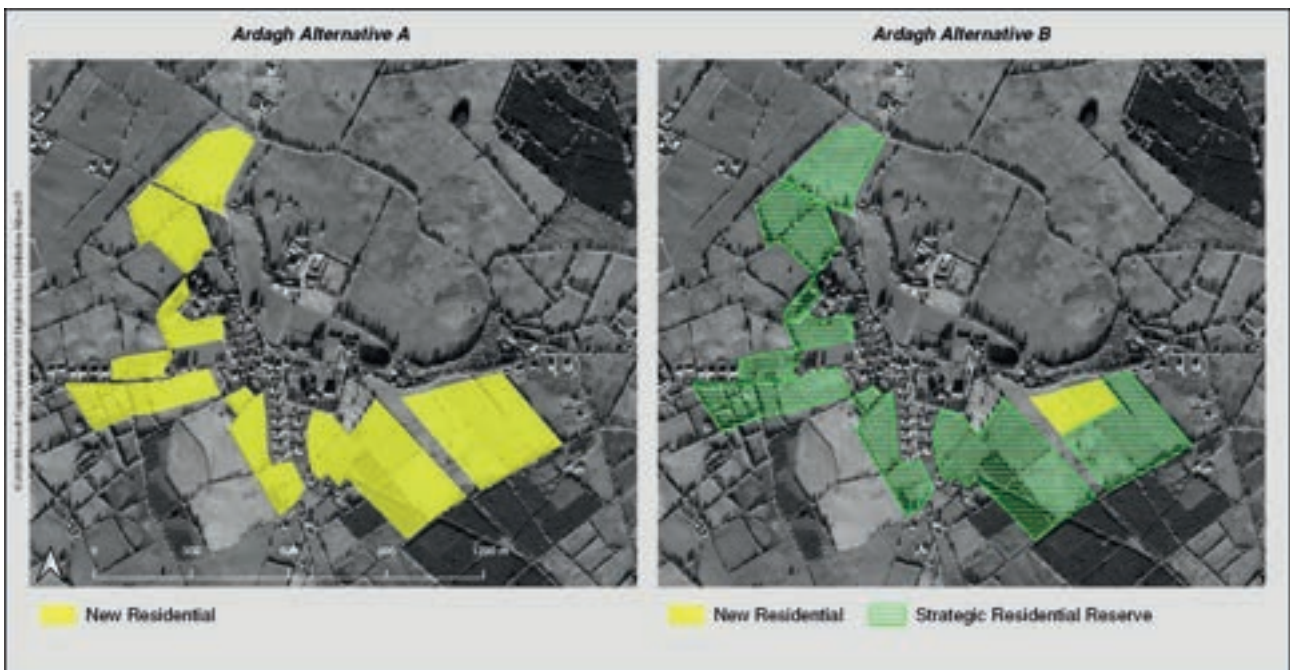
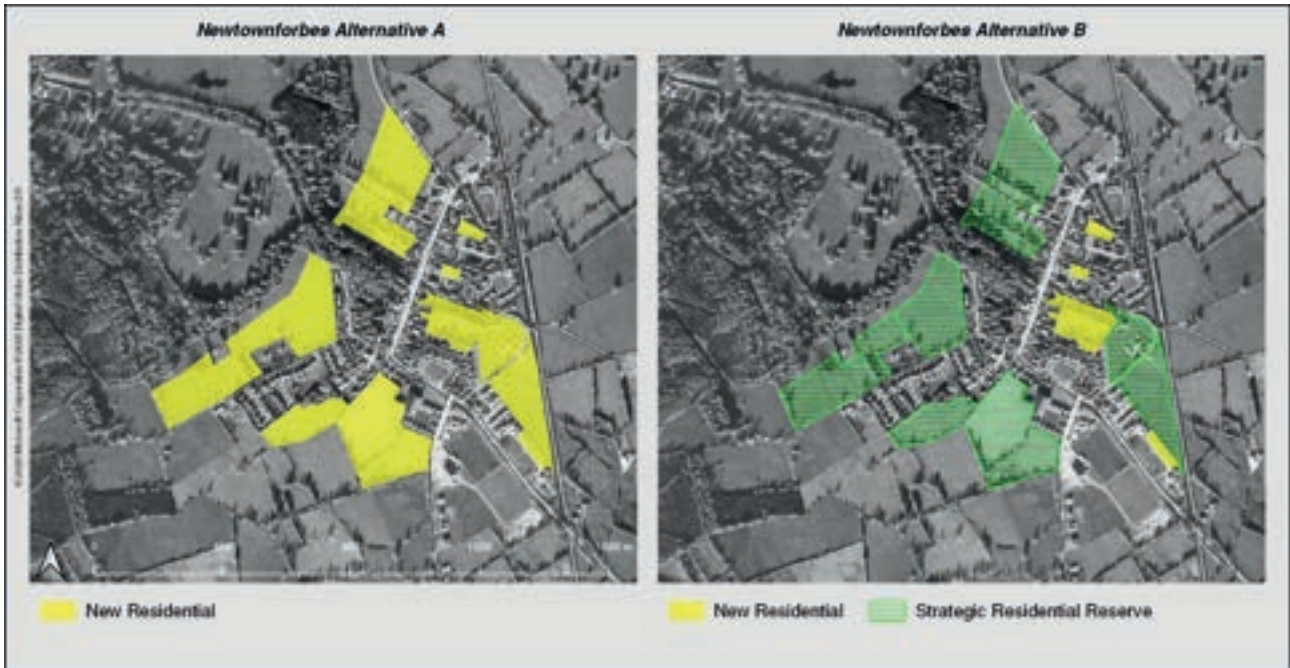














SEA Environmental Report Appendix III – Non Technical Summary



SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

APPENDIX III – NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

FOR THE

LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

for: Longford County Council

Great Water Street
Longford
County Longford



by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin



NOVEMBER 2021

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Section 1

Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Report for the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan'). The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan. The Environmental Report has been prepared as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process for the Plan.

What is SEA?

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic, social and other considerations.

Why is SEA needed? The Benefits

The SEA has been carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the European SEA Directive and in order to enable sustainable development and environmental protection and management. SEA is the planning authority's and the public's guide to what are generally the best areas for development in the County.

SEA enables the planning authority to direct development towards robust, well-serviced and connected areas in the County – thereby facilitating the general avoidance of incompatible areas in the most sensitive, least well-serviced and least well-connected areas.

SEA provides greater to the public and to developers. Plans are more likely to be adopted without delays or challenges and planning applications are more likely to be granted permission. Environmental mitigation is more likely to cost less.

An overlay of environmental sensitivities in County Longford is shown on Figure 1.1.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- The County's western and south western boundaries, reflecting the sensitive nature of the River Shannon and its Lough Forbes and Lough Ree, which are subject to various designations (including those relating to water, ecology and landscape), heavily protected and sources of flood risk;
- Other lakes and rivers throughout the County including Lough Kinale, Derragh Lough and Lough Gowna and the Rivers Camlin and Inny – as a result of water status, nutrient sensitivity, drinking water source, ecological designations and/or sources of flood risk;
- Peatland areas, due to their ecological, hydrological and amenity characteristics, such as Clooneen Bog, Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog and Brown Bog; and
- Areas throughout the County on account of areas of elevated groundwater vulnerability.

The Plan directs incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focuses on directing: compact, sustainable development within the existing envelopes of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain populations and services.

Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

How does the SEA work?

All of the main environmental issues in the area were assembled and considered by the team who prepared the Plan. This helped them to devise a Plan that contributes towards the protection and management of environmental sensitivities. It also helped to identify wherever potential conflicts between the Plan and the environment exist and enabled these conflicts to be mitigated.

The SEA was scoped in consultation with designated environmental authorities.

What is included in the Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan?

- A description of the environment and the key environmental issues;
- A description and assessment of alternatives for the Plan;
- An assessment of the provisions of the Plan; and,
- Mitigation measures, which will avoid/reduce the environmental effects of implementing the Plan and will contribute towards compliance with important environmental protection legislation.

Difficulties Encountered during the SEA process

No significant difficulties have been encountered during the undertaking of the assessment to date. There was limited water services information available for some settlements within the County however objectives requiring the provision of appropriate levels of water services alongside new development have been integrated into the Plan.

There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term "unassigned status" applies in respect of these waterbodies. The SEA ensured that the Plan contains measures that will contribute towards the maintenance and improvement of status of all water bodies within the zone of influence.

What happens at the end of the process?

An SEA Statement is prepared which summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

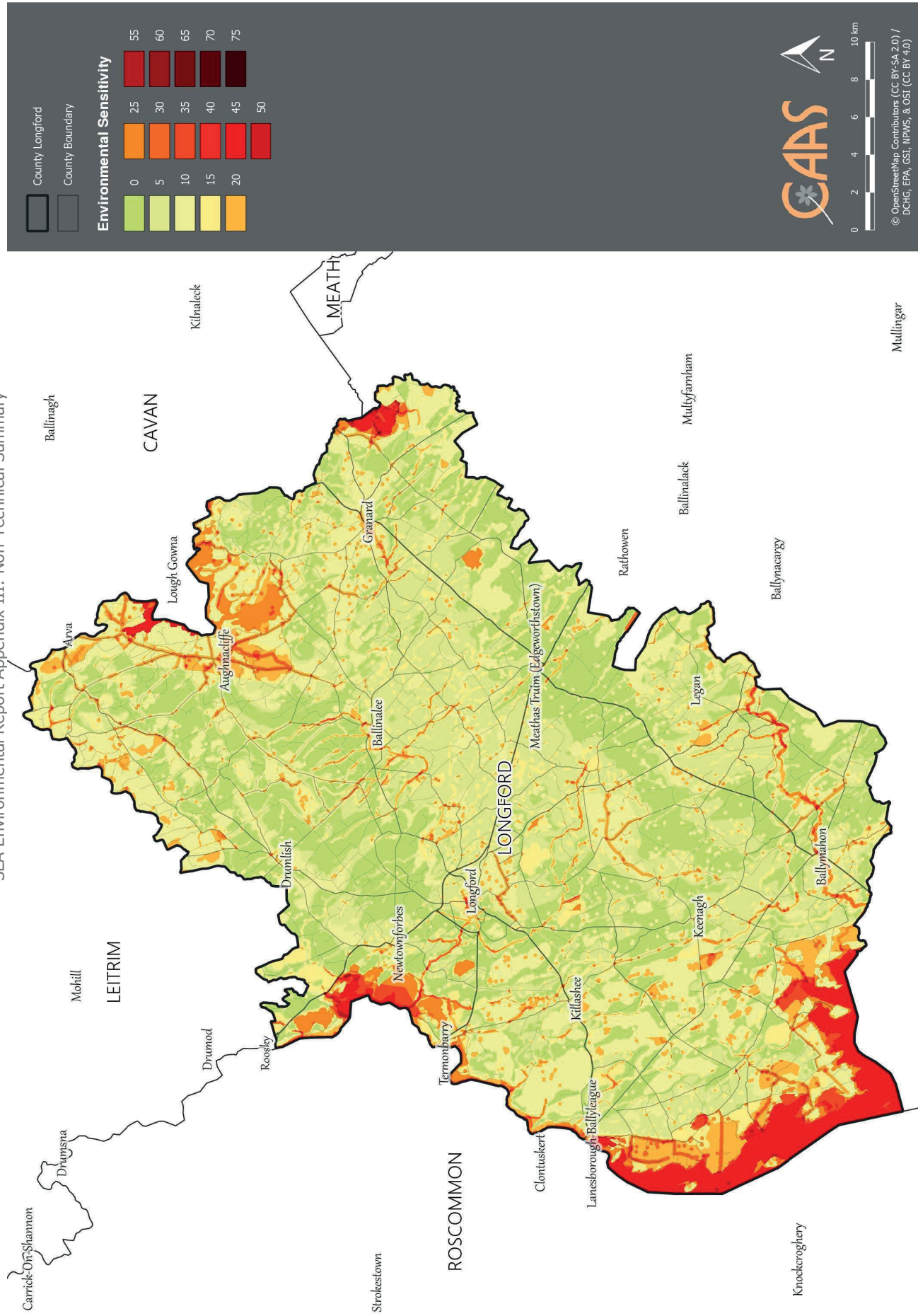


Figure 1.1 Environmental Sensitivities that the County Development Plan directs incompatible development away from

Section 2

The Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Longford County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Longford over the six-year period 2021-2027. Not later than four years after the adoption of the Plan, the Council is required to review it and commence the preparation of a new Plan.

2.2 Content of the Plan

The Plan includes a Written Statement, that provides the development policies, Core Strategy and mandatory and discretionary objectives for different policy areas addressed by the Development Plan. The Written Statement is divided into 16 separate chapters setting out various policies and objectives under the headings of:

- Chapter 1: Introduction and Strategic Context
- Chapter 2: County Profile
- Chapter 3: Climate Change
- Chapter 4: Core, Settlement and Housing Strategies
- Chapter 5: Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications
- Chapter 6: Regeneration
- Chapter 7: Placemaking
- Chapter 8: Economic Development
- Chapter 9: Rural Economy
- Chapter 10: Tourism
- Chapter 11: Built and Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 12: Natural Heritage and Environment
- Chapter 13: Green Infrastructure
- Chapter 14: Landscape Character
- Chapter 15: Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation
- Chapter 16: Development Management Standards

2.3 Overall Vision and Aims

The Vision of the Plan is: 'to set out a framework for the sustainable physical development of the County, ensuring the conservation and protection of the built and natural environment, while providing in an equitable manner for all our people within the County'.

As such the Plan provides for an overall strategy for the social, economic, cultural and physical development of the County. In order to achieve this, the Plan aims to:

1. Implement relevant national and regional development policy provisions at a County level;
2. Strengthen and develop the economic, social and cultural life of the county in a way that can be sustained to safeguard the quality of life for future generations;
3. Provide a development framework which defines acceptable forms of development and appropriate locations.

2.4 Core Strategy Aims

The Plan identifies the following eight Core Strategy Strategic Aims:

- Aim 1 To provide a framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Longford over the plan period.
- Aim 2 To demonstrate that the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional policy objectives set out in the National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and other national guidelines and policies.
- Aim 3 To identify the appropriate quantum, location and phasing of development considered necessary to provide for future population growth over the plan period in accordance with National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.
- Aim 4 To provide alignment and integration between strategic planning and settlement policy and the prioritisation of physical infrastructure investment.

- Aim 5 To secure future growth opportunities within County Longford through optimising the County's economic, social and physical development.
- Aim 6 To coordinate the development of land identified in this Core Strategy in a manner that supports public transport and existing services and to prioritise sequential development of settlements, including the development of infill and brownfield lands.
- Aim 7 To provide a framework for determining the scale, phasing and location of new development having regard to existing services and planned infrastructural investment over the coming years.
- Aim 8 To provide a framework within which the provision of sustainable infrastructure, amenities, economic investment and development can take place to maximise the use of resources in the plan area.

2.5 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan on public display, Longford County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Appropriate Assessment;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- Core Strategy;
- Settlement Strategy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Retail Strategy;
- Sustainable mobility provisions;
- Infrastructure and Green Infrastructure provisions;
- Provisions for Sustainable Mobility.
- Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Landscape Designations;
- Economic Development; and
- Climate Action.

The undertaking of this SEA process and associated Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment processes were part of this strategic work and contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed in Section 6 of this report.

2.6 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

It is acknowledged that many of the major issues affecting the County's development are contingent on national policy and government funding.

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix I to the SEA ER. These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Eastern and Midlands Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSES for the Eastern and Midlands Region. The County Development Plan may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions, such as the Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the County Development Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Section 3

The Environmental Baseline

3.1 Introduction

The summary of the environmental baseline of the County is described in this section. This baseline together with the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which are identified in Section 3.11, is used in order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and in order to determine appropriate monitoring measures.

3.2 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of a new Plan it is uncertain how permission for new development would be applied for and considered.

The 2015-2021 Plan has contributed towards environmental protection within County Longford. If the 2015-2021 Plan was to expire and not be replaced by the 2021-2027 Plan, this would result in a deterioration of the County's planning and environmental protection framework. Although higher level environmental protection objectives – such as those of various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the deterioration of this framework would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled. Such development could result in an increase in the occurrence of adverse effects on all environmental components, especially those arising cumulatively. Cumulative effects occur as a result of the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

Such adverse effects could include:

- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
 - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
 - Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
 - Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
- Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.
- Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
- Potential for riverbank erosion.
- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Increases in waste levels.
- Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
- Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.
- Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.
- Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.
- Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.
- Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
- Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

3.3 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Ecological sensitivities located within the County include aquatic and terrestrial ecology, associated with the County's extensive network of wetlands comprising:

- Rivers, streams, canals and riparian zones (such as River Shannon, River Erne, River Inny, River Camlin and Royal Canal);
- Wet woodlands, marshes, lakes and ponds;
- Loughs (such as Lough Ree, Lough Forbes, Lough Gowna and Lough Glen); and
- Bogs and turloughs (such as Fortwilliam Turlough, Ardagullion Bog and Clooneen Bog).

These habitats support a variety of species and ecosystems that contribute to the biodiversity of County Longford.

Designated sites within the County include Special Areas of Conservation¹ (SACs) and Special Protection Areas² (SPAs). These are mapped on Figure 3.1. There are eight SACs and four SPAs designated within and adjacent to the County, including: Ardagullion Bog SAC; Brown Bog SAC; Clooneen Bog SAC; Derragh Bog SAC; Fortwilliam Turlough SAC; Lough Forbes Complex SAC; Lough Ree SAC; Mount Jessop Bog SAC; Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA; Glen Lough SPA; Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA; and Lough Ree SPA.

Other ecological designations occur within and adjacent to the County and these are detailed in the main SEA Environmental Report.

CORINE³ land cover mapping for the County is shown on Figure 3.2. The most dominant land cover types are pastures and bogs. Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas likely to contain Annex I habitats, in the County, include: peat bogs; natural grassland; water bodies; mixed forests; coniferous forest; broad-leaved forest; inland marshes; stream courses; water bodies; transitional woodland and scrub; and land principally occupied by agriculture with areas of natural vegetation.

Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Categories for pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species identified by the report comprise:

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources);
- Energy production processes and related infrastructure development;
- Development and operation of transport systems;
- Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas;
- Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry);
- Military action, public safety measures, and other human intrusions;
- Alien and problematic species;
- Mixed source pollution;
- Human-induced changes in water regimes;
- Natural processes (excluding catastrophes and processes induced by human activity or climate change);
- Geological events, natural catastrophes;
- Climate change; and
- Unknown pressures, no pressures and pressures from outside the Member State.

The Plan includes measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services.

Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with.

¹ SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000.

² SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

³ The CORINE (Coordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type, covering almost one-fifth of the country. While forested areas cover about one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural.

3.4 Population and Human Health

In the 2016 Census the total population of County Longford was identified as being 40,873 persons, showing the trends of an increase in total population in the County by c. 4.8% (1,873 persons) since the previous Census.

In the 2016 Census the population distribution across urban and rural areas in the County was identified as being 13,957 persons (34.2%) in urban settlements and 26,916 persons (65.85%) in smaller towns, villages and in the rural remainder of the County.

The new population provided for in the Plan will interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Increase in demand for waste water treatment at the municipal level;
- Increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and
- Potential effects on water quality.

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses for example. These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

Existing Problems

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations across the County.

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. The number of homes within the County with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country.

3.5 Soil

Luvisols⁴ and peat-based soils are the two most dominant soil types across the Plan area. Other soil types identified include:

- Alluvial soils⁵ (in the flood plains of rivers and streams);
- Brown podzol⁶ (mainly in the north-east of the Plan area);
- Surface Water Gleys⁷ (in depressions in the upper reaches of river valleys in both uplands and lowlands);
- Brown earths⁸ (in the south-west and north-west of the Plan area); and
- Rendzina⁹ (in the south-east of the Plan area).

Peatlands are a very characteristic habitat in County Longford, with groundwater and rain fed peat soils being a prominent and typical feature in the landscape. There are many areas of peat across the Plan area, with concentrations of these in the west and north-west and east. The County has significant areas of important boglands of regional and national importance, such as Corlea Bog and Trackway, which includes an Iron Age bog road dated back to 148 B.C.

An audit of County Geological Sites in County Longford was completed in 2015. There are 15 County Geological Sites in County Longford, with a concentration of these in the north-east and south-east parts of the Plan area¹⁰. Many of these County Geological Sites include quarries.

⁴ Luvisol soils are generally fertile, widely used for agriculture and associated with significant accumulation of clay.

⁵ These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

⁶ Brown podzol soils are characterised by dark brown humus-mineral soil covered with a thin mat of partly decayed leaves

⁷ Surface Water Gleys are wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

⁸ Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

⁹ Rendzina soils are shallow calcareous soils with hard rock or skeletal material comprising coarse fragments.

¹⁰ Individual audited site reports for County Longford are available from the GSI (www.gsi.ie).

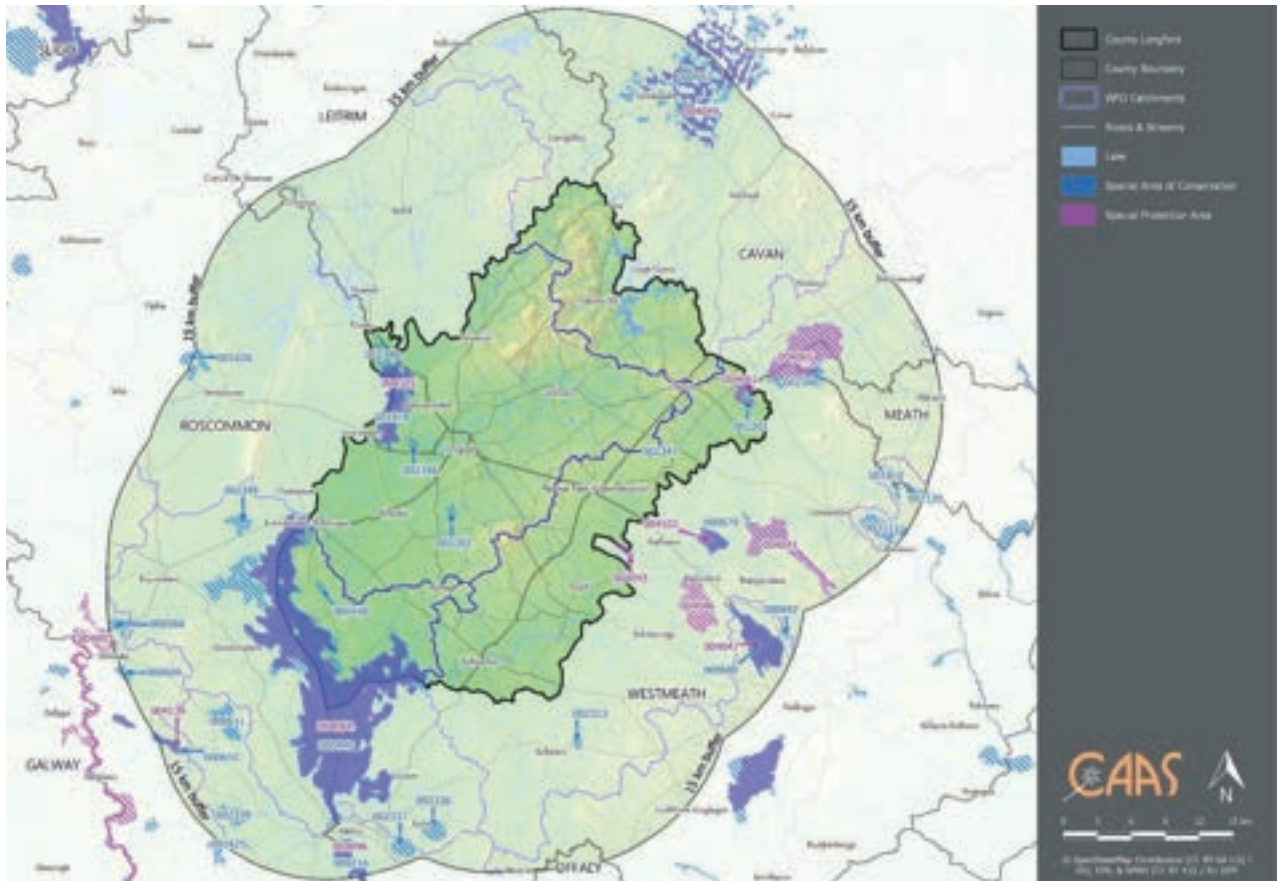


Figure 3.1 European Sites within and adjacent to the County

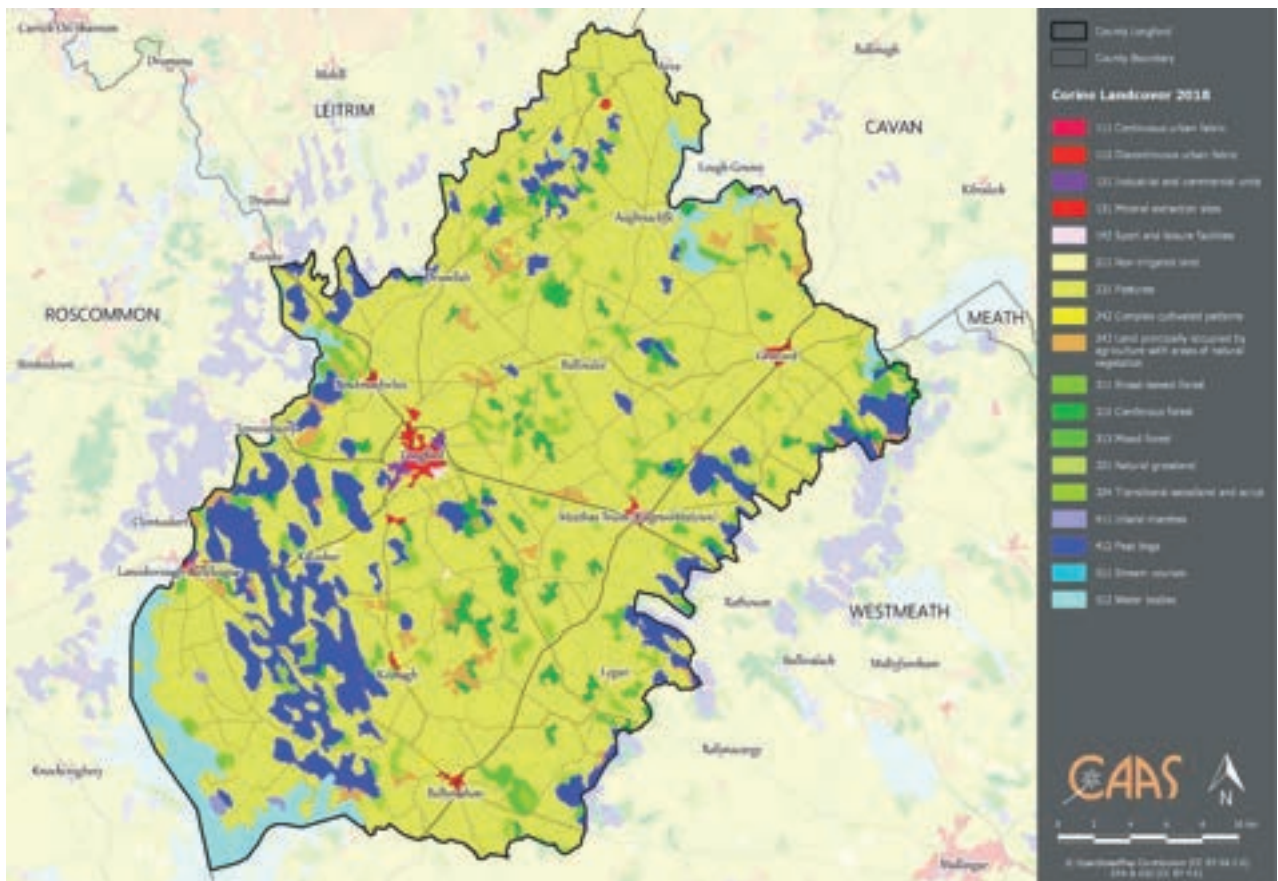


Figure 3.2 CORINE Land Cover Mapping 2018

3.6 Water

Surface and Ground Water Status

Rivers, coastal and transitional waterbodies in the County range in status from *good* to *moderate* and *poor*. *Moderate* and *poor* status water bodies have the potential to fail the requirement of *good* status set out by the Water Framework Directive (WFD). In addition, there are a number of unassigned rivers across the County. The WFD surface water status (2013-2018) of rivers and lakes within and surrounding the County is shown on Figure 3.3.

The WFD status (2013-2018) of most of groundwater underlying the County is identified as being of *good status*, meeting the objectives of the WFD.

Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The aquifers underlying most the County are generally classified as being of:

- *High, moderate and low vulnerability*, in most of the County; and
- *Extreme vulnerability and extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)* in other local areas.

Flooding

Certain areas across the County are at risk from groundwater, pluvial¹¹ and fluvial¹² flooding. There are various historic and predictive indicators of flood risk in the County, including Areas at greatest risk of fluvial flooding include areas within Longford Town (Camlin River) and along the County's western and south-western County border (River Shannon and Lough Ree).

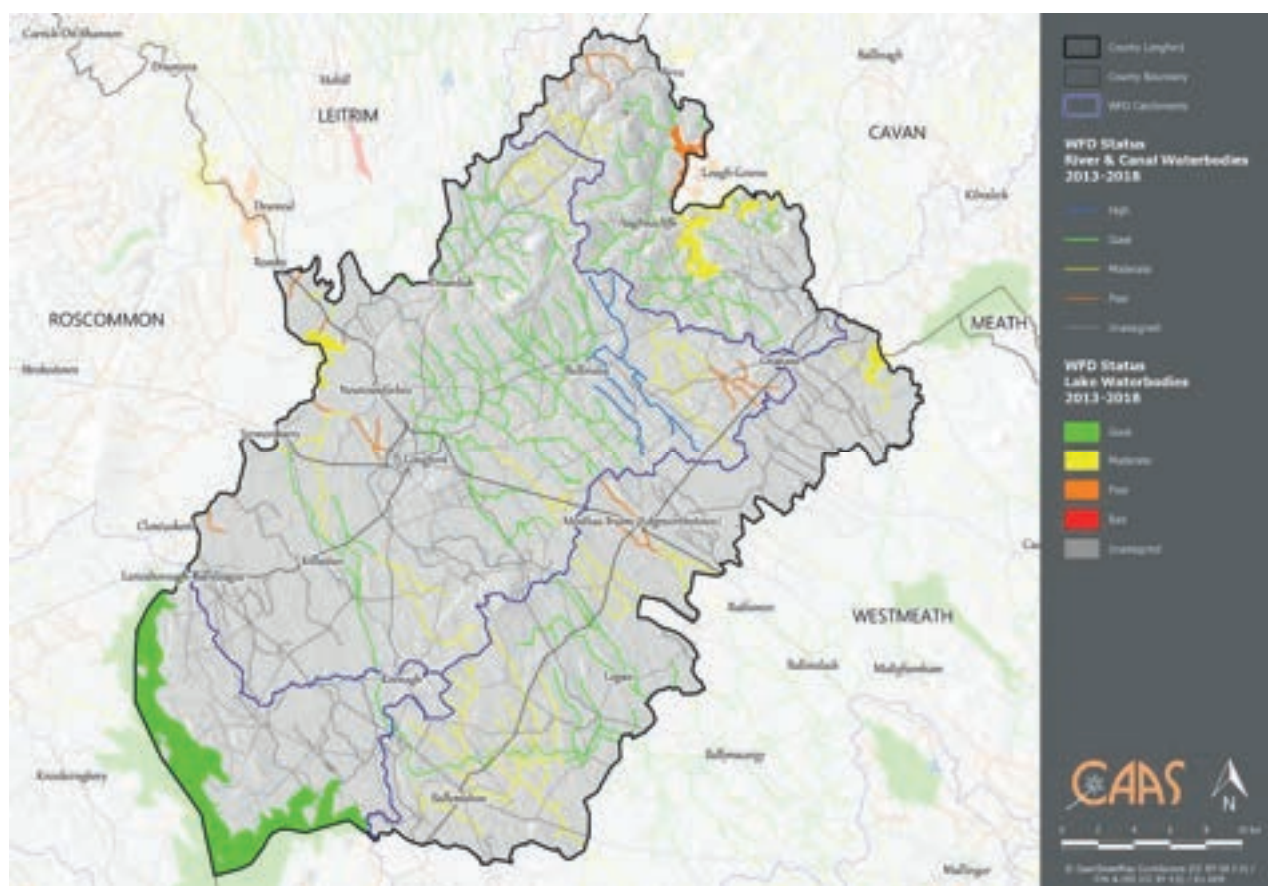


Figure 3.3 Surface Water Status (2013-2018)

¹¹ Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

¹² Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

3.7

Air and Climatic Factors

Total emissions of greenhouse gases by humans come from various sectors including transport, agriculture, energy industries, manufacturing combustion, industrial processes, residential developments, commercial services developments, waste management processes and fluorinated gases equipment (such as refrigeration and fire protection systems). Ireland's National Policy position is to reduce CO₂ emissions in 2050 by 80% on 1990 levels across the Energy Generation, Built Environment and Transport sectors, with a goal of Climate neutrality in the Agriculture and Land-Use sector. For 2017, total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 0.9% lower than emissions in 2016.

The National Mitigation Plan (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2017), represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the level of decarbonisation required. It is a whole-of-Government Plan, reflecting in particular the central roles of the key Ministers responsible for the sectors covered by the Plan – Electricity Generation, the Built Environment, Transport and Agriculture, as well as drawing on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of other Government Departments. The National Adaptation Framework (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2018), sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. The National Adaptation Framework outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation. Under the Framework, a number of Government Departments will be required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to a priority area that they are responsible for.

The National Climate Action Plan 2021 is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's climate ambition over the coming years. The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources. The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050.

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2019 identifies that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive to the future path of fuel prices. A significant and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately -2.5% per year is required to meet our objectives for 2050. However, it must be noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included in the analysis to date.

The EPA's (2020) *Air Quality in Ireland 2019* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from transport emissions is polluting urban areas; and
- Ireland was above World Health Organization air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel within settlements across the country.

With regards to solutions, the report identifies that:

- To tackle the problem of particulate matter, clean ways of heating homes and improve energy efficiency of homes can be progressed; and
- To reduce the impact of nitrogen dioxide, transport options in the Government's Climate Action Plan can be implemented and transport choices can be considered by individuals.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current¹³ air quality within the Plan area (Rural East and Small Towns Air Quality Index Regions) is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

¹³ 18/08/2020 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)
CAAS for Longford County Council

3.8 Material Assets

Other material assets, in addition to those referred to below, covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 3.9) natural resources of economic value, such as water and air (see Sections 3.6 and 3.7).

Public Assets and Infrastructure

Public assets and infrastructure that have the potential to be impacted upon by the Plan, if unmitigated, include; settlements; resources such as public open spaces, parks and recreational areas; public buildings and services; transport and utility infrastructure (electricity, gas, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.); forestry; and natural resources that are covered under other topics such as water and soil

Wastewater

There are currently 20 wastewater treatment plants in Longford, the majority in the ownership and maintenance of Irish Water. However, Longford County Council operates and maintains five wastewater treatment plants on behalf of the Irish Water, with the foul sewer network collecting effluent from approximately 11,400 homes. Monitoring of the treated effluent from the plants is carried out as required in accordance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and conditions of the Discharge Licences and Certificates of Authorisation issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In unserved areas and outside the main settlements, the main method of sewage disposal is by individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems. The control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability is a priority for the Council.

Irish Water has provided a Wastewater Treatment Capacity Register to assist the Council in the preparation of the new County Development Plan by indicating where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth ("headroom") in terms of population equivalent¹⁴ (PE) in each settlement serviced by a public wastewater treatment plant. Spare treatment capacity is available now or is expected to be delivered by 2024 in most of these settlements, except for Abbeylara and Culyfad-Woodlands Park. The highest levels of headroom (PE) is available at Longford (3,804 PE); Granard (1,411 PE); and Newtownforbes (811 PE). Spare capacity will be also available in Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon upon completion of projects post 2024.

Water Supply

Irish Water is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout the County. Public drinking water in County Longford is supplied through six public water supply schemes (Longford Central; Granard; Gowna; Ballymahon; Lanesborough and Newtowncashel). These are predominately surface water abstraction supplies with the exception of Lanesborough and Newtowncashel which are groundwater sourced supplies.

The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations. Three of the aforementioned supplies (Gowna, Granard and Longford Central Water Supply) are listed on the most recent EPA RAL (Q2 of 2020) and plans of action are in place in order to remedy the relevant issues.

Waste Management

Waste management across the County is guided by the Eastern and Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021.

Transport

Road and rail infrastructure in the County has the potential to support reductions in energy demand from the transport sector, including through electrification of modes.

¹⁴ As identified in Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan, wastewater treatment plants are described in terms of their designed treatment capacity, which is generally expressed as population equivalent (PE). This is a measurement of total organic biodegradable load, including industrial, institutional, commercial and domestic organic load, on a wastewater treatment plant, converted to the equivalent number of PEs. One person is considered to generate 60g of five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) per day. 1 PE is defined as being equivalent to 60g of BOD per day.

Land

The Plan seeks to assist with the reuse and regeneration of brownfield sites thereby contributing towards sustainable mobility and reducing the need to develop greenfield lands and associated potential adverse environmental effects. Brownfield lands are generally located within urban/suburban areas.

Existing Problems

There are a number of challenges with respect to the provision of water services infrastructure, some of which are summarised above.

The provisions of the new County Development Plan will contribute towards protection of the environment with regard to impacts arising from material assets.

3.9 Cultural Heritage**Archaeological Heritage**

Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped.

County Longford has a significant archaeological heritage with many archaeological sites as documented by the National Monuments Service. These sites include industrial heritage (such as mills, bridges the canal and railways) and remains of ecclesiastical heritage (such as churches and abbey ruins, graveyards, pilgrim paths and holy wells). Clusters of monuments in County Longford are located within the County's settlements.

Within the County there are two specific archaeological sites of specific importance: Corlea Bog Trackway, an Iron Age bog road, which was built in the year 148 BC across the surrounding bogland. The oak road is one of the largest of its kind to have been uncovered in Europe. Another one, located in Granard is a Norman Motte, Ireland's highest Norman motte dated 1199.

Other notable monuments in the County include: the portal tomb at Aughnacliffe; an Iron Age timber roadway (toghers) at the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre; and the linear earthworks that make up the Black Pigs Dyke in north Longford. Several key events in Irish history also took place in the County, including the Battle of Ballinamuck, the last great battle of the 1798 Rebellion.

Lough Ree and associated islands host a variety of cultural heritage features, one of the most notable being Inchcleraun Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Site, believed to be the site where Queen Maeve died and it is now a Monument in State Care.

Architectural Heritage

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Protected structures are defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within the County's settlements. There are currently 536 entries to the Record of Protected Structures within the County¹⁵, including houses, farmyards, walled gardens, demesne, castles, gates railings and cornmills. Notable buildings in the County include: Longford Courthouse; Castle Forbes, Featherstone Memorial; and Edgeworthstown Railway Station. Lanesborough is a fine example of vernacular architecture and is of considerable architectural merit. Further to these St. Mel's Cathedral, an architectural award-winning structure, is located within the Longford Town.

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA. There are two ACAs designated within County Longford, one in the settlement of Ardagh and one in Longford Town (Battery Road),

Existing Problems

¹⁵ Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027
CAAS for Longford County Council

The context of archaeological and architectural heritage has changed over time within County Longford, however no existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing archaeological and architectural heritage have been identified.

3.10 Landscape

Longford has a diverse landscape, including low-lying lands situated in the basin of the River Shannon and the upper catchment area of the River Erne, Lakelands, boglands, pasturelands and wetlands in various locations across the County.

There are seven Landscape Character Units (see Figure 3.4) in the County, each with differing landscape levels of sensitivity:

- **Unit 1: Northern Drumlin Lakeland** (landscape sensitivity from low to medium with some high sensitivity in the vicinity of the lakes and designated scenic routes);
- **Unit 2: Northern Upland** (landscape sensitivity from medium to high);
- **Unit 3: Shannon Basin/Lough Ree** (landscape sensitivity from medium along the south-eastern border of the unit to high along the shores of the lake, islands, the riverbanks, and in the vicinity of the Aquifer);
- **Unit 4: Central Corridor** (landscape sensitivity generally low, with potential areas of medium to high in the vicinity of protected woodlands, riverbanks and in the vicinity of the aquifer);
- **Unit 5: Inny Basin** (landscape sensitivity generally low, with potential areas of medium to high in the vicinity of protected woodlands and riverbanks);
- **Unit 6: Peatlands** (visual landscape sensitivity generally low, with high in the vicinity of the Royal Canal; environmental sensitivity from medium to high); and
- **Unit 7: Open Agricultural** (visual landscape sensitivity generally from low to medium, with high sensitivity in the vicinity of the Royal Canal, the River Inny, in upland areas with designated scenic views and in proximity to the heritage village of Ardagh).

'Broad Zone' areas are designated in the County. These are areas of high amenity value and recreational potential associated with the major rivers and lakes, the Royal Canal and areas of outstanding landscape quality in the northern fringes of the County.

The landscape of County Longford has many vantage points which offer attractive views from hilltops and upland areas, along river valleys and the boglands. There are two distinct types of Views, Prospects and associated Scenic Routes identified in the County: 'Full' (uninterrupted) and 'Intermittent' (broken or sporadic). Views are divided into full and intermittent in order to differentiate areas where scenic views may be partial or absent along a particular route. There are currently 22 Full Protected Views, Prospects and associated Scenic Routes and 18 Intermittent Scenic Views, Prospects and associated Scenic Routes identified in County Longford

Existing Environmental Problems

New developments have resulted in changes to the visual appearance of lands within the County however legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with

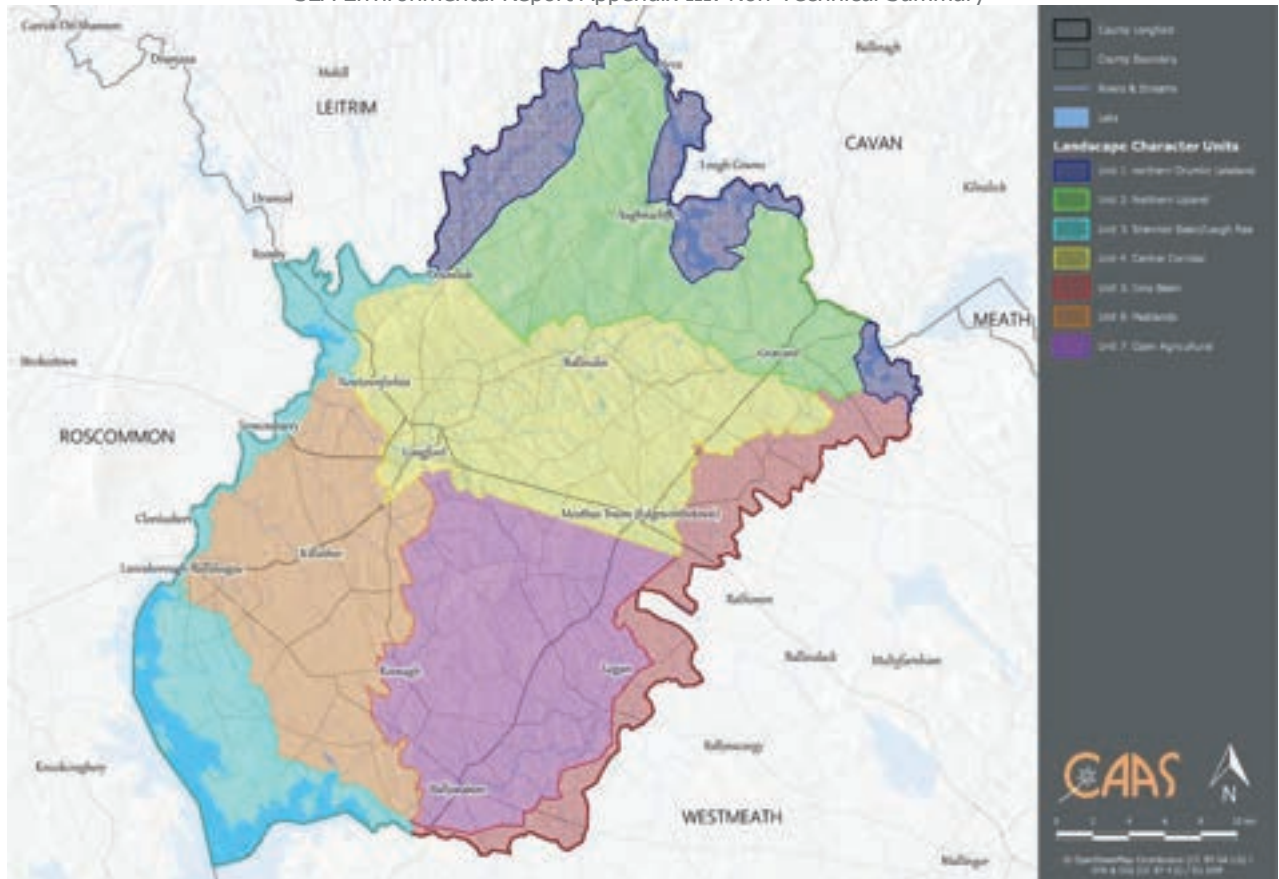


Figure 3.4 Landscape Units

3.11 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies that generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives that have been transposed into Irish law and that are required to be implemented. The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

Table 3.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as steppingstones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites

SEA Environmental Report Appendix III: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive • Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments • Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels • Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies • Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development • Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes • Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture. • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Promote continuing improvement in air quality. • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels.
Climatic Factors	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses. • Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Section 4

Alternatives

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Whether or not alternatives for the County Development Plan are available has been identified by Longford County Council.

4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas.

4.3 Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

The Settlement Hierarchy Levels for the Plan are identified on Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Settlement Hierarchy Levels in Longford

Settlement Level	Settlement Category	Description
1	Key Towns	Large economically active service and/or county towns that provide employment for their surrounding areas and with high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as growth drivers to complement the Regional Growth Centres.
2	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns with a moderate level of jobs and services – includes sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining
3	Self-Sustaining Towns	Self-Sustaining Towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining.
4	Towns and Villages	Towns and villages with local service and employment functions
5	Rural	Serviced Rural Villages, Rural Settlement Clusters and the wider rural region

In considering significant realistic alternatives for placing of individual settlements under alternative typologies, the planning authority has taken into account the objectives of the NPF and the Eastern and Midland RSES. As a result, there are no strategic reasonable alternatives available for the designating of most settlements under the hierarchy. Nonetheless, there are strategic reasonable alternatives available for some of the settlements and these are detailed below.

Description of Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- (A) Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns
- (B) Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town.

Summary of Assessment for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

Alternative (A): Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining and the likelihood of this happening under Alternative A, which places the towns in a lower tier, would be reduced. Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown have

been successful at attracting new development and have experienced significant growth that needs to be accompanied by new service and infrastructure provision as soon as practicable. Growth in Granard has been low despite it been given prioritised by policy in the past.

Alternative A would have the potential to result in higher levels of private car-based commuting, potentially contributing towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the least, as Granard is not as well-served with public transport links as Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown are.

A greater level of growth in Granard under this alternative could be accommodated by the existing available capacity in the waste water treatment plant (identified as having 1,411 population equivalent in headroom). There is currently limited capacity in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown (identified as having no headroom) to accommodate new growth. However, Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the Plan, projecting a completion year post 2024. As a result, Alternative A would be likely to meet objectives relating to wastewater treatment (and associated potential interactions with ecology and water quality) the most in the shorter term, potentially conflicting with these objectives the least.

Alternative (B): Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining and the likelihood of this happening under Alternative A, which places the towns in an upper tier, would be increased. Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown have been successful at attracting new development and have experienced significant growth that needs to be accompanied by new service and infrastructure provision as soon as practicable. Growth in Granard has been low despite it been given prioritised by policy in the past.

Alternative B would have the potential to result in lower levels of private car-based commuting, contributing towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the most, as Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown are better serviced with public transport links than Granard is.

There is currently limited capacity in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown (identified as having no headroom) to accommodate new growth. However, Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the Plan, projecting a completion year post 2024. Growth in Granard under this alternative could be accommodated by the existing available capacity in the wastewater treatment plant (identified as having 1,411 population equivalent in headroom). As a result, Alternative B would be likely to meet objectives relating to wastewater treatment (and associated potential interactions with ecology and water quality) the least in the shorter term, potentially conflicting with these objectives the most. Demand for shorter term growth could be facilitated in the settlements of Granard and Lanesborough.

Selected Alternative for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

(A) Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Town.

4.4 Alternatives for Rural Areas

Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- (A) Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- (B) Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Summary of Assessment for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

Alternative (A): Restricting development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The restrictions would help to both reduce levels of greenfield

development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and encourage brownfield development within existing centres.

Rural development would be focus into appropriate rural areas and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Alternative (B): Not restricting development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

Urban generated development would occur within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Selected Alternative for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- (A) **Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.**

Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- (A) Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- (B) Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Summary of Assessment for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

Alternative (A): Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would help to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would be more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

Alternative (B): Not providing a focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

Selected Alternative for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- (A) **Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.**

4.5 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

The following alternatives were considered as part of the Plan-preparation process. Alternatives adopted as part of the draft plan are shown in underlined.

Tier 1: Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- A. Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns
- B. Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town

Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Longford

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- A. Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- B. Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Tier 5: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

- A. Less compact (all New Residential)
- B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)¹⁶

The selected alternatives were developed by the Planning Team and adopted by the Council having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which were identified by the SEA and are summarised above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Council.

¹⁶ Note that Alternative B "More compact" was selected for each settlement as part of the Draft Plan. An even more compact form of zoning was adopted as part of the Draft Plan for most settlements.

4.6 Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

Available alternatives for land use zoning at relevant settlements and the associated environmental assessment are summarised on Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Land Use Zoning Alternatives and Summary Assessment

Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold) ¹⁷	Summary Assessment
Longford Town	A. Less compact (all New Residential)	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.
Edgeworthstown	A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial)	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.
	B. More compact (New Residential, Residential Reserve, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)	By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.
Ballymahon	A. Less compact (all New Residential)	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.
	B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)	By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.
Granard	A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial)	By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.
	B. More compact (New Residential, Residential Reserve, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)	By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.

¹⁷ Note that Alternative B "More compact" was selected for each settlement as part of the Draft Plan. An even more compact form of zoning was adopted as part of the Draft Plan for most settlements. CAAS for Longford County Council

Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold) ¹⁷	Summary Assessment
Lanesborough	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>
Aughnacilffe	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>
Ballinalee	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>
Drumlish	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential and Industrial)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential, Residential Reserve, Industrial and Industrial Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>
Keenagh	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>

Town	Alternative (selected alternatives in bold) ¹⁷	Summary Assessment
Legan	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>
Newtownforbes	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>
Ardagh	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>
Ballinacuck	<p>A. Less compact (all New Residential)</p> <p>B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)</p>	<p>By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the settlement and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Prioritisation of New Residential lands over Residential Reserve took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p>

Section 5 Summary of Effects arising from Plan

Table 5.1 summarises the overall environmental effects arising from Plan provisions.

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA assesses the effects of the Plan on European Sites designated for certain habitats and species. The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network¹⁸.

SFRA is required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan. Various policies and objectives have been integrated into the Plan through the SEA, SFRA and AA processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA and SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA

Table 5.1 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Plan

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.		Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna. Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).

¹⁸ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- no alternative solution available;
- imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan/programme/project to proceed; and
- adequate compensatory measures in place.

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<p>Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.</p> <p>Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.
<p>Soil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.

Environmental Component	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.
<p>Water</p>	<p>Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<p>Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. <p>Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.
<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart buildings, cities and grids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. <p>Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.

Environmental Component	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework	adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable compact growth; ○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; ○ Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; ○ Sectors including agriculture, residential heating and infrastructure; ○ Sustainable infrastructure design solutions including energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. • Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.

Section 6

Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

6.1 Mitigation

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to the Council through the SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. By integrating all related recommendations into the Plan, the Council have ensured that both the beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan have been and will be maximised and that potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset.

Mitigation was achieved through the:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development¹⁹;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan²⁰;
- Integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan²¹; and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.

6.2 Monitoring

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified at Table 3.1 and used

¹⁹ Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan on public display, Longford County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Appropriate Assessment;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- Core Strategy;
- Settlement Strategy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Retail Strategy;
- Sustainable mobility provisions;
- Infrastructure and Green Infrastructure provisions;
- Provisions for Sustainable Mobility.
- Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Landscape Designations;
- Economic Development; and
- Climate Action

²⁰ Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 4), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Council considered a number of alternatives for the Plan. These alternatives were assessed by the SEA process and the findings of this assessment informed the selection of preferred alternatives, facilitating an informed choice with respect to the type of Plan that was prepared and placed on public display.

²¹ Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high flood risk. Various provisions have been inserted into the Plan that provide for flood risk management at project level. Also taken into account were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

in the evaluation. Monitoring indicators, targets, sources and remedial action is provided at Table 6.1 overleaf.

Table 6.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. Status of water quality in the County's water bodies Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 12 "Natural Heritage and Environment" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024 For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 12 "Natural Heritage and Environment" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years). Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years) Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant). Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DCHG (and the DHPLG for water) to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHPLG Water Section, the Regional Assembly, the EPA Catchment Unit and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 "Economic Development" Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 "Economic Development" No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures. Implementation of Green Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA CSO data Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications in key growth towns are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the wastewater treatment plant or failure of the wastewater treatment plant to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will contribute towards a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHPLG, DCCAE and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield Volume of contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill Number of AA determinations and environmental assessments undertaken to support applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF. Achieve the 40% target for growth on infill as per NPF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Geoportail Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the River Basin Management Plan by 2021 (and subsequent iterations as relevant) Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHPLG Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where planning applications in key growth towns are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the Wastewater treatment Plant or failure of the plant to meet Emission Limit Values, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly will coordinate a response between the relevant local authority, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. The Council will engage, as relevant, with the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and the OPW with respect to planning applications for development in areas of elevated flood risk.
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Proportion of population within who report regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County. All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not - in- combination with other septic tanks- contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Increased budget spends on water and wastewater infrastructure By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) CSO data Consultations with Irish Water (at monitoring evaluation) Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in conjunction with Local Authorities Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment Department of Public Expenditure and Reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications in key growth towns are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the wastewater treatment plant or failure of the wastewater treatment plant to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will coordinate a response between the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHPLG and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels. Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and Department of Communication Climate Action and Environment (at monitoring evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHPLG, DCCAE and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above

SEA STATEMENT

FOR THE

LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

for: Longford County Council

Great Water Street
Longford
County Longford



by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
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Dublin



NOVEMBER 2021

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Legislative Context

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use. The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The Regulations have been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

1.2 Content of the SEA Statement

Where SEA is undertaken, the Regulations require that a Statement is made available to the

public and the competent environmental authorities after the making of the Plan.

This Statement is referred to as an SEA Statement.

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- b) how the following have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan:
 - the environmental report,
 - submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report, and
 - any transboundary consultations.
- c) the reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

1.3 Implications of SEA for the Plan

SEA has been undertaken on the Plan and the findings of the SEA are expressed in an Environmental Report, the first published version of which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display. The Environmental Report was updated in order to take account of changes to the original Draft Plan that were made on foot of submissions and recommendations in the submissions.

Longford County Council have been provided with the findings of SEA output during their consideration of the Plan and before the Plan was adopted.

Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan

2.1 Introduction

Environmental considerations were presented to the Council for its consideration through:

1. Consultations;
2. Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process;
3. Appropriate Assessment;
4. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
5. Consideration of alternatives;
6. Integration of environmental considerations; and
7. Integration of individual SEA and AA provisions into the Plan.

2.2 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan

There were no instances where significant recommendations from the SEA, AA or SFRA processes were not integrated into the final, adopted Plan.

2.3 Consultations

As environmental authorities identified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, the following authorities were sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Longford County Council¹: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht; Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Environmental Protection

Agency; Meath County Council; and Monaghan County Council.

Detail on submissions made on foot of the SEA scoping notice is provided under Section 3.2.

Detail is also provided on submissions that were made on the Draft Plan and/or the SEA Environmental Report while they were on public display (see Section 3.3).

2.4 Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan before it was placed on public display. Individual sensitivities that were considered by the Planning Team preparing the Plan included the following:

- European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas);
- Other Ecological Designations;
- Status of Surface and Ground Waters;
- Various entries to the Water Framework Directive's Register of Protected Areas;
- Groundwater Vulnerability;
- Water Services Capacity, Performance and Demand;
- Cultural heritage (archaeological and architectural) sensitivities; and
- Landscape Designations.

A number of these sensitivities are mapped on Figures 2.1 to 2.3.

¹ The names of some of the relevant authorities have changed since notification was provided.

2.5 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.²

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

2.6 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Draft Plan.

2.7 Consideration of Alternatives

Consideration of the environmental effects arising from a variety of different alternatives for the Plan (see Section 4) has contributed towards the protection and management of the environment within the Plan.

2.8 Integration of environmental

considerations into Zoning of the Plan

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach.

Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midlands RSES.

The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high flood risk. Various provisions have been inserted into the Plan which provide for flood risk management at project level.

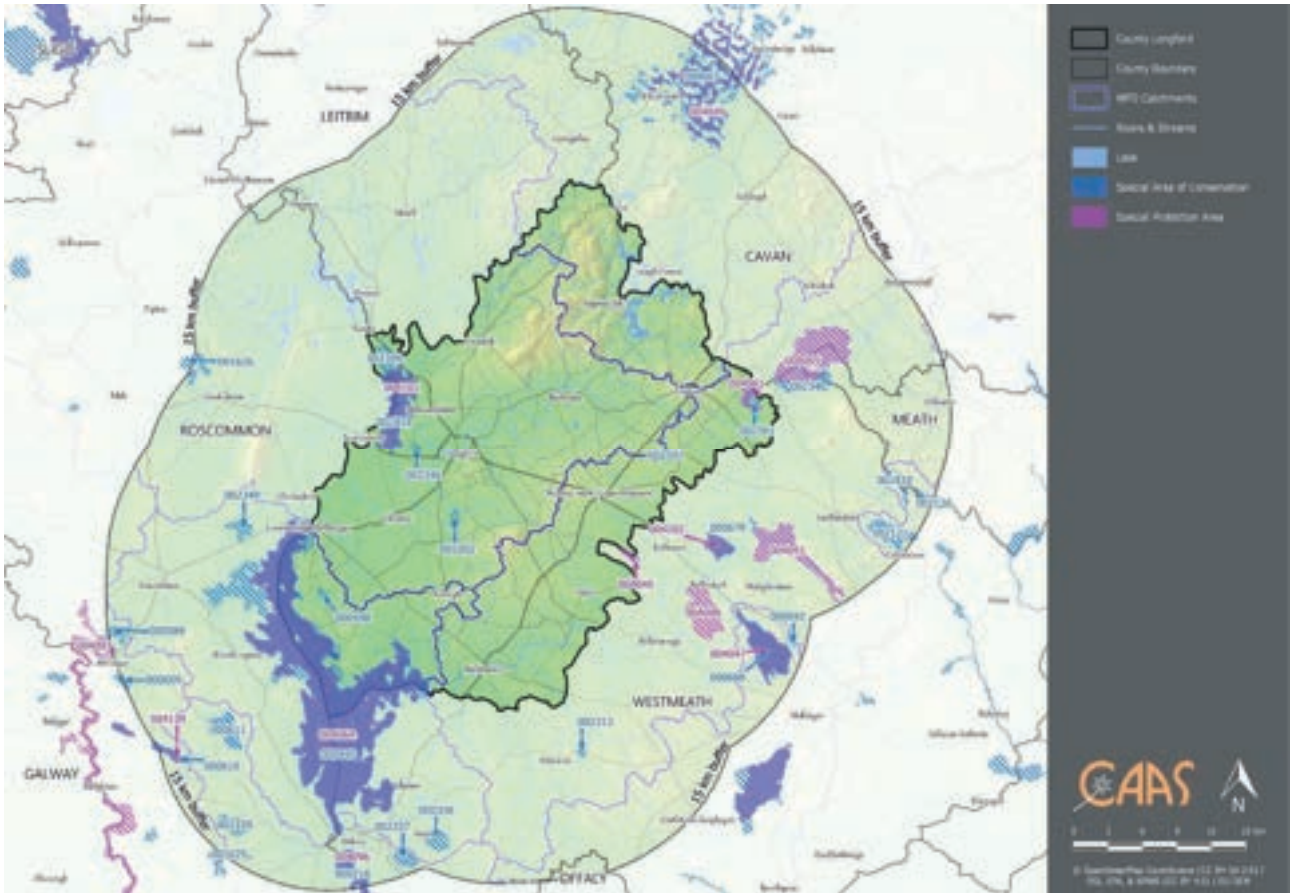
Also taken into account were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

2.9 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan

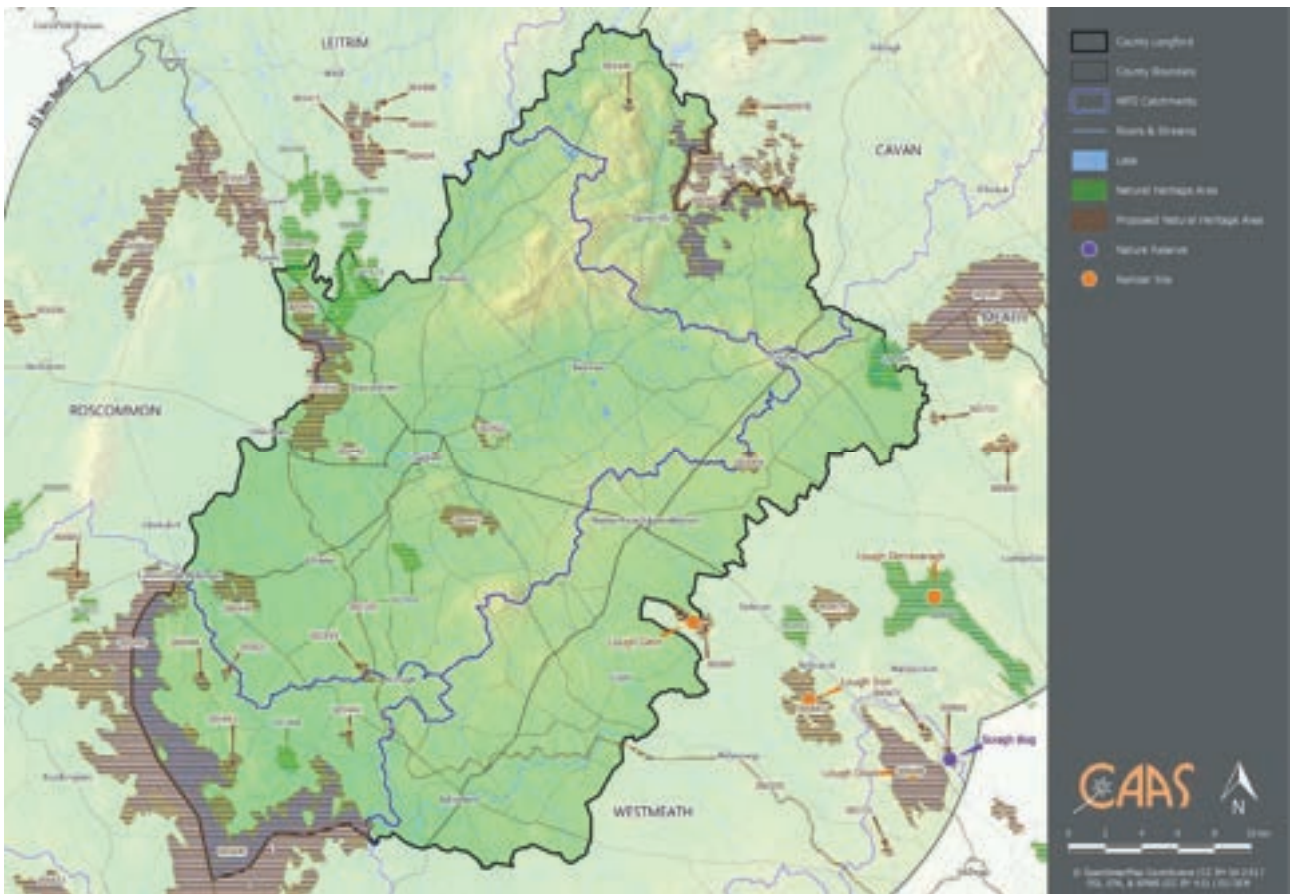
Table 2.1 links key mitigation measure(s) - which have been integrated into the Plan - to the potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The integration of these measures into the Plan occurred over a number of iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

² Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative

reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

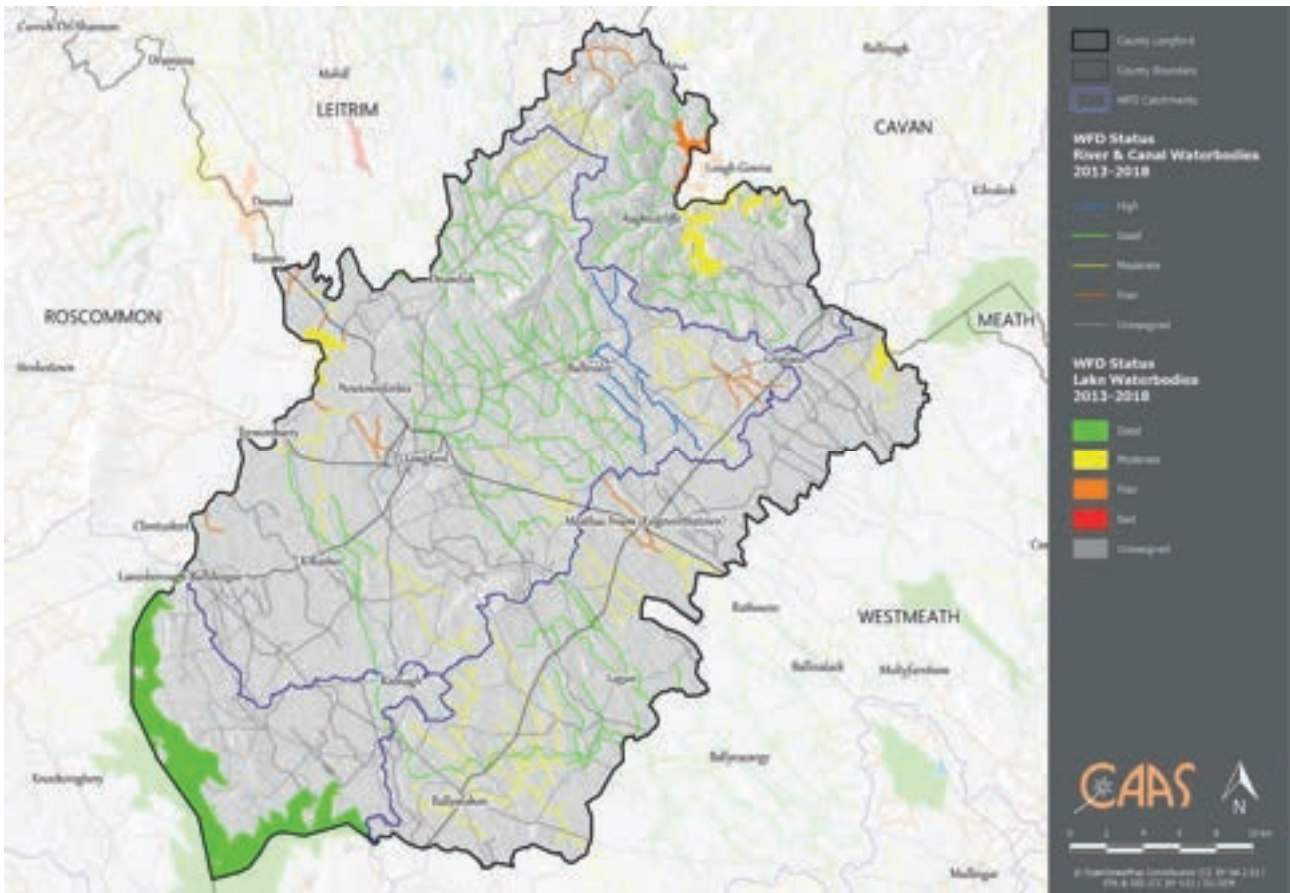


European Sites within and adjacent to the Plan area



Other Ecological Designations within and adjacent to the Plan area

Figure 2.1 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (1 of 3)

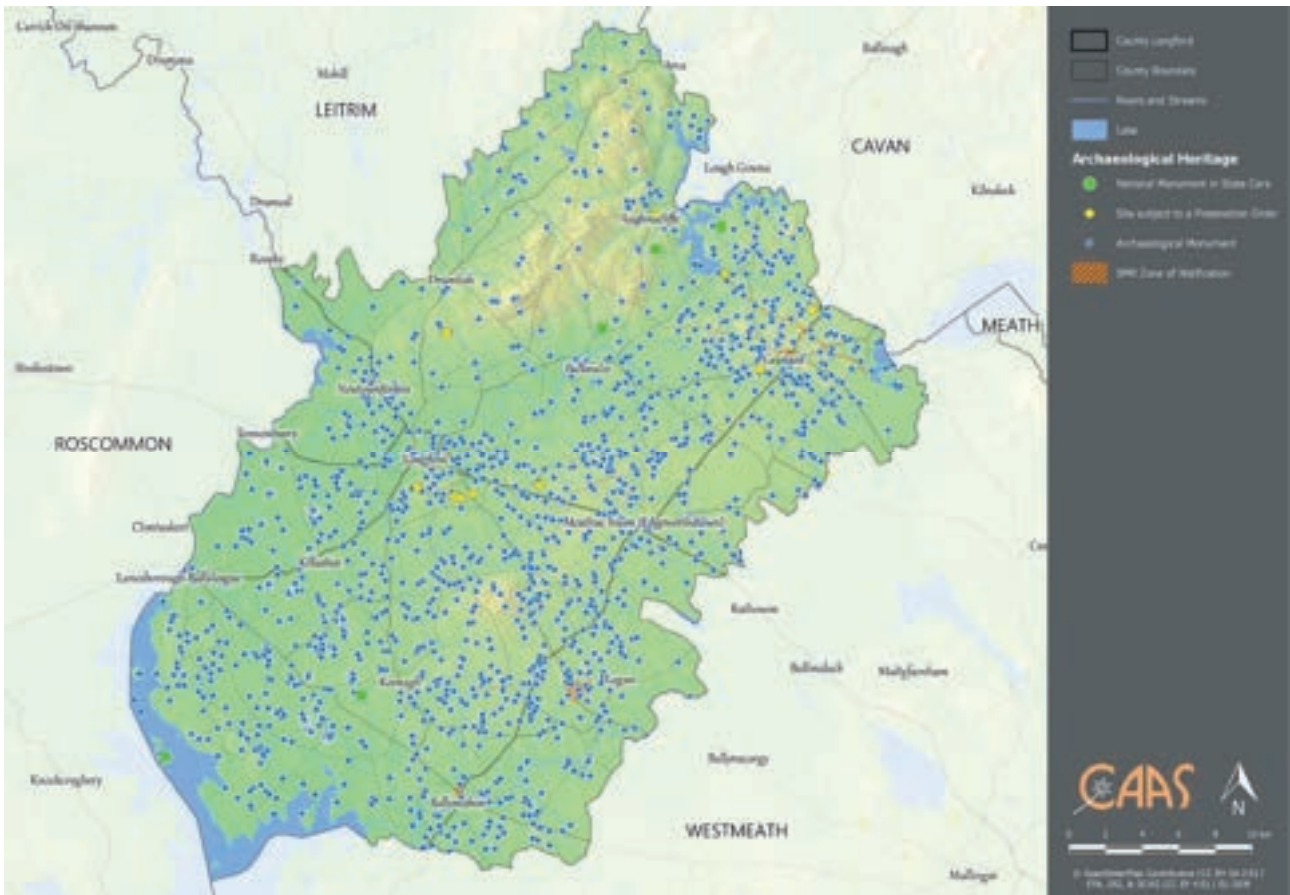


Surface Water Status

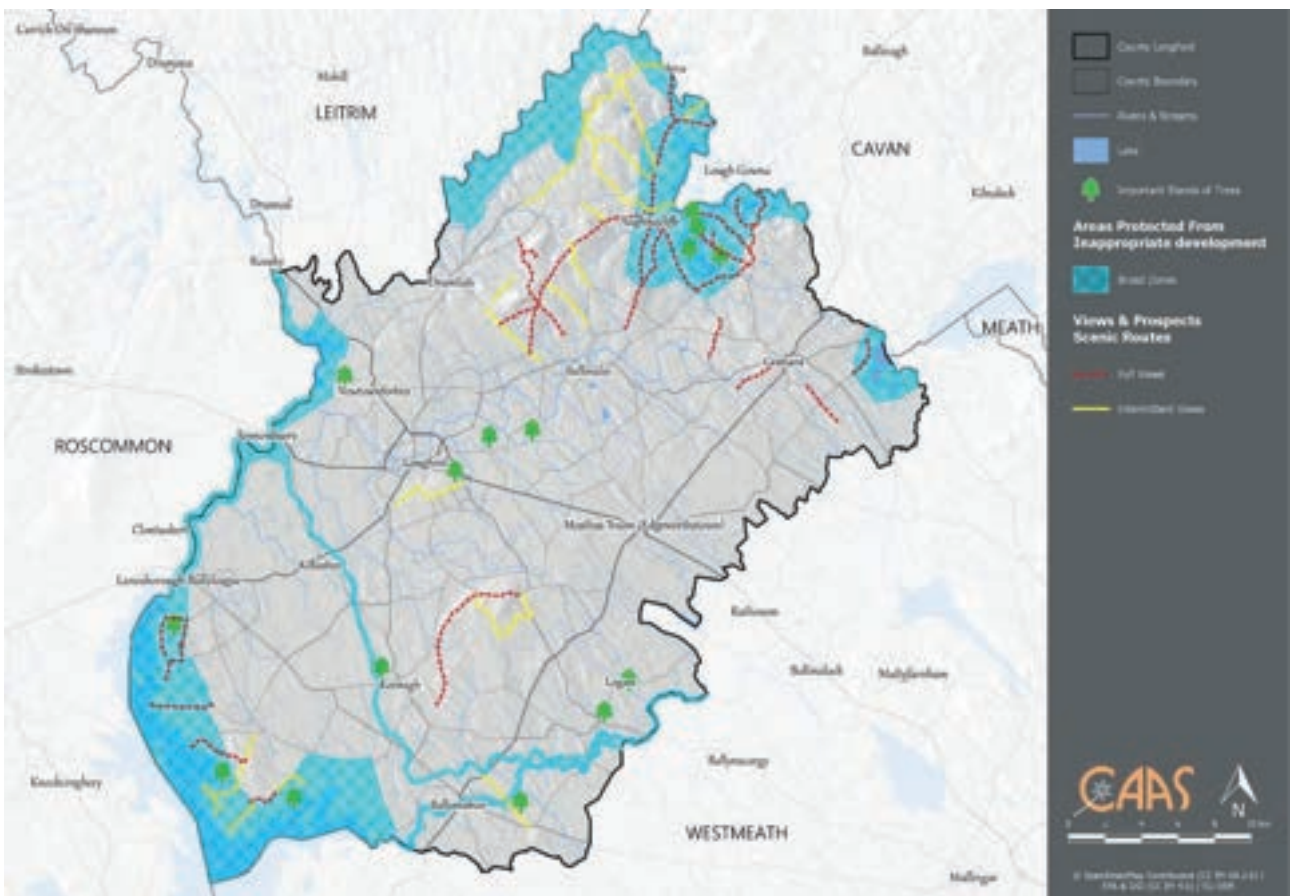


Groundwater Status

Figure 2.2 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (2 of 3)



Archaeological Designations



Landscape Designations

Figure 2.3 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (3 of 3)

Table 2.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
All	Various	<p>CPO 4.63 United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 no. Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.</p>
All	Various	<p>CPO 4.64 Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management Cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management, including compliance with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2001/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p>
All	Various	<p>CPO 4.65 Information to be considered at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc.); • Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; • Entries to the Record of Monuments; • Architectural Conservation Areas; and • Landscape/amenity designations.
All	Various	<p>CPO 5.15 Undertake the following Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report) and opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options; • Potentially feasible corridors within which infrastructure could be accommodated will be identified and these corridors assessed. The selection of the preferred route corridor will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists; and • In addition to the constraints identified above, site-specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate corridors. <p>Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially feasible routes within the preferred corridor will be identified and assessed. The selection of preferred routes will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists, taking into account project level information and potential mitigation measures that are readily achievable; • In addition to the constraints identified above, site specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate routes; and • In addition to environmental considerations, the identification of route corridors and the refinement of route lines is likely to be informed by other considerations.
All	Various	<p>DMS16.70 Construction Environmental Management Plan All development proposals of five or more residential units shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with planning application documentation. Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP).</p>
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including 	<p>Designated Sites - County Policy Objectives CPO12.5 Protect and conserve the conservation value of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan. CPO12.6 Ensure that all development proposals relating to European Sites will comply with the DoECLG publication 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities'. CPO12.7 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives. CPO12.8 Permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where an appropriate level of assessment can clearly demonstrate that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site. CPO12.9 Consult and have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site, or a site proposed for such designation. CPO12.10 Identify and provide appropriate buffer zones between Designated Sites and local biodiversity features and areas zoned for development. CPO12.11 Undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) subject to available resources. CPO12.12 Prepare Strategic Habitat Management Plans for European Sites in the County in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders. CPO12.13 Require an ecological appraisal, in addition to an Appropriate Assessment, for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites, or a proposed European Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>patch size and edge effects; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<p>CPO12.14 Ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects³.</p> <p>12.5.3 European Sites and Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>A plan or project will only be authorised after the Council has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and subsequent Appropriate Assessment where necessary that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European Site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) or The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000 or The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. <p>Following a finding that a proposed development will adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, planning permission may only be granted in exceptional cases, in the absence of any alternatives, for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) subject to the strict requirements of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Non-Designated Sites – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.15 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites and to require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.16 Co-operate with statutory and other relevant agencies to identify and protect a representative sample of the County's wildlife habitats, of local or regional importance, not otherwise protected by legislation.</p> <p>CPO12.17 Protect Ramsar sites under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as Waterfowl Habitat).</p> <p>CPO12.18 Enhance and sustain landscapes and features within the County in order to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safeguard, sustain and improve the quality and character of landscapes which are important and valued or, promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes or, promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism development. <p>CPO12.19 Protect and enhance important landscape features and their setting including rivers, streams, canals, lakes and associated wetlands such as reedbeds and swamps; ponds; springs; bogs; fens; trees; woodlands and scrub; hedgerows and other field boundary types such as stone walls and ditches. These are important because they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> form part of a network of habitats, corridors and 'stepping stones' essential for wildlife to flourish, thus providing a high-quality natural environment for all, and/or protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and are essential as part of the integrated approach to the management of water resources, necessary to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as set out in the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy). <p>Wetlands, Turloughs, Watercourses and Fens - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the Longford County Wetlands Fields Survey 2017 and 2019 and subsequent versions thereof.</p> <p>CPO12.26 Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites surveyed in 2019 listed and mapped in Appendix xx.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Resist development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.28 Ensure that development proposals or activities that may impact on sensitive water habitats; in particular turloughs and wetlands, shall not be permitted without the introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Proposals to drain or otherwise interfere with the sources of turloughs will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO12.29 Implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such applications for permission would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Inland Lakes, Waterways and Broadzones – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.30 Preserve, protect and enhance the Counties inland lakes and waterways for their amenity and recreational resource amenity, including the Royal Canal, the Rivers Shannon, Inny and Camlin and Lough Ree, Lough Gowna as well as the County's other rivers and lakes.</p> <p>CPO12.31 In order to build on amenity potential, the Council will support the development and upgrading of the Inland Waterways and their associated facilities in accordance with relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and bodies including Waterways Ireland. An inter-regional approach shall also be taken in association with Leitrim, Roscommon, Westmeath and Offaly to develop the North Shannon Tourism area.</p> <p>CPO12.32 Protect Lough Ree from unsustainable, large-scale and high volume abstraction of water resources for use in areas external to County Longford.</p> <p>CPO12.33 Ensure all abstractions of water from Lough Ree will be subject to assessment for compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO12.34 Provide additional accesses to lake shores, river and canal banks; through the acquisition of land for public rights of way, parking and lay-by facilities, where appropriate.</p>

³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.
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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>In areas adjacent to inland waterways, lakes, canals and rivers where planning permission is sought, conditions may be attached requiring the retention or creation of public access to the waterway in order to facilitate the creation or expansion of walking/ cycling routes.</p> <p>CPO12.35 Require that land adjacent to lakeshores and river and canal banks in the County be protected and reserved for public access provision.</p> <p>CPO12.36 Protect the broadzones of the lakes, rivers, canals and deciduous woodlands from inappropriate development (see Appendix 10), i.e. development which adversely affects high amenity and landscape quality in relation to their setting, such as the environs of Newcastle House and Woods, particularly adjoining the River Inny Bridge.</p> <p>CPO12.37 Protect, enhance and preserve the built and natural heritage of the Royal Canal and its associated structures including the maintenance of the broadzone at 100m either side of the Canal. This shall include the natural setting of the canal and its views and prospects.</p> <p>CPO12.38 Restrict development in the broad zones of the major rivers and lakes of the County, as illustrated in Appendix 12, to extensions of existing dwellings, which shall be sensitively designed in terms of the individual site and materials.</p> <p>CPO12.39 Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</p> <p>CPO12.40 Promote and encourage ongoing works to improve the navigability of the Royal Canal, and to investigate the provision of mooring points in appropriate locations along the Canal and on the islands within the major lakes of the County</p> <p>CPO12.41 Protect the historical, cultural and scenic importance of the Islands on the lakes and rivers within the County from inappropriate development, whether on the Islands themselves, or at locations that interferes with their integrity and setting.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.42 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.43 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.44 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.45 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p>Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.46 Work with partners and stakeholders to progress the development of the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park and Biosphere.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.47 Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy the National Biodiversity Plan and the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024.</p> <p>CPO12.48 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites.</p> <p>CPO12.49 Improve the biodiversity and ecological value of the County through the promotion of the planting of native and heritage / traditional varieties and grass-cutting schemes amended to encourage local wildflower growth.</p> <p>CPO12.50 Require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Assess proposed large-scale developments, particularly on greenfield sites and in environmentally sensitive areas, in terms of their impact on the biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Screen all projects and plans arising from this plan for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. All such projects and plans will also be required to comply with statutory Environmental Impact Assessment requirements where relevant.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Require mitigating measures in certain cases where it is evident that biodiversity is likely to be affected. These measures may, in association with other specified requirements, include establishment of wildlife areas/corridors/parks, tree planting, wildflower meadows/marshes and other areas. With regard to residential development, in certain cases, these measures may be carried out in conjunction with the provision of open space and/or play areas.</p> <p>CPO12.54 Facilitate increased awareness of the County's biodiversity and natural heritage through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in cooperation with statutory and other partners.</p> <p>CPO12.55 Investigate and encourage the establishment of wildlife areas and corridors, particularly in the context of educational, recreational and amenity facilities.</p> <p>CPO12.56 Enhance the County's biodiversity and natural heritage, including its landscape, by promoting appropriate recreational and amenity schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.57 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values.</p> <p>CPO12.58 Conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>CPO12.59 Maintain a biodiversity zone of not less than 10 metres from the top of the bank of all watercourses in the county, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Council, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities.</p> <p>(Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments).</p> <p>CPO12.60 Any development that is visible from any of our protected areas or waterways shall be substantially screened with multiple lines of native tree and hedge planting on all sides.</p> <p>Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.61 Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources, the preparation and adoption of an Indicative Forestry Strategy for the County, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County's biodiversity, natural resources and landscape and developing tourism product.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO12.62 Preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the County, by promoting the protection of trees, groups of trees and ancient woodlands, of significant amenity value, especially native and broadleaf species.</p> <p>CPO12.63 Undertake a survey of trees and woodlands within the County in order to identify individual trees and or, groups and stands of trees of value worthy of protection, including those in Demense landscapes.</p> <p>CPO12.64 Protect trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and seek to designate additional Tree Preservation Orders, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.65 Protect the following important stands of trees identified in Appendix X from inappropriate development and unmanaged tree felling not part of an overall plan to ensure their sustainability:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avenue at Smithfield, Legan 2. Woods at Carriglass, Castleforbes and Cashel. The perimeter deciduous woodland of Newcastle Woods but not the interior areas of commercial forestry. 3. Portanure Pine Woods 4. Derrycassan Woods 5. Culnagore Wood 6. Rathline Wood 7. Trees along Regional Road R393 at Knockahaw 8. Woodlands at Erne Head, Woodville and Golaroe 9. Lime trees at Mosstown, Keenagh 10. Trees at Rathsallagh 11. Wood at Farragh, Killoe <p>The Council reserve the right, through the appropriate process, to add to this list of protected trees over the period of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.66 Discourage the felling of mature trees and hedgerow, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows to facilitate development and seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.</p> <p>CPO12.67 Protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest within the County, other than areas of commercial forestry. Proposals for development in these areas should seek to interact with the landscape character of the forested areas and its limits, recognising the importance of working with the forest to achieve sustainable development proposals, and enhancing and building on aspects of the forested areas that increase biodiversity and the natural habitat.</p> <p>CPO12.68 Encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands and community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.69 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works, or other works, seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.</p> <p>CPO12.70 Investigate the potential of completing a review of the Hedgerow Survey 2006.</p> <p>Invasive Species - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.71 Promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out of its functions in association with relevant authorities.</p> <p>CPO12.72 Develop and implement a programme of public awareness on the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.</p> <p>CPO12.73 Require landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.</p> <p>CPO12.74 Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species.</p> <p>If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011)</p> <p>Tourism Related Objectives</p> <p>CPO10.12 "Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant detrimental impacts, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate."</p> <p>CPO10.13 "Consider applications for tourism development in line with the planning criteria as set down in this plan (See Chapter 15: Development Management Standards), and which will also be subject to high standards of design and materials particularly given their sensitive locations."</p> <p>CPO10.14 "Support and promote the use of the 'Ecotourism Principles of Tourism Development' in all proposed tourism activities in the County."</p> <p>CPO10.15 "Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals."</p>
		<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
<p>Population and human health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 		<p>Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:</p> <p>Major Accidents Directive – County Policy Objective CPO 5.161 Have regard to the following in assessing applications for new developments (including extensions): - The Major Accidents Directive (Seveso II – 96/082/EEC and Seveso III 2012/18/EU); - The potential effects on public health and safety; - The need to ensure adequate distances between such developments and residential areas, areas of public use and any areas of sensitivity.</p> <p>CPO 5.162 Any proposals for developments within the vicinity of major accident hazard sites shall have cognisance of the required minimum separation distances as required by the Major Accidents Directive. In this regard all future proposals of this nature shall be forwarded to the Health and Safety Authority.</p> <p>Radon CPO12.77 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p>
<p>Soil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank erosion. 		<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Prevention of Pollution - County Policy Objectives CPO12.75 Pursue the preparation, establishment and implementation of/compliance with the following (and any future updates): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region. • National Hazardous Waste Plan. • EU and National legislation on the prevention of Air and Noise Pollution. CPO12.76 Encourage and promote environmental awareness and environmentally friendly practices in all aspects of life, particularly in industry, agriculture and all other commercial and leisure activities.</p> <p>CPO12.77 Reduce the impacts of existing pollutant activities through the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation of a reduction in the pollutant activity to a non-polluting level or a revision of operating times to reduce the impact of the activity on adjacent land uses. • Relocation to a more appropriate location where adjacent land uses are more compatible. • Imposition of conditions restricting emissions/activity • Use of enforcement action against unauthorised developments/uses. CPO12.78 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p> <p>CPO12.79 Encourage energy efficient design solutions, such as optimising solar gain and geothermal or air source heating, in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase environmental quality.</p> <p>CPO12.80 Assess any application for planning permission for new development, extension to existing development, or intensification or change of use, in terms of its potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where such development would have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, planning permission will not be forthcoming, prior to the proposal and introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>Landfills CPO 5.118 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>Geological Sites – County Policy Objectives CPO12.19 Contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 12.5. CPO12.20 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Geological Audit (2015) and facilitate a review of the Geological Audit. CPO12.21 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations. CPO12.22 Contribute towards the appropriate protection of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of the Plan from inappropriate development. CPO12.23 Encourage and promote, where appropriate, public access to geological and geomorphological sites and avoid inappropriate development through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, subject to environmental and habitats assessment.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives CPO12.42 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage. CPO12.43 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance. CPO12.44 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate. CPO12.45 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p>

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<p>Soil Protection – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.104 Recognise and protect fertile agricultural soils in the County as an important non-renewable natural resource and protect soils identified as agriculturally important in the Landscape Assessment through the prevention of inappropriate use in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO12.105 Identify areas of poorer soil in the County and respect their limitations, particularly in terms of their assimilative properties to prevent pollution</p> <p>CPO12.106 Prevent pollution in areas of poor soils through the implementation of relevant EPA and Department of Agriculture guidance and regulations in the percolation and/or spreading of domestic and agricultural effluent to land.</p> <p>CPO12.107 Investigate the potential uses of cutaway bogs in the County for re-naturing and amenity and particularly consider the development of sustainable and renewable energy projects.</p> <p>CPO12.108 Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p> <p>CPO12.109 Require that the EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites.</p> <p>CPO12.110 Ensure all undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment. All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p> <p>CPO12.111 Require that the treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>CPO12.112 Require that prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will carry out a full contaminated land risk assessment to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the proposed land uses will be compatible with the protection of health and safety (including the durability of structures and services) - during both construction and occupation; and How any contaminated soil or water encountered will be appropriately dealt with. <p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Water Quality and Groundwater Protection Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 12.81 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources in conformity with the EU Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, and any subsequent plan and the Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO12.82 Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan</p> <p>Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>CPO 12.83 Collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of protecting existing and potential water resources and achieving 'good status' in all water bodies in accordance with the requirements and guidance of relevant EU Directives and Regulations, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>CPO 12.84 Ensure licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).</p> <p>CPO 12.85 Discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>CPO 12.86 Ensure implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010), which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ('the Nitrates Directive'), dangerous substances in water, and protection of groundwater.</p> <p>CPO 12.87 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the National River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.88 Protect ground and surface water resources from pollution by ensuring the appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability, the recognition of ground water resources and abstraction points and any identified major catchment areas of surface water bodies capable of use as a potable water resource and ensuring that such sources, their zones of contribution, and areas of aquifer vulnerability are protected.</p> <p>Development of a potentially pollutant nature in these areas and any future areas identified shall be prohibited.</p> <p>CPO12.89 Seek to control and manage any potential point and/or diffuse sources of pollution with a view towards improving and maintaining 'good' water quality. Such activities include, but are not restricted to, wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines, contaminated land, agricultural activities, wastewater from unsewered properties, forestry activities and the use and discharge of dangerous substances.</p> <p>CPO12.90 Consider development proposals that involve the physical modification of water bodies, including abstraction of water, having regard to the potential effect on habitats and plant and animal species, with particular consideration given to European Sites and specific actions proposed where negative impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>CPO12.91 Incorporate water protection measures into initial site selection and design and produce a Water Protection Plan for all planning applications.</p> <p>Water Protection Plans should aim to prevent contamination of storm water, minimise soiled and waste waters, install proper containment for material storage, install appropriate treatment and disposal arrangement for soiled and waste waters and take account of legal requirements for discharges to ground and surface waters.</p> <p>CPO12.92 Support, where possible, the development and implementation of a Groundwater Protection Scheme in tandem with the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).</p> <p>Surface Water Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.89 Support in conjunction with Irish Water the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>CPO 5.90 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO 5.91 Require surface water storage measures to be provided in new developments where it is considered that the surface water run-off levels exceed permissible discharge rates. Storm water run-off design should be carried out in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) standards such as The SuDS Manual (CIRIA, 2015), "Dublin Corporation Stormwater Management Policy Technical Guidelines" and "Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works" incorporating "Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, Volume 2, New Developments" or any future updates.</p> <p>CPO 5.92 Ensure that in public and private developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>CPO 5.93 Maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in the county and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems including integrated constructed wetlands and to promote and support the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas.</p> <p>CPO 5.94 Prohibit the discharge of surface water run-off and rainwater into foul sewer systems.</p> <p>Flood Risk Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.95 Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.</p> <p>CPO 5.96 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO 5.97 Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding versions). This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines, the risk of flooding within the flood risk areas indicated in the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report, including fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding, and any other flood risk areas that may be identified during the period of the plan or in relation to a planning application. • Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Justification Test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, (or any superseding document) and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts. • Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted. • Where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or European sites downstream, such measures will undergo environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate. <p>The Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding. Future amendments to the plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM's Flood Risk Management Plans and as recommended in the SFRA for the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.98 Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in DWS 16.204. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). In Flood Zone C, (Please also refer to Development Management Standard, DMS 16.204, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed.</p> <p>CPO 5.99 Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) and available information from the CFRAM Studies shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>CPO 5.100 Require all applications in areas prone to flooding to be subject to the Justification Test set out in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. Compensatory flood storage provision or the provision of flood defences will not override the need for completion of the justification test.</p> <p>CPO 5.101 Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.102 Actively work with the CFRAM Programmes and catchment-based Flood Planning Groups, including where catchments go beyond the Council's administrative boundary, in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk - including those relating to storage and conveyance.</p> <p>CPO 5.103 Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Longford County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO 5.104 Ensure that the reasonable requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures in the county.</p> <p>CPO 5.105 Protect water bodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>CPO 5.106 Recognise the important role of peatland and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidance.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>CPO 5.1.07 Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO 5.1.08 Facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk areas designated as 'Constrained Land Use' on Settlement Plan zoning maps .</p> <p>CPO 5.1.09 Ensure that applications to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following - floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events.</p> <p>(Please Refer to CPO 5.1.08 and Development Management Standard DMS 16.205.</p> <p>Air Quality - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.93 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>CPO12.94 Support the collation of air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring data in support of a regional air quality and greenhouse gas emission inventory.</p> <p>CPO12.95 Seek to ensure in tandem with the EPA, that all developments are operated in a manner that does not contribute to deterioration in air quality.</p> <p>CPO12.96 Promote alternative and sustainable transport methods in order to maintain good air quality and support the introduction of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the county and will seek to replace its fleet with EVs where feasible.</p> <p>CPO12.97 Promote the retention of trees, in-particular broad leaf-species, hedgerows and other vegetation where possible, and encourage afforestation and tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering.</p> <p>Noise and Light Pollution County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.98 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these regulations.</p> <p>CPO12.99 Support the Implementation of the Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any revision made thereto)</p> <p>CPO12.100 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels, including the use of noise / vibration attenuation measures as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.101 Require the submission of a Noise Impact Assessment for all developments likely to introduce noise generating uses in proximity to noise sensitive uses.</p> <p>CPO12.102 Control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>CPO12.103 Require the use of energy efficient public lighting in all new development proposals.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>CPO 3.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions); Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the EMRA RSEs; Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. <p>CPO 3.2 Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation having regard to the measures detailed in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 (these have been informed by available guidance on Climate Action and Mitigation, including that from the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 3.3 Support the implementation and adoption of the Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and promote the County as a key driver of the transition to a low carbon economy within the Region.</p> <p>CPO 3.4 Contribute towards climate mitigation and adaptation, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage).</p> <p>CPO 3.5 Promote the benefits to quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>CPO 3.6 Provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated future development which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the County Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 3.7 Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors</p> <p>CPO 3.8 Support the delivery of sustainable development projects under the European Green Deal and the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>CPO 3.9 Support collaboration between local authorities, the Bord na Móna Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 3.10 Work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and relevant stakeholders to deliver a number of sustainable energy communities throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 3.11 Consider the use of heat mapping to support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted.</p> <p>CPO 3.12 Carry out a feasibility assessment for district heating and any subsequent Local Area Plans or other statutory planning documents shall identify local waste heat sources, where appropriate.</p>

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<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate wastewater treatment services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water runoff that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity 	<p>CPO 3.13 Seek to ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.</p> <p>CPO 3.14 Maintain existing green infrastructure and encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of open space amenities; Sustainable management of water; Protection and management of biodiversity; Protection of cultural heritage; and Protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 3.15 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>CPO 3.16 Complete a detailed local survey and audit of greenhouse gas emissions for the County in order to effectively target and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a targeted approach at the County level and support the development of a Regional Inventory of GHG Emissions.</p> <p>CPO 3.17 Seek the integration of positive climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in all planning applications.</p> <p>CPO 3.18 Provide training on climate mitigation measures.</p> <p>Also refer to the overall approach to compact development and sustainability provided by the Plan; and Chapter 4 Housing Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 5 Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications - Climate Actions, Chapter 6 Climate Action and 'Just Transition' Fund Opportunities – County Policy Objectives, Chapter 7: Placemaking Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 8 Economic Development Climate Change Actions, Chapter 9 Rural Economy Climate Change Actions, Chapter 10 Tourism Climate Change Actions, Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage Climate Actions, Chapter 12 Natural Heritage and the Environment - Climate Change Actions, Chapter 13 Green Infrastructure Climate Change Actions and Chapter 14 Landscape Character Climate Change Actions</p> <p>Also see measures under CEMP requirement, other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions from the Plan.</p> <p>Water Supply and Distribution - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.72 Work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.</p> <p>CPO 5.73 Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment.</p> <p>CPO 5.74 Have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County in conjunction with Irish Water.</p> <p>CPO 5.75 Support recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failure to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List in conjunction with Irish Water.</p> <p>CPO 5.76 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 5.77 Ensure that adequate water services is available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission and to require developers to consult Irish Water regarding available capacity, prior to applying for planning permission.</p> <p>CPO 5.78 Promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation in existing and new development within the County by encouraging demand management measures among all water users and requiring new developments to incorporate water conservation measures.</p> <p>CPO 5.79 Provide guidance and advice regarding the protection of water supply to private wells with the overall responsibility remaining with the householder.</p> <p>Wastewater - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.80 Liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan in the provision, upgrading or extension of wastewater collection and treatment systems in the County to serve existing and planned future populations and enterprise in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 5.81 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</p> <p>CPO 5.82 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.</p> <p>CPO 5.83 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate future growth in the County.</p> <p>CPO 5.84 Have regard to the capacity of the Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon wastewater treatment plants, with any further growth in these settlements contingent on the upgrading of these treatment plants, or the submission of appropriate temporary engineering solutions for individual developments which suitably address wastewater treatment and disposal to the satisfaction of the Council and Irish Water and in accordance with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.85 Resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems.</p> <p>CPO 5.86 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>CPO 5.87 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's</p>

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	<p>and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended. - EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) and EPA Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater (EPA 2011), as may be amended. CPO 5.88 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County. <p>Waste Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.110 Support the implementation of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.111 Continue to facilitate and promote the provision of civic amenity sites, including 'bring centres' for the purposes of providing a collection point for the recycling of domestic waste, subject to siting, location, compatibility with adjacent land uses and other relevant development management criteria.</p> <p>CPO 5.112 Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</p> <p>CPO 5.113 Promote and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>CPO 5.114 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>CPO 5.115 Promote and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure/technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, with the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p> <p>CPO 5.116 Require, where necessary, Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plans as part of applications for development in accordance with "Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects" (DoEHLG, 2006). Such plans should be submitted for developments above the stated thresholds within these guidelines and as required by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>CPO 5.117 Control development within its powers through the planning process in order to prevent and/or limit the impact of potential air, water and soil pollution.</p> <p>CPO 5.118 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 		<p>Architectural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO11.1 Implement the County Heritage Plan 2019-2024 and seek to update the Heritage Plan over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO11.2 Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of the existing building stock.</p> <p>CPO11.3 Ensure that all development should be appropriate to its setting in the landscape or townscape and responds to and reinforces local character and heritage.</p> <p>CPO11.4 Encourage the enhancement, management, protection and the promotion of access to and understanding of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.5 Recognise and protect the unique historical, mythological and cultural significance of Ardagh Mountain. Developments which materially impinge on the character of the mountain will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO11.6 Provide detailed guidance notes and continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.7 Ensure that proposals for development to structures included as part of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (DoEHLG) and any updated version, maintain and enhance the character of these structures.</p> <p>CPO11.8 Ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner with a view to minimal detracton from the monument or its setting.</p> <p>CPO11.9 Require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are upstanding remains, a visual impact assessment may be required.</p> <p>CPO11.10 Refer any proposed development which may impact on the integrity and/or setting of any monuments, sites, objects or areas of archaeological, cultural, architectural, historical or heritage importance under the protection of this Development Plan and/or the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the relevant section of the DoAHG for observations/comment prior to a grant of permission/approval being obtained.</p> <p>CPO11.11 Ensure applications for housing developments shall include provision for the naming of estates in recognition of the cultural heritage of the area in which they are situated.</p> <p>Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO11.12 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.13 For the purposes of the RPS, identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, light fixtures and signage, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.14 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO11.15 Ensure the protection of structures included in the Record of Protected Structures by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling development which would alter the character of Protected Structures and proposed Protected Structures. • Monitoring the condition of Protected Structures and proposed protected structures to identify those endangered by neglect, vandalism or unauthorised development and taking appropriate action. • Preventing the endangerment of Protected Structures in the Council's ownership. <p>CPO11.16 Consider the acquisition of Protected Structures, where possible and where economic constraints permit, if this is necessary to protect the structure.</p> <p>CPO11.17 Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing older buildings/ buildings of architectural merit, where appropriate, in preference to their demolition and redevelopment. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the Protected Structure.</p>

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		<p>CPO11.18 Facilitate contemporary and innovative design providing that they are of a sufficient high quality and do not detract from the character of the historic fabric of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CPO11.19 Require applications for development where a Protected Structure or its setting is likely to be materially affected, to submit a detailed assessment of the building.</p> <p>CPO11.20 Protect the setting of Protected Structures and refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a Protected Structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.21 Issue Declarations as to the type of works that would affect the character of a Protected Structure and therefore require planning permission.</p> <p>CPO11.22 Administer the DoAHG Historic Structures Fund including the assessment of applications, ensuring that the works enhance and do not adversely affect the character of a Protected Structure and have been carried out in accordance with the conditions of the fund.</p> <p>CPO11.23 Promote and support the funding sources available for Protected Structures and built heritage within the County.</p> <p>CPO11.24 Identify and seek further funding for the upkeep of Protected Structures within the County.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO11.25 Prepare and review, where necessary, detailed character statements and planning guidance for the 2 no. ACA's in the County, within the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO11.26 Protect the character of Architectural Conservation Areas in County Longford and ensure the preservation of the character of the Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>CPO11.27 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to buildings of historic significance within Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>CPO11.28 Identify and designate new Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) as appropriate.</p> <p>Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Designed Landscapes Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO11.29 Support the publication of a County Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, in order to promote the intrinsic character of those within the county.</p> <p>CPO11.30 Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.31 Discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components of, or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.</p> <p>CPO11.32 Require that proposals for development in designated landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, in order to inform site appropriate design proposals and ensure the on-going and future sustainability of the estate.</p> <p>CPO11.33 Continue the development, expansion and the protection of the (Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall) in Longford town.</p> <p>Vernacular Architecture Policies – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO11.34 Encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features.</p> <p>CPO11.35 Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of County Longford and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into re-developments.</p> <p>CPO11.36 Actively promote the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings as a key component of the built heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.37 Create and maintain and update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County and to promote available grant schemes to assist owners with their retention and repair.</p> <p>CPO11.38 Ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building.</p> <p>CPO11.39 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vernacular buildings, where appropriate and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of historic buildings.</p> <p>Industrial and Agricultural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO11.40 Create and maintain an inventory of Industrial and Agricultural Heritage assets within the County.</p> <p>CPO11.41 Support the retention and appropriate repair/maintenance of historic bridges and other significant industrial heritage features in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.42 Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice, subject to compliance with normal planning criteria.</p> <p>CPO11.43 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vacant traditional farm buildings, where appropriate, and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of interest.</p> <p>Financial support Incentives for Built Heritage and National Monument assets Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is Policy Objective of the Council to</p> <p>CPO11.44 Ensure the protection and enhancement of the built and cultural heritage of County Longford by securing and promoting the provision of suitable funding initiatives where possible.</p> <p>Archaeological Heritage Policy – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO11.45 Protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.46 Protect the integrity of the settings of archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.47 Protect the National Monuments as outlined in the table entitled 'Monuments protected under Preservation Orders' (see table 11.1 and map YY).</p> <p>CPO11.48 Protect the monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest as outlined in the table of the same name (see table 11.2 and map YY illustrated on the Map included as part of Appendix).</p> <p>CPO11.49 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of the County's rich archaeological heritage.</p> <p>CPO11.50 Encourage and promote access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.51 Seek to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the archaeological heritage for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO11.52 Investigate and promote the provision of improved access to important archaeological sites.</p> <p>CPO11.53 Presume in favour of the physical preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and their settings, where appropriate, feasible and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.54 Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p> <p>CPO11.55 Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.</p> <p>Built and Cultural Heritage Climate Actions</p> <p>A11.1 Adopt the principles of conservation-led regeneration by applying the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Architectural Heritage Protection (2011).</p> <p>A11.2 Seek enrolment on all future Historic Towns Initiatives (HTI).</p> <p>A11.3 Notify owners of Protected Structures of the increased threat climate change presents, while reminding them of their continued and legal requirement to ensure the structure(s) do not become endangered through neglect, decay, damage or harm (Practical advice on basic methods of conservation should accompany the notice).</p> <p>A11.4 Require the proposed demolition of any structure or part thereof, as considered of merit by the Planning Authority, to be accompanied by a report from a registered / chartered professional within a related discipline justifying same, to the satisfaction of the planning authority.</p> <p>A11.5 Require the submission of a life-cycle cost report with all applications in excess of 500 sq. m, new build construction, unless deemed otherwise by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>A11.6 Require the submission of a cost benefit analysis by a chartered quantity surveyor justifying any demolition or refurbishment of 100 m³ of construction and demolition waste, or above, unless deemed otherwise by the Planning Authority.</p>
<p>Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 		<p>Landscape Character - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO14.1 Support and implement objectives contained in any Regional Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>CPO14.2 Review in the context of a regional approach to landscape assessment, the County Landscape Character Assessment following publication of statutory guidelines for Planning Authorities on local Landscape Character Assessments, as outlined in the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025.</p> <p>CPO14.3 Protect the landscapes and natural environments of the County by ensuring that any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of their area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO14.4 Ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape in new development proposals.</p> <p>CPO14.5 Conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>CPO14.6 Discourage proposals necessitating the removal of an extensive number of trees, hedgerows and historic walls or other distinctive boundary treatments and consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders in respect of trees or groups of trees of particular landscape value.</p> <p>CPO14.7 Require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals to be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity.</p> <p>CPO14.8 Preserve views and prospects as illustrated on the accompanying map as part of Volume 2 Appendix 9 and as listed in Volume 1 written statement Chapter 14 Table 14.2 and 14.3.</p> <p>Protected Views and Prospects – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO14.36 Preserve the views and prospects listed above in Table 12.5 and 12.6 and detailed in Appendix XX with accompanying maps and to protect these views from development which would interfere unduly with the character and visual amenity of the landscape.</p> <p>Landscape Character Climate Change Actions</p> <p>A12.1 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation.</p> <p>A12.2 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Longford.</p> <p>A12.3 Discourage and ban the use of glyphosate weedkillers in public spaces in favour of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar.</p> <p>A12.4 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased.</p> <p>A12.5 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022.</p> <p>A12.6 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands.</p> <p>A12.7 Discourage fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels within Longford's functional area.</p> <p>A12.8 Engage the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities.</p> <p>A12.9 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible.</p> <p>A12.10 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Midlands Climate Action Region</p>

Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions/ Observations

3.1 Introduction

This section details how both the Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to Longford County Council on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan and the SEA.

3.2 SEA Scoping Notices and Submissions

As part of the scoping process for preparation of the Plan, environmental authorities⁴ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report could be made to the Council. SEA scoping submissions and other submissions made during the consultation on the Issues Paper for the Plan were taken into account during preparation of the SEA with Policy Objectives integrated into the Plan addressing the issues raised, including:

- Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure
- National commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Air
- Archaeological Heritage
- Non-designated aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure, areas of important local biodiversity
- Management measures for invasive species
- Available Guidance & Resources
- Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool
- State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2016
- Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society
- Geoheritage
- Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)
- Geological Mapping
- Groundwater
- Geohazards
- Consistency between Development Plans.
- Landscape

3.3 Submissions on the Environmental Report for the Draft Plan

Various submissions were made on the Draft Plan and/or associated environmental assessment documents while these documents were on public display. Certain submissions resulted in updates being made to the Plan.

The most significant changes relating to the Plan following public display of the Draft included adopting a more compact form of land use zoning and removal of remaining inappropriate land use zoning objectives from lands at elevated of flood risk.

Updates to the SEA/AA/SFRA documents made on foot of submissions include:

- To include a short summary in Section 7 of the SEA Environmental Report on alternatives considered and selected alternatives.
- To add additional measures for flood risk management into the SFRA and the Plan and to add provide a finer granularity to the Justification Tests in the SFRA report.
- To include OPW climate change scenario mapping in the SFRA.
- To a new subsection, “Sustainable Drainage Systems”, into the SFRA.
- To add the following text to Section 3.2 of the AA Natura Impact Report (NIR) (new text in **bold**):
“Sites downstream and beyond 15 km are considered by the AA, namely:
 - Donegal Bay SPA
 - Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA
 - River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA
 - Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC
 - Lower River Shannon SAC
 - Upper Lough Erne SPA
 - Upper Lough Erne SAC**With regard to SPAs within, within 15km of and downstream of the County, provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will protect these sites from the full range**

⁴ The following authorities were notified: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Department of Environment, Climate and

Communications; Environmental Protection Agency; Meath County Council; and Monaghan County Council.

of potential effects. Other SPAs would not be impacted upon due to distances involved."

- To add the following text to Section 3.2 of the AA NIR (new text in **bold**):
"Hydrological" includes both surface and groundwater processes, which have been shown to be important in the context of more recent scientific research on active raised bog habitat, an Annex I priority habitat which is within a number of raised bog SAC sites in Longford. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will contribute towards the protection of both surface and groundwater processes – these are identified in Section 5 Mitigation."
- To add the following text to Section 5 of the AA NIR (new text in **bold**):
"All mitigation measures apply to all developments and European sites, as relevant, to be determined at project level, when the nature, location, size, layout and operational processes associated with individual and combinations of projects are known."
- To update text in Section 3.2 of the AA NIR as follows (new text in **bold**):
"The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. Although sites beyond this buffer zone would be considered if relevant, a review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological/**hydrogeological** links the characteristics of the Plan will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer."
- To update text in Section 3.2 of the AA NIR as follows (new text in **bold**):
Details of European Sites that occur within 15 km of the County are provided in Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.1. Details of European Sites that occur outside the 15 km buffer zone of the County but are hydrologically/**hydrogeologically** connected are also provided in Table 3.1, and mapped on Figure 3.2."

3.4 SEA documents including SEA Environmental Report

The Draft Plan and accompanying documents (including SEA Environmental Report and AA and SFRA documents) were placed on public display, having integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Responses to submissions made during the period of public display of a

Draft Plan were integrated into a Chief Executive's Report and considered by Longford County Council.

A number of material alterations were proposed after public display of the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations were subject to Screening for SEA and AA and a selection of Alterations were subject to SEA and Stage 2 AA.

On adoption of the Plan, the Environmental Report that had been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan was updated to become a final Environmental Report that is consistent with the adopted Plan, taking into account all changes that were made to the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

Section 4 Summary of Alternatives considered

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment.

Whether or not alternatives for the County Development Plan are available has been identified by Longford County Council.

4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas.

4.3 Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

The Settlement Hierarchy Levels for the Plan are identified on Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Settlement Hierarchy Levels in Longford

Settlement Level	Settlement Category	Description
1	Key Towns	Large economically active service and/or county towns that provide employment for their surrounding areas and with high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as growth drivers to complement the Regional Growth Centres.
2	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns with a moderate level of jobs and services – includes sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining
3	Self-Sustaining Towns	Self-Sustaining Towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining.
4	Towns and Villages	Towns and villages with local service and employment functions
5	Rural	Serviced Rural Villages, Rural Settlement Clusters and the wider rural region

In considering significant realistic alternatives for placing of individual settlements under alternative typologies, the planning authority has taken into account the objectives of the NPF and the Eastern and Midland RSES. As a result, there are no strategic reasonable alternatives available for the designating of most settlements under the hierarchy. Nonetheless, there are strategic reasonable alternatives available for some of the settlements and these are detailed below.

Description of Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- (A) Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns
- (B) Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town.

Summary of Assessment for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

Alternative (A): Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining and the likelihood of this happening under Alternative A, which places the towns in a lower tier, would be reduced. Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown have

been successful at attracting new development and have experienced significant growth that needs to be accompanied by new service and infrastructure provision as soon as practicable. Growth in Granard has been low despite it been given prioritised by policy in the past.

Alternative A would have the potential to result in higher levels of private car-based commuting, potentially contributing towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the least, as Granard is not as well-served with public transport links as Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown are.

A greater level of growth in Granard under this alternative could be accommodated by the existing available capacity in the wastewater treatment plant (identified as having 1,411 population equivalent in headroom). There is currently limited capacity in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown (identified as having no headroom) to accommodate new growth. However, Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the Plan, projecting a completion year post 2024. As a result, Alternative A would be likely to meet objectives relating to wastewater treatment (and associated potential interactions with ecology and water quality) the most in the shorter term, potentially conflicting with these objectives the least.

Alternative (B): Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining and the likelihood of this happening under Alternative A, which places the towns in an upper tier, would be increased. Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown have been successful at attracting new development and have experienced significant growth that needs to be accompanied by new service and infrastructure provision as soon as practicable. Growth in Granard has been low despite it been given prioritised by policy in the past.

Alternative B would have the potential to result in lower levels of private car-based commuting, contributing towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the most, as Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown are better serviced with public transport links than Granard is.

There is currently limited capacity in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown (identified as having no headroom) to accommodate new growth. However, Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the Plan, projecting a completion year post 2024. Growth in Granard under this alternative could be accommodated by the existing available capacity in the wastewater treatment plant (identified as having 1,411 population equivalent in headroom). As a result, Alternative B would be likely to meet objectives relating to wastewater treatment (and associated potential interactions with ecology and water quality) the least in the shorter term, potentially conflicting with these objectives the most. Demand for shorter term growth could be facilitated in the settlements of Granard and Lanesborough.

Selected Alternative for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

(A) Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Town.

4.4 Alternatives for Rural Areas

Description of Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- (A) Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- (B) Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Summary of Assessment for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

Alternative (A): Restricting development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The restrictions would help to both reduce levels of greenfield

development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and encourage brownfield development within existing centres.

Rural development would be focus into appropriate rural areas and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Alternative (B): Not restricting development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

Urban generated development would occur within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Selected Alternative for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- (A) **Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.**

Description of Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- (A) Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- (B) Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Summary of Assessment for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

Alternative (A): Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would help to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would be more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

Alternative (B): Not providing a focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

Selected Alternative for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- (A) **Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.**

4.5 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

The following alternatives were considered as part of the Plan-preparation process. Alternatives adopted as part of the draft plan are shown in underlined.

Tier 1: Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- A. Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns
- B. Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town

Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Longford

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- A. Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- B. Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Tier 5: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

- A. Less compact (all New Residential)
- B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)⁵

The selected alternatives were developed by the Planning Team and adopted by the Council having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which were identified by the SEA and are summarised above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Council.

⁵ Note that Alternative B "More compact" was selected for each settlement as part of the Draft Plan. An even more compact form of zoning was adopted as part of the Draft Plan for most settlements.

Section 5 Monitoring Measures

5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan.

Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

The occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects not predicted and mitigated by this assessment, which are directly attributable to the implementation of the Plan, would necessitate consideration of these effects in the context of the Plan and potential remediation action(s) and/or review of part(s) of the Plan.

5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in the main SEA Environmental Report and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the measures identified in that RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring programmes.

Table 5.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

⁶ The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. Documenting any identified

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

5.3 Sources

The Plan will form part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland RSES, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. At lower tiers of the hierarchy, Local Area Plans and individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

In implementing the Monitoring Programme the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring.

Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council would provide monitoring of certain indicators on a *grant of permission*⁶ basis. Where significant adverse effects as a result of the development to be permitted are identified, such effects could be identified, recorded and used to inform monitoring evaluation.

5.4 Reporting and Responsibility

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of

effects as a result of a development to be permitted can help to fulfill monitoring requirements.

implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan. This report should address the indicators set out on Table 5.1. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 5.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. Status of water quality in the County's water bodies Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 12 "Natural Heritage and Environment" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024 For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 12 "Natural Heritage and Environment" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years). DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years) Consultations with the NPWS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 "Economic Development" Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 8 "Economic Development" No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures. Implementation of Green Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA CSO data Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications in key growth towns are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the wastewater treatment plant or failure of the waste water treatment plant to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will contribute towards a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield Volume of contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill Number of AA determinations and environmental assessments undertaken to support applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF. Achieve the 40% target for growth on infill as per NPF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Geoportail Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the River Basin Management Plan by 2021 (and subsequent iterations as relevant) Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such on flood zones are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Proportion of population within who report regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County. All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not - in- combination with other septic tanks- contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Increased budget spends on water and wastewater infrastructure By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant) CSO data DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities Department of Public Expenditure and Reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels. Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Climatic Factors	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets as provided for by Plan provisions including those provided for and referenced in Chapter 3 "Climate Change" Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures climate reduction targets as provided for by Plan provisions including those provided for and referenced in Chapter 3 "Climate Change" Increase in the proportion of people resident in the County reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by 2020 Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors To promote reduced energy consumption and a support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office Consultations with DECC CSO data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
Cultural Heritage	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants permission (grant by grant) Consultation with DHLGH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation
Landscape	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan To seek to align with the National Landscape Strategy To seek to align with the National Landscape Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants permission (grant by grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement



APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

FOR THE LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

for: Longford County Council

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Longford
County Longford



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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Conclusion Statement for the Longford County Development Plan. The obligation to undertake AA derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as transposed into Irish legislation by, inter alia, the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of any European Site in view of its conservation objectives. This AA Conclusion Statement should be read in conjunction with the Plan and associated documents including the AA Natura Impact Report (NIR).

1.2 Legislative Requirements in relation to AA

In carrying out the AA for the Plan, Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires, inter alia, that the Council considers the matters arrayed in the first column on Table 1.1 below. The second column identifies how these issues have been addressed.

Table 1.1 Matters taken into account by the AA

Matter specified by the Regulations	How addressed by AA
(a) the Natura Impact Report	An AA NIR accompanies this AA Conclusion Statement and the Plan
(b) any supplemental information furnished in relation to any such report	This AA Conclusion Statement accompanies the NIR that provides additional detail on European Sites.
(c) if appropriate, any additional information sought by the authority and furnished by the applicant in relation to a Natura Impact Report	Submissions made during the Plan preparation/AA process that were relevant to the AA resulted in updates being made to the AA NIR.
(d) any information or advice obtained by the public authority	
(e) if appropriate, any written submissions or observations made to the public authority in relation to the application for consent for proposed plan or project	Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake Stage 2 AA (Stage 2 AA was undertaken on certain alterations).
(f) any other relevant information	

In addition to the above, the Regulations require that the Council makes available for inspection a determination regarding the outcome of the assessment with respect to whether or not the Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site (a copy of this determination is provided at Section 4).

1.3 AA Conclusion Statement

Non-Statutory AA guidance (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009) states that (Section 4.14) it *"is recommended that planning authorities include a clear and discrete AA Conclusion Statement as a distinct section in the written statement of the plan separate to the SEA statement."* This guidance recommends that the following issues are addressed by the AA Conclusion Statement:

- Summary of how the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan (see Section 2);
- Reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered as part of the AA process (see Section 3);
- A declaration that the Plan as adopted will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites (provided at Section 4); and
- The NIR (the AA NIR is accompanied by this AA Conclusion Statement and has informed the AA Determination – see Section 4).

As recommended, this AA Conclusion Statement addresses the above issues.

Section 2 How the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at the Council in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan.

The Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. The findings of the AA were integrated into the Plan through mitigation measures. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 2.1 below.

Furthermore, the detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SEA and AA process facilitated zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high ecological sensitivity.

Table 2.1 Mitigation relating to AA

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
All	CPO 4.69 United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 no. Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.
All	CPO 4.70 Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management Cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management, including compliance with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.
All	CPO 4.71 Information to be considered at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc.); • Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; • Entries to the Record of Monuments; • Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; • Architectural Conservation Areas; and • Landscape/amenity designations.
All	CPO 5.17 Undertake the following Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report) and opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options; • Potentially feasible corridors within which infrastructure could be accommodated will be identified and these corridors assessed. The selection of the preferred route corridor will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists; and • In addition to the constraints identified above, site-specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate corridors. Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially feasible routes within the preferred corridor will be identified and assessed. The selection of preferred routes will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists, taking into account project level information and potential mitigation measures that are readily achievable; • In addition to the constraints identified above, site specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate routes; and • In addition to environmental considerations, the identification of route corridors and the refinement of route lines is likely to be informed by other considerations.
All	DMS16.70 Construction Environmental Management Plan All development proposals of five or more residential units shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with planning application documentation. Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP). Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP).
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	Designated Sites - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO12.5 Protect and conserve the conservation value of Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan. CPO12.6 Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects). Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CPO12.7 Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CPO12.8 Ensure that all development proposals relating to European Sites will comply with the DoECLG publication ‘Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities’.</p> <p>CPO12.9 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site’s conservation objectives to comply with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO12.10 Permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where an appropriate level of assessment can clearly demonstrate that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>CPO12.11 Consult and have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site, or a site proposed for such designation.</p> <p>CPO12.12 Identify and provide appropriate buffer zones between Designated Sites and local biodiversity features and areas zoned for development.</p> <p>CPO12.13 Undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) subject to available resources.</p> <p>CPO12.14 Prepare Strategic Habitat Management Plans for European Sites in the County in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>CPO12.15 Require an ecological appraisal, in addition to an Appropriate Assessment, for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites, or a proposed European Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.</p> <p>CPO12.16 Ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects.</p> <p>CPO12.17 Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EiA) for any proposed development which may have a significant impact on rare, threatened and or protected species and non-designated habitats of biodiversity value.</p> <p>CPO12.18 Where surveys carried out for the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA/EcIA)/Natura Impact Statement or other assessments generate biodiversity data previously unknown or unrecorded in the County this data be submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC).</p> <p>12.5.3 European Sites and Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>A plan or project will only be authorised after the Council has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and subsequent Appropriate Assessment where necessary that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European Site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) or The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000 or The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. <p>Following a finding that a proposed development will adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, planning permission may only be granted in exceptional cases, in the absence of any alternatives, for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) subject to the strict requirements of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Non-Designated Sites – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.15 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites and to require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.16 Co-operate with statutory and other relevant agencies to identify and protect a representative sample of the County’s wildlife habitats, of local or regional importance, not otherwise protected by legislation.</p> <p>CPO12.17 Protect Ramsar sites under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as Waterfowl Habitat).</p> <p>CPO12.18 Enhance and sustain landscapes and features within the County in order to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safeguard, sustain and improve the quality and character of landscapes which are important and valued or, promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes or, promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism development. <p>CPO12.19 Protect and enhance important landscape features and their setting including rivers, streams, canals, lakes and associated wetlands such as reedbeds and swamps; ponds; springs; bogs; fens; trees; woodlands and scrub; hedgerows and other field boundary types such as stone walls and ditches. These are important because they;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> form part of a network of habitats, corridors and ‘stepping stones’ essential for wildlife to flourish, thus providing a high-quality natural environment for all, and/or protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and are essential as part of the integrated approach to the management of water resources, necessary to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as set out in the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy). <p>Wetlands, Turloughs, Watercourses and Fens - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the Longford County Wetlands Fields Survey 2017 and 2019 and subsequent versions thereof.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>CPO12.26 Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites surveyed in 2019 listed and mapped in Appendix xx.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Resist development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.28 Ensure that development proposals or activities that may impact on sensitive water habitats, in particular turloughs and wetlands, shall not be permitted without the introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Proposals to drain or otherwise interfere with the sources of turloughs will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO12.29 Implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such applications for permission would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Inland Lakes, Waterways and Broadzones – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.30 Preserve, protect and enhance the Counties inland lakes and waterways for their amenity and recreational resource amenity, including the Royal Canal, the Rivers Shannon, Inny and Camlin and Lough Ree, Lough Gowna as well as the County's other rivers and lakes.</p> <p>CPO12.31 In order to build on amenity potential, the Council will support the development and upgrading of the Inland Waterways and their associated facilities in accordance with relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and bodies including Waterways Ireland. An inter-regional approach shall also be taken in association with Leitrim, Roscommon, Westmeath and Offaly to develop the North Shannon Tourism area.</p> <p>CPO12.32 Protect Lough Ree from unsustainable, large-scale and high volume abstraction of water resources for use in areas external to County Longford.</p> <p>CPO12.33 Ensure all abstractions of water from Lough Ree will be subject to assessment for compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO12.34 Provide additional accesses to lake shores, river and canal banks, through the acquisition of land for public rights of way, parking and lay-by facilities, where appropriate.</p> <p>In areas adjacent to inland waterways, lakes, canals and rivers where planning permission is sought, conditions may be attached requiring the retention or creation of public access to the waterway in order to facilitate the creation or expansion of walking/ cycling routes.</p> <p>CPO12.35 Require that land adjacent to lakeshores and river and canal banks in the County be protected and reserved for public access provision.</p> <p>CPO12.36 Protect the broadzones of the lakes, rivers, canals and deciduous woodlands from inappropriate development (see Appendix 10), i.e. development which adversely affects high amenity and landscape quality in relation to their setting, such as the environs of Newcastle House and Woods, particularly adjoining the River Inny Bridge.</p> <p>CPO12.37 Protect, enhance and preserve the built and natural heritage of the Royal Canal and its associated structures including the maintenance of the broadzone at 100m either side of the Canal. This shall include the natural setting of the canal and its views and prospects.</p> <p>CPO12.38 Restrict development in the broad zones of the major rivers and lakes of the County, as illustrated in Appendix 12, to extensions of existing dwellings, which shall be sensitively designed in terms of the individual site and materials.</p> <p>CPO12.39 Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</p> <p>CPO12.40 Promote and encourage ongoing works to improve the navigability of the Royal Canal, and to investigate the provision of mooring points in appropriate locations along the Canal and on the islands within the major lakes of the County</p> <p>CPO12.41 Protect the historical, cultural and scenic importance of the Islands on the lakes and rivers within the County from inappropriate development, whether on the Islands themselves, or at locations that interferes with their integrity and setting.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.42 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.43 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.44 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.45 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p>Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.46 Work with partners and stakeholders to progress the development of the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park and Biosphere.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.47 Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy the National Biodiversity Plan and the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024.</p> <p>CPO12.48 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites.</p> <p>CPO12.49 Improve the biodiversity and ecological value of the County through the promotion of the planting of native and heritage / traditional varieties and grass-cutting schemes amended to encourage local wildflower growth.</p> <p>CPO12.50 Require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Assess proposed large-scale developments, particularly on greenfield sites and in environmentally sensitive areas, in terms of their impact on the biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Screen all projects and plans arising from this plan for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. All such projects and plans will also be required to comply with statutory Environmental Impact Assessment requirements where relevant.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Require mitigating measures in certain cases where it is evident that biodiversity is likely to be affected. These measures may, in association with other specified requirements, include establishment of wildlife areas/corridors/parks, tree planting, wildflower meadows/marshes and other areas. With regard to residential development, in certain cases, these measures may be carried out in conjunction with the provision of open space and/or play areas.</p> <p>CPO12.54 Facilitate increased awareness of the County's biodiversity and natural heritage through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in cooperation with statutory and other partners.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>CPO12.55 Investigate and encourage the establishment of wildlife areas and corridors, particularly in the context of educational, recreational and amenity facilities.</p> <p>CPO12.56 Enhance the County's biodiversity and natural heritage, including its landscape, by promoting appropriate recreational and amenity schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.57 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values.</p> <p>CPO12.58 Conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>CPO12.59 Maintain a biodiversity zone of not less than 10 metres from the top of the bank of all watercourses in the county, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Council, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. (Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments).</p> <p>CPO12.60 Any development that is visible from any of our protected areas or waterways shall be substantially screened with multiple lines of native tree and hedge planting on all sides.</p> <p>Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.61 Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources, the preparation and adoption of an Indicative Forestry Strategy for the County, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County's biodiversity, natural resources and landscape and developing tourism product.</p> <p>CPO12.62 Preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the County, by promoting the protection of trees, groups of trees and ancient woodlands, of significant amenity value, especially native and broadleaf species.</p> <p>CPO12.63 Undertake a survey of trees and woodlands within the County in order to identify individual trees and or, groups and stands of trees of value worthy of protection, including those in Demense landscapes.</p> <p>CPO12.64 Protect trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and seek to designate additional Tree Preservation Orders, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.65 Protect the following important stands of trees identified in Appendix X from inappropriate development and unmanaged tree felling not part of an overall plan to ensure their sustainability;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avenue at Smithfield, Legan 2. Woods at Carriglass, Castleforbes and Cashel. The perimeter deciduous woodland of Newcastle Woods but not the interior areas of commercial forestry. 3. Portanure Pine Woods 4. Derrycassan Woods 5. Culnagore Wood 6. Rathline Wood 7. Trees along Regional Road R393 at Knockahaw 8. Woodlands at Erne Head, Woodville and Golaroe 9. Lime trees at Mosstown, Keenagh 10. Trees at Rathsallagh 11. Wood at Farragh, Killoe <p>The Council reserve the right, through the appropriate process, to add to this list of protected trees over the period of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.66 Discourage the felling of mature trees and hedgerow, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows to facilitate development and seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.</p> <p>CPO12.67 Protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest within the County, other than areas of commercial forestry. Proposals for development in these areas should seek to interact with the landscape character of the forested areas and its limits, recognising the importance of working with the forest to achieve sustainable development proposals, and enhancing and building on aspects of the forested areas that increase biodiversity and the natural habitat.</p> <p>CPO12.68 Encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands and community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.69 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works, or other works, seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.</p> <p>CPO12.70 Investigate the potential of completing a review of the Hedgerow Survey 2006.</p> <p>Invasive Species - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.71 Promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out of its functions in association with relevant authorities.</p> <p>CPO12.72 Develop and implement a programme of public awareness on the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.</p> <p>CPO12.73 Require landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.</p> <p>CPO12.74 Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011)</p> <p>Tourism Related Objectives</p> <p>CPO10.13 Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant detrimental impacts, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO10.14 Consider applications for tourism development in line with the planning criteria as set down in this plan (see Chapter 15: Development Management Standards), and which will also be subject to high standards of design and materials particularly given their sensitive locations.</p> <p>CPO10.15 Support and promote the use of the Sustainable Tourism and where appropriate, 'Ecotourism Principles of Tourism Development' in all proposed tourism activities in the County.</p> <p>CPO10.16 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Soil	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Prevention of Pollution - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO12.86 Pursue the preparation, establishment and implementation of/compliance with the following (and any future updates):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region. • National Hazardous Waste Plan. • EU and National legislation on the prevention of Air and Noise Pollution. <p>CPO12.87 Encourage and promote environmental awareness and environmentally friendly practices in all aspects of life, particularly in industry, agriculture and all other commercial and leisure activities. CPO12.88 Reduce the impacts of existing pollutant activities through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation of a reduction in the pollutant activity to a non-polluting level or a revision of operating times to reduce the impact of the activity on adjacent land uses. • Relocation to a more appropriate location where adjacent land uses are more compatible. • Imposition of conditions restricting emissions/activity • Use of enforcement action against unauthorised developments/uses. <p>CPO12.89 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan). CPO12.90 Encourage energy efficient design solutions, such as optimising solar gain and geothermal or air source heating, in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase environmental quality. CPO12.91 Assess any application for planning permission for new development, extension to existing development, or intensification or change of use, in terms of its potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where such development would have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, planning permission will not be forthcoming, prior to the proposal and introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>Landfills CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>Geological Sites – County Policy Objectives CPO12.24 Contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 12.5. CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Geological Audit (2015) and facilitate a review of the Geological Audit. CPO12.26 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations. CPO12.27 Contribute towards the appropriate protection of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of the Plan from inappropriate development. CPO12.28 Encourage and promote, where appropriate, public access to geological and geomorphological sites and avoid inappropriate development through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, subject to environmental and habitats assessment.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO12.50 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage. CPO12.51 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance. CPO12.52 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate. CPO12.53 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes. CPO12.54 Support the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and restoration works which will be both a positive conservation measure and help to reduce carbon loss in the County. CPO12.55 Designated and non-designated peatlands may be subject to the requirements of the planning code, Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA screening and EIA where applicable) and the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Planning permission will be required where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications will need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Soil Protection – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO12.115 Recognise and protect fertile agricultural soils in the County as an important non-renewable natural resource and protect soils identified as agriculturally important in the Landscape Assessment through the prevention of inappropriate use in the development management process. CPO12.116 Identify areas of poorer soil in the County and respect their limitations, particularly in terms of their assimilative properties to prevent pollution CPO12.117 Prevent pollution in areas of poor soils through the implementation of relevant EPA and Department of Agriculture guidance and regulations in the percolation and/or spreading of domestic and agricultural effluent to land. CPO12.118 Investigate the potential uses of cutaway bogs in the County for re-naturing and amenity and particularly consider the development of sustainable and renewable energy projects. CPO12.119 Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed. CPO12.120 Require that the EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>CPO12.121 Ensure all undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment. All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p> <p>CPO12.123 Require that the treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>CPO12.124 Require that prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will carry out a full contaminated land risk assessment to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the proposed land uses will be compatible with the protection of health and safety (including the durability of structures and services) - during both construction and occupation; and • How any contaminated soil or water encountered will be appropriately dealt with.
Water	<p>Water Quality and Groundwater Protection Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 12.92 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources in conformity with the EU Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, and any subsequent plan and the Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO12.93 Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan</p> <p>Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>CPO 12.94 Collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of protecting existing and potential water resources and achieving 'good status' in all water bodies in accordance with the requirements and guidance of relevant EU Directives and Regulations, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>CPO 12.95 Ensure licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).</p> <p>CPO 12.96 Discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>CPO 12.97 Ensure implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010, which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ('the Nitrates Directive'), dangerous substances in water, and protection of groundwater.</p> <p>CPO 12.98 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the National River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.99 Protect ground and surface water resources from pollution by ensuring the appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability, the recognition of ground water resources and abstraction points and any identified major catchment areas of surface water bodies capable of use as a potable water resource and ensuring that such sources, their zones of contribution, and areas of aquifer vulnerability are protected.</p> <p>Development of a potentially pollutant nature in these areas and any future areas identified shall be prohibited.</p> <p>CPO12.100 Seek to control and manage any potential point and/or diffuse sources of pollution with a view towards improving and maintaining 'good' water quality. Such activities include, but are not restricted to, wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines, contaminated land, agricultural activities, wastewater from sewerage properties, forestry activities and the use and discharge of dangerous substances.</p> <p>CPO12.101 Consider development proposals that involve the physical modification of water bodies, including abstraction of water, having regard to the potential effect on habitats and plant and animal species, with particular consideration given to European Sites and specific actions proposed where negative impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>CPO12.102 Incorporate water protection measures into initial site selection and design and produce a Water Protection Plan for all planning applications.</p> <p>Water Protection Plans should aim to prevent contamination of storm water, minimise soiled and waste waters, install proper containment for material storage, install appropriate treatment and disposal arrangement for soiled and waste waters and take account of legal requirements for discharges to ground and surface waters.</p> <p>CPO12.103 Support, where possible, the development and implementation of a Groundwater Protection Scheme in tandem with the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).</p> <p>Surface Water Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.100 Support in conjunction with Irish Water the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>CPO 5.101 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>CPO 5.102 Require surface water storage measures to be provided in new developments where it is considered that the surface water run-off levels exceed permissible discharge rates. Storm water run-off design should be carried out in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) standards such as The SuDS Manual (CIRIA, 2015), "Dublin Corporation Stormwater Management Policy Technical Guidelines" and "Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works" incorporating "Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, Volume 2, New Developments" or any future updates.</p> <p>CPO 5.103 Ensure that in public and private developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>CPO 5.104 Maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in the county and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems including integrated constructed wetlands and to promote and support the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas.</p> <p>CPO 5.105 Prohibit the discharge of surface water run-off and rainwater into foul sewer systems.</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<p>Air Quality - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.104 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>CPO12.105 Support the collation of air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring data in support of a regional air quality and greenhouse gas emission inventory.</p> <p>CPO12.106 Seek to ensure in tandem with the EPA, that all developments are operated in a manner that does not contribute to deterioration in air quality.</p> <p>CPO12.107 Promote alternative and sustainable transport methods in order to maintain good air quality and support the introduction of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the county and will seek to replace its fleet with EVs where feasible.</p> <p>CPO12.108 Promote the retention of trees, in-particular broad leaf-species, hedgerows and other vegetation where possible, and encourage afforestation and tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering.</p>
	<p>Noise and Light Pollution County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.109 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these regulations.</p> <p>CPO12.110 Support the Implementation of the Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any revision made thereto)</p> <p>CPO12.111 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels, including the use of noise / vibration attenuation measures as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.112 Require the submission of a Noise Impact Assessment for all developments likely to introduce noise generating uses in proximity to noise sensitive uses.</p> <p>CPO12.1113 Control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>CPO12.114 (a) Require the use of energy efficient public lighting in all new development proposals.</p> <p>(b) New/Replacement LED luminaries with warmer colours (i.e. CCT values at or below 2700K) be specified for future installations to avoid environmental impacts associated with blue-rich LED light.</p>
	<p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>CPO 3.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions); • National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions); • Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the EMRA RSES; • Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and • Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. <p>CPO 3.2 Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation having regard to the measures detailed in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 (these have been informed by available guidance on Climate Action and Mitigation, including that from the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 3.3 Support the implementation and adoption of the Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and promote the County as a key driver of the transition to a low carbon economy within the Region.</p> <p>CPO 3.4 Contribute towards climate mitigation and adaptation, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage).</p> <p>CPO 3.5 Promote the benefits to quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>CPO 3.6 Provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated future development which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the County Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 3.7 Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors</p> <p>CPO 3.8 Support the delivery of sustainable development projects under the European Green Deal and the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>CPO 3.9 Support collaboration between local authorities, the Midland Regional Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 3.10 Work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and relevant stakeholders to deliver a number of sustainable energy communities throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 3.11 Consider the use of heat mapping to support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted.</p> <p>CPO 3.12 Carry out a feasibility assessment for district heating and any subsequent Local Area Plans or other statutory planning documents shall identify local waste heat sources, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 3.13 Seek to ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.</p> <p>CPO 3.14 Maintain existing green infrastructure and encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of open space amenities; • Sustainable management of water; • Protection and management of biodiversity; • Protection of cultural heritage; and • Protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 3.15 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>CPO 3.16 Complete a detailed local survey and audit of greenhouse gas emissions for the County in order to effectively target and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a targeted approach at the County level and support the development of a Regional Inventory of GHG Emissions.</p> <p>CPO 3.17 Seek the integration of positive climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in all planning applications.</p> <p>CPO 3.18 Provide training on climate mitigation measures to include the agricultural, construction, industry and transport sector.</p> <p>CPO 3.19 (i) Create an 'Implementation Plan' of adequate detail that will allow for continued monitoring of Local Authority actions, responsibilities and progress specifically related to Climate Action.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	(ii) Consider a variation of the development plan within a reasonable period of time, or to include such other mechanism, as may be appropriate, to ensure the Development Plan will be consistent with the approach to climate action recommended in the revised Development Plan Guidelines as adopted or any other relevant guidelines.
Material Assets	<p>Wastewater - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.91 Liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan in the provision, upgrading or extension of wastewater collection and treatment systems in the County to serve existing and planned future populations and enterprise in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 5.92 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</p> <p>CPO 5.93 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.</p> <p>CPO 5.94 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate future growth in the County.</p> <p>CPO 5.95 Have regard to the capacity of the Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon wastewater treatment plants (and any other plants within the County of limited capacity to accommodate the core strategy and settlement hierarchy), with any further growth in these settlements contingent on the upgrading of these treatment plants, or the submission of appropriate temporary engineering solutions for individual developments which suitably address wastewater treatment and disposal to the satisfaction of the Council and Irish Water and in accordance with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.96 Resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems.</p> <p>CPO 5.97 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>CPO 5.98 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's 'Promote changeover from septic tanks to public collection networks in all cases where this is feasible.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended. - EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) and EPA Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater (EPA 2011), as may be amended. <p>CPO 5.99 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County..</p> <p>Waste Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.121 Support the implementation of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.122 Continue to facilitate and promote the provision of civic amenity sites, including 'bring centres' for the purposes of providing a collection point for the recycling of domestic waste, subject to siting, location, compatibility with adjacent land uses and other relevant development management criteria.</p> <p>CPO 5.123 Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</p> <p>CPO 5.124 Promote and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>CPO 5.125 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>CPO 5.126 Promote and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure/technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, with the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p> <p>CPO 5.127 Require, where necessary, Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plans as part of applications for development in accordance with "Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects" (DoEHLG, 2006). Such plans should be submitted for developments above the stated thresholds within these guidelines and as required by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>CPO 5.128 Control development within its powers through the planning process in order to prevent and/or limit the impact of potential air, water and soil pollution.</p> <p>CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>CPO 5.130 Ensure that all waste collectors and householder who use the services of authorised waste collectors are fully compliant with the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended and the Waste Management (Collection Permits) Regulations 2007, as amended.</p>

Section 3 Consideration of Alternatives

3.1 Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

The Settlement Hierarchy Levels for the Plan are identified on Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Settlement Hierarchy Levels in Longford

Settlement Level	Settlement Category	Description
1	Key Towns	Large economically active service and/or county towns that provide employment for their surrounding areas and with high-quality transport links and the capacity to act as growth drivers to complement the Regional Growth Centres.
2	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns with a moderate level of jobs and services – includes sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining
3	Self-Sustaining Towns	Self-Sustaining Towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining.
4	Towns and Villages	Towns and villages with local service and employment functions
5	Rural	Serviced Rural Villages, Rural Settlement Clusters and the wider rural region

In considering significant realistic alternatives for placing of individual settlements under alternative typologies, the planning authority has taken into account the objectives of the NPF and the Eastern and Midland RSES. As a result, there are no strategic reasonable alternatives available for the designating of most settlements under the hierarchy. Nonetheless, there are strategic reasonable alternatives available for some of the settlements and these are detailed below.

Description of Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- (A) Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns
- (B) Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town.

Summary of Assessment for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

Alternative (A): Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining and the likelihood of this happening under Alternative A, which places the towns in a lower tier, would be reduced. Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown have been successful at attracting new development and have experienced significant growth that needs to be accompanied by new service and infrastructure provision as soon as practicable. Growth in Granard has been low despite it been given prioritised by policy in the past.

Alternative A would have the potential to result in higher levels of private car-based commuting, potentially contributing towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the least, as Granard is not as well-serviced with public transport links as Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown are.

A greater level of growth in Granard under this alternative could be accommodated by the existing available capacity in the wastewater treatment plant (identified as having 1,411 population equivalent in headroom). There is currently limited capacity in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown (identified as having no headroom) to accommodate new growth. However, Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the Plan, projecting a completion year post 2024. As a result, Alternative A would be likely to meet objectives relating to waste water treatment (and associated potential interactions with ecology and water quality) the most in the shorter term, potentially conflicting with these objectives the least.

Alternative (B): Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown require significant 'catch-up' investment to become more self-sustaining and the likelihood of this happening under Alternative A, which

places the towns in an upper tier, would be increased. Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown have been successful at attracting new development and have experienced significant growth that needs to be accompanied by new service and infrastructure provision as soon as practicable. Growth in Granard has been low despite it been given prioritised by policy in the past.

Alternative B would have the potential to result in lower levels of private car-based commuting, contributing towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the most, as Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown are better serviced with public transport links than Granard is.

There is currently limited capacity in Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown (identified as having no headroom) to accommodate new growth. However, Irish Water has committed to upgrading the capacities of these plants over the lifetime of the Plan, projecting a completion year post 2024. Growth in Granard under this alternative could be accommodated by the existing available capacity in the wastewater treatment plant (identified as having 1,411 population equivalent in headroom). As a result, Alternative B would be likely to meet objectives relating to wastewater treatment (and associated potential interactions with ecology and water quality) the least in the shorter term, potentially conflicting with these objectives the most. Demand for shorter term growth could be facilitated in the settlements of Granard and Lanesborough.

Selected Alternative for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

(A) Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Town.

3.2 Alternatives for Rural Areas

Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- (A)** Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- (B)** Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Summary of Assessment for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

Alternative (A): Restricting development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The restrictions would help to both reduce levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and encourage brownfield development within existing centres.

Rural development would be focus into appropriate rural areas and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Alternative (B): Not restricting development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

Urban generated development would occur within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Selected Alternative for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- (A) **Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.**

Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- (A) Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- (B) Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Summary of Assessment for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

Alternative (A): Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would help to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would be more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

Alternative (B): Not providing a focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

Selected Alternative for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- (A) **Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.**

3.3 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

The following alternatives were considered as part of the Plan-preparation process. Alternatives adopted as part of the draft plan are shown in underlined.

Tier 1: Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- A. Designate Granard as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town and Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Towns
- B. Designate Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Granard as a Self-Sustaining Town

Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Longford

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence

- A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and assess each planning application on its merits.

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters

- A. Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- B. Serviced Rural Villages and Rural Settlement Clusters are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Tier 5: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

- A. Less compact (all New Residential)
- B. More compact (New Residential and Residential Reserve)¹

The selected alternatives were developed by the Planning Team and adopted by the Council having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects, including those relating to ecology and European sites, which were identified by the SEA and are summarised above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Council.

¹ Note that Alternative B "More compact" was selected for each settlement as part of the Draft Plan. An even more compact form of zoning was adopted as part of the Draft Plan for most settlements.

Section 4 AA Determination



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Appropriate Assessment Determination

under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
for the

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of any European site(s), this Appropriate Assessment determination is being made by Longford County Council relating to the potential for the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 that is being adopted to have effects on the integrity of European sites.

In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment (AA), the Council is taking into account the matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the following:

- The consolidated Natura Impact Report (October 2021);
- The Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Material Alterations (July 2021);
- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan (October 2020);
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents.

As part of the AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 38 (no.) European sites. Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as transport, urbanisation including residential and economic development, streetscape works, community facilities, utilities, natural resource, climate action, tourism and recreation development that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and/habitat fragmentation.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusions presented and determines that:

- Implementation of the Plan would have had the potential to result in effects to the integrity of European sites, if unmitigated.
- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and reliably mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.
- In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects have been considered in this assessment and the mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan – these measures are robust and will ensure there will be no effects on the integrity of European sites as a result of the implementation of the Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.
- Having incorporated mitigation measures, the Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any effect on the integrity of European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects². This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

Signed: P. Mallon

Name: P. MALLON

Date: 19/10/21

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment



STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

for: Longford County Council

Great Water Street
Longford
County Longford



by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
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Dublin



NOVEMBER 2021

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Appendix I

Summary of the requirements of the Flood Guidelines for land uses in Flood Zones

Appendix II

Flood Risk Indicator and Zone Mapping

Section 1 Introduction and Policy Background

1.1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

Longford County Council is reviewing the Longford County Development Plan 2015-2021 (as varied) and preparing a new Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

The preparation of the Plan has undergone an appropriate level of Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) in accordance with *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009) and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL 2/2014. The SFRA provides an assessment of flood risk and includes mapped boundaries for Flood Risk Zones.

The SFRA is an ongoing process, alongside the Plan-preparation process, and has been updated to take into account new information and changes made to the original Draft Plan on foot of submissions.

1.2 Summary of Conclusion and Recommendations

The purpose of this document is to detail the findings of the SFRA that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan.

The SFRA has informed the Plan and enables compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. All SFRA recommendations – including those related to land use zoning and flood risk management provisions – have been integrated into the Plan.

1.3 Flood Risk and its Relevance as an Issue to the Plan

1.3.1 Flood Risk

Flooding is an environmental phenomenon and can pose a risk to human health as well as causing economic and social effects. Some of the effects of flooding are identified on Table 1 below.

Certain lands within the County have the potential to be vulnerable to flooding and this vulnerability could be exacerbated by changes in both the occurrence of severe rainfall events and associated flooding. Local conditions such as low-lying lands and slow surface water drainage can increase the risk of flooding.

Table 1 Potential effects that may occur as a result of flooding

Tangible Effects	Intangible Human and Other Effects
Damage to buildings (houses)	Loss of life
Damage to contents of buildings	Physical injury
Damage to new infrastructure e.g. roads	Increased stress
Loss of income	Physical and psychological trauma
Disruption of flow of employees to work causing knock on effects	Increase in flood related suicide
Enhanced rate of property deterioration and decay	Increase in ill health
Long term rot and damp	Homelessness
	Loss of uninsured possessions

1.4 Flood Risk Management Policy

1.4.1 EU Floods Directive

The European Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risk aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. The Directive requires Member States to:

- Carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 in order to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas where potential significant flood risk exists (preliminary mapping was prepared and a list of Areas for Further Assessment finalised in 2012).
- Prepare flood extent maps for the identified areas (finalised in 2016 for inclusion in Flood Risk Management Plans – see below).
- Prepare flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness. These plans are to include measures to reduce the probability of flooding and its potential consequences. These Plans were adopted in 2018.

Implementation of the EU Floods Directive is required to be coordinated with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and the current National River Basin Management Plan.

1.4.2 National Flood Policy

Historically, flood risk management focused on land drainage for the benefit of agricultural improvement. With increasing urbanisation, the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945, was amended in 1995 to permit the Office of Public Works (OPW) to implement localised flood relief schemes to provide flood protection for cities, towns and villages.

In line with changing national and international paradigms on how to manage flood risk most effectively and efficiently, a review of national flood policy was undertaken in 2003-2004. The review was undertaken by an Inter-Departmental Review Group, led by the Minister of State at the Department of Finance with special responsibility for the OPW. The Review Group prepared a report that was put to Government, and subsequently approved and published in September 2004 (Report of the Flood Policy Review Group, OPW, 2004).

The scope of the review included a review of the roles and responsibilities of the different bodies with responsibilities for managing flood risk, and to set a new policy for flood risk management in Ireland into the future. The adopted policy was accompanied by many specific recommendations, including:

- Focus on managing flood risk, rather than relying only flood protection measures aimed at reducing flooding;
- Taking a catchment-based approach to assess and manage risks within the whole-catchment context; and
- Being proactive in assessing and managing flood risks, including the preparation of flood maps and flood risk management plans.

1.4.3 National CFRAM Programme

The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. The Programme is being implemented through CFRAM studies that have been undertaken for each of the river basin districts in Ireland.

The CFRAM Programme comprises three phases as follows:

- The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment¹ (PFRA) mapping exercise, which was completed in 2012;
- The CFRAM Studies and parallel activities, with Flood Risk Management Plans finalised in 2018; and
- Implementation and Review.

The Programme provides for three main consultative stages as follows:

- Consultation for the PFRA mapping that was adopted in 2012;
- Consultation for Flood Extent mapping, that was finalised in 2016 for inclusion in Flood Risk Management Plans; and
- Consultation for Flood Risk Management Plans, that were adopted in 2018.

The OPW is the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland. The coordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland is part of its responsibility. The European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 122) identifies the Commissioners of Public Works as the 'competent authority' with overall responsibility for implementation of the Floods Directive 2007/60/EC. The OPW is the principal agency involved in the preparation of CFRAM Studies.

1.4.4 Flood Risk Management Guidelines

1.4.4.1 Introduction

In 2009, the OPW and the then Department of the Environment and Local Government (DEHLG) published Guidelines on flood risk management for planning authorities entitled *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. The Guidelines introduce mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. Implementation of the Guidelines is intended to be achieved through actions at the national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.

The core objectives of the Guidelines are to:

- Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding;
- Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off;
- Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains;
- Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth;
- Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders; and
- Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.

1.4.4.2 Principles of Flood Risk Management

The key principles of flood risk management set out in the flood Guidelines are to:

- Avoid development that will be at risk of flooding or that will increase the flooding risk elsewhere, where possible;
- Substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible; and
- Mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible.

¹ The PFRAs identified areas at risk of significant flooding and includes maps showing areas deemed to be at risk. The areas deemed to be most significant risk, where the flood risk that is of particular concern nationally, are identified as Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs). AFAs were identified in County Longford at Abbeyshrule; Ballymahon; Cloondara; Edgeworthstown; Lanesborough - Power Station; and Longford Town. The OPW has undertaken a detailed assessment on the extent and degree of fluvial flood risk for various areas in County Longford, including these AFAs, producing Flood Extent Mapping.

The Guidelines follow the principle that development should not be permitted in flood risk areas, particularly floodplains, except where there are no alternative and appropriate sites available in lower risk areas that are consistent with the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development.

Development in areas that have the highest flood risk should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances (through a prescribed *Justification Test*) if adequate land or sites are not available in areas that have lower flood risk. Most types of development would be considered inappropriate in areas that have the highest flood risk. Only water-compatible development such as docks and marinas, dockside activities that require a waterside location, amenity open space, outdoor sports and recreation and essential transport infrastructure that cannot be located elsewhere would be considered appropriate in these areas.

1.4.4.3 Stages of SFRA

The Flood Risk Management Guidelines recommend a staged approach to flood risk assessment that covers both the likelihood of flooding and the potential consequences. The stages of appraisal and assessment are:

Stage 1 Flood risk identification – to identify whether there may be any flooding or surface water management issues related to either the area of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, Development Plans and LAP's or a proposed development site that may warrant further investigation at the appropriate lower level plan or planning application levels.

Stage 2 Initial flood risk assessment – to confirm sources of flooding that may affect a Plan area or proposed development site, to appraise the adequacy of existing information and to scope the extent of the risk of flooding which may involve preparing flood zone maps. Where hydraulic models exist the potential impact of a development on flooding elsewhere and of the scope of possible mitigation measures can be assessed. In addition, the requirements of the detailed assessment are scoped.

Stage 3 Detailed flood risk assessment – to assess flood risk issues in sufficient detail and to provide a quantitative appraisal of potential flood risk to a proposed or existing development or land to be zoned, of its potential impact on flood risk elsewhere and of the effectiveness of any proposed mitigation measures.

1.4.4.4 Flood Zones

Flood risk is an expression of the combination of the flood probability or likelihood and the magnitude of the potential consequences of the flood event. It is normally expressed in terms of the following relationship:

$$\text{Flood risk} = \text{Likelihood of flooding} \times \text{Consequences of flooding}$$

Likelihood of flooding is normally defined as the percentage probability of a flood of a given magnitude or severity occurring or being exceeded in any given year. For example, a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) indicates the severity of a flood that is expected to be exceeded on average once in 100 years, i.e. it has a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of occurring in any one year.

Consequences of flooding depend on the hazards associated with the flooding (e.g. depth of water, speed of flow, rate of onset, duration, wave-action effects, water quality) and the vulnerability of people, property and the environment potentially affected by a flood (e.g. the age profile of the population, the type of development and the presence and reliability of mitigation measures).

Flood zones are geographical areas within which the likelihood of flooding is in a particular range and they are a key tool in flood risk management within the planning process as well as in flood warning and emergency planning.

There are three types of flood zones defined for the purposes of the Flood Guidelines:

- **Flood Zone A** – where the probability of flooding from rivers and the sea is highest (greater than 1% or 1 in 100 for river flooding or 0.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding²);
- **Flood Zone B** – where the probability of flooding from rivers and the sea is moderate (between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 and 1% or 1 in 100 for river flooding and between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 year and 0.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding); and
- **Flood Zone C** – where the probability of flooding from rivers and the sea is low (less than 0.1% or 1 in 1000 for both river and coastal flooding). Flood Zone C covers all other areas that are not in zones A or B.

A summary of the requirements of the Flood Guidelines for land uses across each of the above flood zones is provided at **Appendix I**.

1.5 Emerging Information and Disclaimer

It is important to note that compliance with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines is currently based on emerging and best available data at the time of preparing the assessment, including Flood Risk Management Plans, which will be updated on a cyclical basis. The SFRA process for the Plan has been updated to take into account new information and changes made to the original Draft Plan on foot of submissions.

Following adoption of the Plan, information in relation to flood risk may be altered in light of future data and analysis, by, for example, the OPW, or future flood events. As a result, all landowners and developers are advised that Longford County Council and their agents can accept no responsibility for losses or damages arising due to assessments of the vulnerability to flooding of lands, uses and developments. Owners, users and developers are advised to take all reasonable measures to assess the vulnerability to flooding of lands and buildings (including basements) in which they have an interest prior to making planning or development decisions.

Any future SFRA for the area will integrate other new and emerging data.

1.6 Content of the County Development Plan

The Longford County Development Plan is a land use plan and provides an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Longford over the six-year period 2021-2027. The Plan includes a Written Statement, that provides the development policies, Core Strategy and mandatory and discretionary objectives for different policy areas addressed by the Development Plan, and, at Appendix I, Land Use Zoning for Longford Town, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard, Lanesborough, Aghnaclyffe, Ballinalee, Drumlish, Keenagh, Legan, Newtownforbes, Abbeyshrule, Ardagh, Ballinamuck and Clondra. The Plan also includes development envelopes for 27 Rural Settlement Clusters.

The most relevant parts of the Plan for this SFRA relate to land use zoning and provisions relating to flood risk management³.

² Coastal flooding is not relevant to County Longford

³ Flood risk management recommendations made by the SFRA process and integrated into the Plan by the Council, are provided under Section 4.

Section 2 Stage 1 SFRA - Flood Risk Identification

2.1 Introduction

Stage 1 SFRA (flood risk identification) was undertaken in order to identify whether there may be any flooding or surface water management issues within or adjacent to zoned lands and consequently whether Stage 2 SFRA (flood risk assessment) should be proceeded to.

Most of the County is located within the Upper Shannon catchment with part of the north of the County located within the Erne catchment.

Stage 1 SFRA is based on existing information on flood risk indicators based on historical evidence and computational models. **Appendix II (page 2)** shows the spatial distribution of County-wide historical flood risk indicators, while **Appendix II (page 3)** shows the spatial distribution of County-wide predictive flood risk indicators relating to fluvial flooding.

Appendix II also provides maps of these historical and predictive indicators for each of the settlements for which land use zoning is included in the Plan⁴.

2.2 Drainage, Defences and Early Warning Systems

With regard to areas benefitting from drainage and defences (flood relief scheme works), there are various measures that have been implemented in County Longford that will contribute towards flood risk management. These include the culverting of various streams and rivers in many urban areas.

Embankments and associated predicted benefitting lands under a number of historical government schemes are mapped in **Appendix II**.

Arterial Drainage Schemes were carried out by the Office of Public Works under the Arterial Drainage Act 1945 to improve land for agricultural purposes and to mitigate flooding. Arterial drainage maintenance and monitoring of these schemes is still carried out by OPW on rivers, lakes, weirs, bridges and embankments to maintain adequate conveyance and ensure that flood waters (of varying magnitude but typically the 3-year flood) are retained in bank by lowering water levels during the growing season thus reducing waterlogging on the adjacent land during wetter periods. Arterial drainage maintenance schemes are common in Longford and as can be seen in **Appendix II**, various settlements and/or their surrounding areas benefit from these schemes. This includes various settlements in the Camlin and Inny catchments.

⁴ Land use zoning is included in the Plan for Longford Town, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard, Lanesborough, Aughnaccliffe, Ballinalee, Drumlish, Keenagh, Legan, Newtownforbes, Abbeyshrule, Ardagh, Ballinamuck and Clondra.

The 2018 Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Shannon Upper and Lower catchment identifies various general measures applicable to County Longford as part of the wider Shannon Upper and Lower catchment under "Measures Applicable for all Areas"⁵.

With regard to Longford Town, the FRMP states that:

- Potentially viable flood relief works for Longford that may be implemented after project-level assessment and planning or exhibition and confirmation might include: Construct a 30m new flood defence wall. Remove the existing footbridge on the Camlin River upstream of the N63 Bridge.
- **Proposed Measure:** Progress the project-level development and assessment of a Flood Relief Scheme for Longford, including environmental assessment as necessary and further public consultation, for refinement and preparation for planning / Exhibition and, if and as appropriate, implementation.
- During the December 2016 and January 2017 there was significant flooding experience in "The Mall" area of Longford. This flooding is not reflected by the CFRAM predicted flood extents as it is a result of a hydraulic connection between the drainage system and the River Camlin. As this flood risk is not predicted by the maps there is no measure proposed for this area. Given this, it is a recommendation of this Plan for a Minor Works funded Flood Risk Management application to be considered, using the flood extents witnessed in December 2016 and January 2017 as the economic business case. During the consultations process concerns were raised in relation to a potential conflict between the location of one of the proposed walls and two existing security gates. The exact location of the wall in relation to the gates will be considered at detailed design stage.

With regard to Edgeworthstown, the FRMP states that:

- Within Edgeworthstown, no viable measures have been identified to provide flood protection to properties within the Area for Further Assessment. Property owners of the properties within the Edgeworthstown AFA that are identified as being at risk, may wish to consider Individual Property Protection to provide some reduction of flood risk for their properties. Property owners considering the use of such method should seek the advice of an appropriately qualified expert on the suitability of the measures for their property, and consider the possible requirements for environmental assessment. Localised measures to protect the individual infrastructure assets owned by Irish Water, such as the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the town, may be feasible. However, it is a matter for Irish Water to take such actions as deemed necessary or appropriate to ensure the security of their assets and systems.

The provision of flood protection measures can significantly reduce flood risk. However, the Ministerial Guidelines require that the presence of flood protection structures should be ignored in determining flood zones. This is because of risks relating to failure and severe flood events that exceed design capacity (the risk of severe events is exacerbated with climate change). Notwithstanding this, new development can proceed in areas that are at elevated levels of flood risk subject to the Justification Test provided for by the Guidelines being passed, which takes into account proposals to manage flood risk, such as the development of defences. Although insurance can be challenging to attain in these instances.

Various rivers and their banks and culverts in the County are maintained by the Office of Public Works and Longford County Council.

As provided for under Plan measure County Policy Objective CPO 5.101 it is Council policy to "consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto". Such retention will, in combination with the direction of development within the existing footprints of settlements, safeguard flood plains from development throughout the County.

⁵ Under the headings of:

- Prevention: Sustainable Planning and Development Management
- Prevention: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
- Prevention: Voluntary Home Relocation
- Prevention: Local Adaptation Planning
- Prevention: Land Use Management and Natural Flood Risk Management Measures
- Protection: Minor Works Scheme Maintenance of Arterial Drainage Schemes and Existing Flood Relief Schemes
- Protection: Maintenance of Drainage Districts Maintenance of Channels Not Part of a Scheme Preparedness: Flood Forecasting
- Preparedness: Review of Emergency Response Plans for Severe Weather Preparedness: Individual and Community Resilience
- Preparedness: Individual Property Protection
- Preparedness: Flood-Related Data Collection
- Management of water levels on the River Shannon
- Operation and Maintenance of ESB and Waterways Ireland Infrastructure

Met Éireann currently issues flood warnings for County Longford. Met Éireann, in collaboration with the OPW, is currently engaged in the establishment of a National Flood Forecasting and Warnings Service to forecast for fluvial and coastal flood events.

2.3 Other Flood Studies

Other Flood Studies considered in the preparation of this assessment include:

- SFRA for the Longford County Development Plan 2015-2021, 2015;
- Flood Risk Management Plan (Shannon Upper and Lower), 2018;
- Flood Risk Management Plan (Erne River Basin), 2018; and
- Regional Flood Risk Assessment for the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, 2019.

2.4 Flood Risk Indicators

Indicators of flood risk that are based on historical flooding events are identified and described on Table 2 and mapped at county and settlement level in **Appendix II**.

Indicators of flood risk that are based on computational models – predictive flood risk indicators – are identified and described on Table 3 and mapped at county and settlement level in **Appendix II**.

Table 2 Historical Flood Risk Indicators

Information Source	Description	Strategic Limitations
Recorded Flood Events from the OPW	A flood event is the occurrence of recorded flooding at a given location on a given date. The flood event is derived from different types of information (reports, photographs etc.).	This dataset only provides a spot location
Recurring Flood Events	A flood event that has occurred more than once at a certain area is named a recurring flood event.	This dataset only provides a spot location
OPW Flood Extent	A flood extent is an inundated area as recorded at a certain moment in time. This layer of information includes floods recorded in 1999/2000 and 1954.	Coverage limited
Alluvium Soils	Mineral alluvial soil mapping is indicative of recurrent or significant fluvial flooding at some point in the past and was generated by Teagasc with co-operation of the Forest Service, EPA and GSI. This project was completed May 2006.	Drainage may have changed significantly since these soils were deposited.
Benefitting lands (OPW)	Benefitting lands mapping is a dataset identifying land that might benefit from the implementation of Arterial (Major) Drainage Schemes (under the Arterial Drainage Act 1945) and indicating areas of land estimated or reported to be subject to flooding or poor drainage.	Identifies broad areas - low resolution for flood risk management
Drainage Districts (OPW)	This drainage scheme mapping dataset was prepared on behalf of the Drainage Districts (Local Authorities with statutory responsibility for maintenance under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1925). These maps identify land that might benefit from the implementation of Arterial (Major) Drainage Schemes and indicate areas of land subject to flooding or poor drainage.	Identifies large broad areas - very low resolution for flood risk management
Land Commission (OPW)	This dataset indicates areas of land defended to some degree against flooding that were formerly the responsibility of the Land Commission.	Identifies broad areas - low resolution for flood risk management

Table 3 Predictive Flood Risk Indicators

Information Source	Description	Strategic Limitations
CFRAM Study, Flood Extent Mapping, 2016	Following the undertaking of the PFRA, the OPW, through its engineering consultants and working with local authorities and other stakeholders, conducted extensive engineering assessments to better understand and detail the actual risk from flooding for areas that were at highest levels of risk. This was the subject of public consultation. The outcome of that work includes Predicted Flood Extent maps that were finalised in 2016. For fluvial flood levels, calibration and verification of the models make use of the best available data including hydrometric records, photographs, videos, press articles and anecdotal information.	Spatial spread is limited, including to the areas that are considered to be at most risk of flooding.
OPW Preliminary Risk Assessment (PFRA) Fluvial, Groundwater and Pluvial flood maps, 2012⁶	<p>The OPW PFRA mapping dataset has been arrived at by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing records of floods that have happened in the past; • Undertaking analysis to determine which areas might flood in the future, and what the impacts might be; and • Extensive consultation with each local authorities and other Government departments and agencies. <p>This assessment has considered all types of flooding, including that which can occur from rivers, the sea and estuaries, heavy rain, groundwater, the failure of infrastructure, and so on. It has also considered the impacts flooding can have on people, property, businesses, the environment and cultural assets. Further information on the purpose and development of the OPW PFRA Maps are available on www.cfram.ie.</p>	The PFRA is only a preliminary assessment, based on available or readily derivable information. Analysis has been undertaken to identify areas prone to flooding, and the risks associated with such flooding, but this analysis is purely indicative and undertaken for the purpose of completing the PFRA. The mapping has been developed using simple and cost-effective methods and is based on broad-scale simple analysis and may not be accurate for a specific location/use.

2.5 Conclusion of Stage 1 SFRA

The information detailed above indicates elevated levels of flood risk in various locations across the County; therefore, a Stage 2 SFRA has been proceeded to.

⁶ **Appendix II** of this assessment includes PFRA Fluvial mapping. Pluvial and groundwater flood risk is present in the County, as indicated by the PFRA mapping, however; it is not taken into account in the delineation of flood zones. Nonetheless, it has informed the development of recommendations detailed in Section 4. Pluvial risk is indicated by the PFRA in areas across the County. Groundwater risk is indicated by the PFRA as being significantly less common and is present in local areas in the north west of the County.

Section 3 Stage 2 SFRA - Flood Risk Assessment

3.1 Introduction

Stage 2 SFRA (flood risk assessment) has been undertaken to:

- Confirm the sources of flooding that may affect zoned and adjacent areas;
- Appraise the adequacy of existing information as identified by the Stage 1 SFRA; and
- Scope the extent of the risk of flooding through the preparation of flood zone maps.

3.2 Findings and Adequacy of Existing Information and Delineation of Flood Zones

Desk and in-field studies were undertaken taking into account the following factors:

- OPW’s CFRAMS fluvial flood extent mapping (2016) and other predictive indicators;
- Historical indicators of flood risk;
- Documented Council knowledge of lands;
- Council Engineer review and input into indicators and flood zones (local knowledge);
- The potential source and direction of flood paths from rivers and streams;
- Vegetation indicative of flood risk; and
- The locations of topographic/built features that coincide with the flood indicator related boundaries/topographical survey.

Within the annual exceedance probabilities specified by the Flood Guidelines for Flood Zones A and B, there are elevated levels of flood risk within the majority of the County’s settlements for which land use zoning is included in the Plan, as shown in **Appendix II**.

A summary of in-field groundtruthing of flood risk indicators undertaken in June 2020 is provided on Table 4.

Table 4 Summary of in-field groundtruthing

Settlement	Groundtruthing of Fluvial Flood Risk
Abbeysrule	Abbeysrule is on the River Inny and Royal Canal. Various indicators of flood risk are mapped including alluvial soils. Vegetation indicative of flood risk were identified at numerous locations. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk however a number of properties are at risk of flooding as is a significant extent of the existing Aerodrome. Available flood risk indicators generally reflect the topography, source of risk and flood paths observed. The River Inny is a significant watercourse and its extensive natural floodplain in the area is indicative of the extent of any likely major flood extents. The regional water supply intake is also at risk of flooding. Maintenance of the existing arterial drainage scheme is a measure at River Basin scale in the CFRAMS Plan that is identified as being of benefit to Abbeysrule.
Ardagh	The source of the Cloonkeen stream is located to the north of the Plan area however given its small size at this upper reach, it does not pose significant issue to the zoning as contained in the Plan, save for a minor strip at the northern boundary, adjacent to the stream.
Aughnacliffe	Limited area at risk of flooding to the south of the centre of this settlement, where the Aughnacliffe (Stream) is culverted under the local road (L1044). The left bank is lower and is subject to most risk with vegetation indicative of flood risk observed. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk.
Ballinalee	The River Camlin and its tributaries flow through the north of the area zoned by the Plan. The flood plain is well defined as the river is culverted under the local road (L1056). The greatest amount of risk is downstream, in the low-lying north-west of the Plan area following its confluences with smaller tributaries. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk. Camlin River broke its banks previously at the Cois na hAbhann housing estate and water levels went up to the wastewater treatment plant. The area adjacent to Shantobar Estate was identified by the Council Engineer as potentially having past local drainage issue and being affected by pluvial flooding. Council Engineer also provided local knowledge on flash flooding that occurred outside of the settlement area and suggested a “Drone Aerial Survey” of the two channels (and all their tributaries) in order to help to identify any specific bottlenecks or blockages in the

Settlement	Groundtruthing of Fluvial Flood Risk
	aftermath of the flooding. Local flood risk issues were also identified close to Kilshruley Bridge in Ballinalee.
Ballinamuck	Fluvial risk from the Creelaghta Stream that flows into the zoned area to the south at Shanmullagh, under Main Street and northwards along the western Plan boundary. There is significant vegetation around the culvert and vegetation indicative of flood risk in the area. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk.
Ballymahon	The River Inny carries a significant flow through the south of the zoned area at Ballymahon towards Lough Ree, around 5 km downstream to the west. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk. There are multiple flood risk indicators (including history of flooding) and the flood plain is relatively well defined. Available flood risk indicators generally reflect the topography, source of risk and flood paths observed. Significant risk to the east of St. Catherine's Church. A tributary to the Inny poses risk to Leo Casey Park in the north-east of the town. North-west of the town close to Drinan the Local Engineer identified that houses flooded at this location in 2009 and that the problem has been addressed by way of local engineering solution. Maintenance of the existing arterial drainage scheme is a measure at River Basin scale in the CFRAMS Plan that is identified as being of benefit to Ballymahon.
Clondra	Clondra is on the Camlin River and Royal Canal, adjacent to the River Shannon. Various indicators of flood risk are mapped and there are significant low lying areas at risk. Vegetation indicative of flood risk were identified at numerous locations. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk. Available flood risk indicators generally reflect the topography, source of risk and flood paths observed. The Local Engineer identified that there are drainage issues on lands in south-east of Clondra after N5 exit. The Local Engineer identified that water was up to the top of Clondra Bridge previously - consistent with flood risk indicator information.
Drumlish	Drumlish is drained by the Drumlish West and Drumlish East streams and their tributaries These are culverted at a number of locations outside of the existing development envelope. Area to the south western end of town, to north of Glasheen Road was identified as potentially being affected by pluvial flooding and having a past local drainage issue (one of a number of local drainage issues that the Council are aware of; the Council are taking measures to improve drainage issues in the County in general). Flood prone areas are identified at the south western end of town, to north and south of Glasheen Road, and at the north eastern end of town, to the north and south of Mill Road. The Council engineer identified potential flood risk issues in the environs on the Mill Race Park area of the town (new bridge in this location).
Edgeworthstown	The Black River flows through Edgeworthstown, with its tributary flowing through part of the south-west of the zoned area. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk. Available flood risk indicators generally reflect the topography, source of risk and flood paths observed – elevated risk at Edgeworthstown Green, Abhainn Glas housing estate and at greenfield lands in the north-west of the town. Edgeworthstown is addressed by the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Shannon Upper and Lower (2018) – refer to Section 2.2.
Granard	Granard is located at a water shed with most of the town drained by the Rathcronan Stream. Culverted stream in the north of the Plan area adjacent to existing food industry presents a degree of flood risk and lands at risk were poorly drained at this location. An extensive area of low-lying lands to the south of the settlement's centre is at significant risk of flooding and poorly drained. that cottages to the west of Parnell Row have previously flooded however the Council has provided for the culverting of such flows. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk.
Keenagh	No significant fluvial flood risk.
Lanesboro	Located along the Shannon. Lough Bannow flows through the east and north of the settlement before entering Shannon. Available flood risk indicators generally reflect the topography, source of risk and flood paths observed – parts of and adjacent to former power station lands in west at risk, others raised sufficiently. Built development within the settlement generally occurs away from areas with elevated levels of fluvial flood risk. Past local drainage issue identified at Cnoc na Gaoithe Housing Estate (one of a number of local drainage issues that the Council are aware of; the Council are taking measures to improve drainage issues in the County in general).
Legan	Legan is on the Lenamore Stream and its tributary. Various indicators of flood risk are mapped including alluvial soils. Fluvial risk identified adjacent to Legan Bridge and Foxhall Crescent housing estate. Available flood risk indicators generally reflect the topography, source of risk and flood paths observed.
Longford	Longford Town has a history of flooding, in its centre and up and downstream. The town is drained by the Camlin and a number of tributaries. During the December 2016 and January 2017 there was significant flooding experience in "The Mall" area of Longford. This flooding is not reflected by the CFRAM predicted flood extents as it is a result of a hydraulic connection between the drainage system and the River Camlin. Significant areas of flood risk were identified along the Camlin and downstream to the west of the town where there are various areas of raised ground. Various indicators of flood risk are mapped including alluvial soils. Available flood risk indicators generally reflect the topography, source of risk and flood paths observed. The Flood Risk Management Plan for the Shannon Upper and Lower (2018, see Section 2.2) proposes specific flood risk management measures for Longford Town.
Newtownforbes	No significant fluvial flood risk.

3.3 Flood Risk Zone Mapping

Flood Risk Zone maps have been produced taking into account the findings of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 SFRA desk and in field studies as identified above⁷.

The maps are provided in **Appendix II** and identify Flood Zone A (darker blue) and Flood Zone B⁸ (lighter blue). All other areas fall within Flood Zone C. As per the Guidelines, the flood zones in County Longford are as follows:

- Flood Zone A – where the probability of flooding from rivers is highest (greater than 1% or 1 in 100 for river flooding);
- Flood Zone B – where the probability of flooding from rivers is moderate (between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 and 1% or 1 in 100 for river flooding); and
- Flood Zone C – where the probability of flooding from rivers is low (less than 0.1% or 1 in 1000 for river flooding).

3.4 Sensitivity to Climate Change

'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Technical Appendices, 2009' recommends that a precautionary approach to climate change is adopted due to the level of uncertainty involved in the potential effects. In this regard, the Guidelines recommends:

- Recognising that significant changes in the flood extent may result from an increase in rainfall or tide events and accordingly adopting a cautious approach to zoning land in these potential transitional areas;
- Ensuring that the levels of structures designed to protect against flooding such as flood defences⁹, land raising or raised floor levels are sufficient to cope with the effects of climate change over the lifetime of the development they are designed to protect (normally 85-100 years); and
- Ensuring that structures to protect against flooding and the development protected are capable of adaptation to the effects of climate change when there is more certainty about the effects and still time for such adaptation to be effective.

Advice on the expected impacts of climate change and the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management in Ireland is given in the OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (2009). Two climate change scenarios are considered. These are the Mid-Range Future Scenario (MRFS) and the High-End Future Scenario (HEFS). The MRFS is intended to represent a "likely" future scenario based on the wide range of future predictions available. The HEFS represents a more "extreme" future scenario at the upper boundaries of future projections. Based on these two scenarios the OPW recommended allowances for climate change in relation to river flows and sea levels are given in Table 5. These climate change allowances are particularly important at the development management stage of planning, and will ensure that proposed development is designed and constructed to take into account best current knowledge. Climate change allowances have been integrated into the recommendations provided at Section 4 of this report and MRFS and HEFS mapping is available from the OPW for certain areas, including AFAs.

⁷ Including taking into account predictive and historical indicators of flood risk, documented Council knowledge of lands, Council Engineer review and input into indicators and flood zones (local knowledge), the potential source and direction of flood paths from rivers and streams, vegetation indicative of flood risk and the locations of topographic/built features that coincide with the flood indicator related boundaries/topographical survey.

⁸ As identified by the Guidelines, in rivers with a well-defined floodplain or where the coastal plain is well defined at its rear, the limits of Zones A and B will virtually coincide. Zone B will only be significantly different in spatial extent from Zone A where there is extensive land with a gentle gradient away from the river or the sea.

⁹ Defended areas are highly sensitive to climate change as the likelihood of defence failure and resulting flooding increases.

Table 5 Allowances for Future Scenarios (100-Year Time Horizon)¹⁰

Criteria	MRFS – to be considered for most development scenarios	HEFS – to be considered in relation to high value, high vulnerability development which cannot be relocated
Extreme Rainfall Depths	+20%	+30%
Flood Flows	+20%	+30%
Mean Sea Level Rise	+500mm	+1000mm

3.5 Sustainable Drainage Systems

Various provisions in the Plan address sustainable drainage systems and surface water management, including CPO 5.85, CPO 5.89, CPO 5.90, CPO 5.91, CPO 5.92, CPO 5.93, CPO 5.94 and DMS 16.107.

SuDS include devices such as swales, permeable pavements, filter drains, storage ponds, constructed wetlands, soakways and green roofs. In some exceptional cases, and at the discretion of the Council, where it is demonstrated that SuDS devices are not feasible, approval may be given to install underground attenuation tanks or enlarged pipes in conjunction with other devices to achieve the required water quality. Such alternative measures will only be considered as a last resort.

Proposals for surface water attenuation systems should include maintenance proposals and procedures.

Development proposals will be required to be accompanied by a comprehensive SuDS assessment that addresses run-off rate, run-off quality and its impact on the existing habitat and water quality.

This approach using SuDS offers a total solution to rainwater management and is applicable in both urban and rural situations. Current best practice guidance on SuDS is available from the Guidance Documents produced by the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS).

¹⁰ OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (2009)

Section 4 Recommendations

4.1 Introduction

In order to comply with *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009) and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular (*PL 2/2014*) and contribute towards flood risk management within the Plan area, the recommendations below have been made by the SFRA process and integrated into the Plan.

4.2 Land Use Zoning

That the Flood Zones identified by the SFRA are used in line with the requirements provided for by the Flood Guidelines for land uses in Flood Zones A and B. Undeveloped land should not be zoned for incompatible uses and can be zoned as, for example, Open Space, Recreation and Amenity.

With respect to lands which have already been developed, the potential conflict between zonings and *highly* and *less vulnerable* development (see Tables 5 and 6 in **Appendix I**) will be avoided by applying the constrained land use approach, with blue hatched shaded zone, 'Constrained Land Use', applied on the land use zone mapping in order to differentiate that there is a flood risk issue. This approach is established and tested and consistent with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and associated Circular PL 2/2014.

To this effect, the following provisions have been integrated into the Plan:

Within Chapter 5:

County Policy Objective - CPO 5.119

Facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk areas designated as 'Constrained Land Use' on Settlement Plan zoning maps. Future development on these lands is limited to minor development where plan-making Justification Tests have not been undertaken and the Constrained Land Use applies.

SFRA datasets will be made available to the lower-tier forward planning and Development Management and associated SFRA/FRA processes in the Council. These processes may lead to the identification of areas where the Constrained Land Use Zoning provisions contained within this Plan may apply. In this regard, prospective applicants for developments in areas that have been previously developed and are at elevated levels of flood risk are encouraged to consult with the Planning Department at the earliest opportunity. Appendix II of the SFRA that accompanies the Plan includes mapping at a County level of historic (page 2) and predictive (page 3) flood risk indicators.

Constrained Land Uses

Flood risk areas in settlement plans are represented by a 'Constrained Land Use' designation. This designation generally limits new development, but will facilitate existing development uses within these areas that may require small scale development such as small extensions. Development proposals within these areas shall be accompanied by a detailed Flood Risk Assessment, carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines and Circular PL 2/2014 (or as updated), which shall assess the risks of flooding associated with the proposed development.

Proposals shall only be considered favourably where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that they would not have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities, or increase the risk of flooding to other locations and be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable

development of the area. The nature and design of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures required for development in such areas will also be required to be demonstrated, to ensure that flood hazard and risk will not be increased. Measures proposed shall follow best practice in the management of health and safety for users and residents of the development.

Specifications for developments in flood vulnerable areas set out in this Plan shall be complied with as appropriate. (Please also refer to CPO 5.120 and Development Management Standard DMS 206).

County Policy Objective - CPO 5.110

Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) and available information from the CFRAM Studies shall be consulted with to this effect.

Chapter 16 Development Management Standards

DMS16.205 Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses

The table below indicates the types of land uses that are appropriate in each of the Flood Zones identified within the Plan area, in accordance with the 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding legislation or policy guidance).

Where developments/land uses are proposed that are considered inappropriate to the Flood Zone that may be identified in the future at project level following adoption of the Plan, then a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (and as updated).

Flood Zones	Overall probability	Planning implications for land uses		
		Highly Vulnerable Development	Less Vulnerable Development	Water Compatible Development
Flood Zone A	Highest	Inappropriate – if proposed then Justification Test and detailed Flood Risk Assessment is required	Inappropriate – if proposed then Justification Test and detailed Flood Risk Assessment is required	Appropriate – screen for flood risk
Flood zone B	Moderate	Inappropriate – if proposed then Justification Test and detailed Flood Risk Assessment is required	Inappropriate due to climate change – if proposed then Justification Test and detailed Flood Risk Assessment is required	Appropriate – screen for flood risk
Flood Zone C	Lowest	Appropriate - detailed Flood Risk Assessment may be required	Appropriate - detailed Flood Risk Assessment may be required	Appropriate – screen for flood risk

Note (refer to Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 and 'SFRA for the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027' for additional detail):

- Highly Vulnerable Development - Houses, schools, hospitals, residential institutions, emergency services, essential infrastructure, etc.
- Less Vulnerable Development - Economic uses (retail, leisure, warehousing, commercial, industrial, non-residential institutions, etc.), land and buildings used for agriculture or forestry, local transport infrastructure, etc.
- Water Compatible Development - Docks, marinas, wharves, water-based recreation and tourism (excluding sleeping accommodation), amenity open space, sports and recreation, flood control infrastructure, etc.

DMS16.206 Structural and Non-Structural Risk Management Measures in Flood Vulnerable Zones

Applications for development in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following:

Floor Levels

In areas of limited flood depth, the specification of the threshold and floor levels of new structures shall be raised above expected flood levels to reduce the risk of flood losses to a building, by raising floor heights within the building structure using a suspended floor arrangement or raised internal concrete platforms.

When designing an extension or modification to an existing building, an appropriate flood risk reduction measure shall be specified to ensure the threshold levels into the building are above the design flood level. However, care must also be taken to ensure access for all is provided in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations.

Where threshold levels cannot be raised to the street for streetscape, conservation or other reasons, the design shall specify a mixing of uses vertically in buildings - with less vulnerable uses located at ground floor level, along with other measures for dealing with residual flood risk.

Internal Layout

Internal layout of internal space shall be designed and specified to reduce the impact of flooding [for example, living accommodation, essential services, storage space for provisions and equipment shall be designed to be located above the predicted flood level]. In addition, designs and specifications shall ensure that, wherever reasonably practicable, the siting of living accommodation (particularly sleeping areas) shall be above flood level.

With the exception of single storey extensions to existing properties, new single storey accommodation shall not be deemed appropriate where predicted flood levels are above design floor levels. In all cases, specifications for safe access, refuge and evacuation shall be incorporated into the design of the development.

Flood-Resistant Construction

Developments in flood vulnerable zones shall specify the use of flood-resistant construction aimed at preventing water from entering buildings - to mitigate the damage floodwater caused to buildings.

Developments shall specify the use of flood resistant construction prepared using specialist technical input to the design and specification of the external building envelope – with measures to resist hydrostatic pressure (commonly referred to as “tanking”) specified for the outside of the building fabric.

The design of the flood resistant construction shall specify the need to protect the main entry points for floodwater into buildings - including doors and windows (including gaps in sealant around frames), vents, air-bricks and gaps around conduits or pipes passing through external building fabric.

The design of the flood resistant construction shall also specify the need to protect against flood water entry through sanitary appliances as a result of backflow through the drainage system.

Flood-Resilient Construction

Developments in flood vulnerable zones that are at risk of occasional inundation shall incorporate design and specification for flood resilient construction which accepts that floodwater will enter buildings and provides for this in the design and specification of internal building services and finishes. These measures limit damage caused by floodwater and allow relatively quick recovery.

This can be achieved by specifying wall and floor materials such as ceramic tiling that can be cleaned and dried relatively easily, provided that the substrate materials (e.g. blockwork) are also resilient. Electrics, appliances and kitchen fittings shall also be specified to be raised above floor level, and one-way valves shall be incorporated into drainage pipes.

Emergency Response Planning

In addition to considering physical design issues for developments in flood vulnerable zones, the developer shall specify that the planning of new development also takes account of the need for effective emergency response planning for flood events in areas of new development.

Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details that the following measures will be put in place and maintained:

- Provision of flood warnings, evacuation plans and ensuring public awareness of flood risks to people where they live and work;
- Coordination of responses and discussion with relevant emergency services i.e. Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána through the SFRA; and
- Awareness of risks and evacuation procedures and the need for family flood plans.

Access and Egress During Flood Events

Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall include details of arrangements for access and egress during flood events. Such details shall specify that: • flood escape routes have been kept to publicly accessible land; • such routes will have signage and other flood awareness measures in place, to inform local communities what to do in case of flooding; and this information will be provided in a welcome pack to new occupants.

Further Information

Further and more detailed guidance and advice can be found at <http://www.flooding.ie> and in the Building Regulations.

4.3 Integration of other provisions relating to flood risk management into the Plan

Other provisions relating to flood risk management, including the following, have also been integrated into the Plan at Chapter 5 Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications under “Flood Risk Management”:

No.	Reference	Provision
1	CPO 5.106	Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.
2	CPO 5.107	Support the implementation of recommendations in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP’s), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.
3	CPO 5.108	<p>Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding versions). This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines, the risk of flooding within the flood risk areas indicated in the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report, including fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding, and any other flood risk areas that may be identified during the period of the plan or in relation to a planning application. • Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Justification Test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, (or any superseding document) and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts. • Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted. • Where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or European sites downstream, such measures will undergo environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate. <p>The Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding. Future amendments to the plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM’s Flood Risk Management Plans and as recommended in the SFRA for the Plan.</p>
4	CPO 5.109	Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in DMS 16.205. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). In Flood Zone C, (Please also refer to Development Management Standard, Development Management Standard, DMS 16.205, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date CFRAM Programme climate scenario mapping should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council.

No.	Reference	Provision
		Flood Zone maps should not be used to suggest that any areas are free from flood risk as they do not include groundwater or artificial drainage system flood risk. Applications for development on land identified as Benefitting Land (under Arterial Drainage Schemes /Drainage Districts) may be prone to flooding, and as such site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas. The Council will ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.
5	CPO 5.110	Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) and available information from the CFRAM Studies shall be consulted with to this effect.
6	CPO 5.111	Require all applications in areas prone to flooding to be subject to the Justification Test set out in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. Compensatory flood storage provision or the provision of flood defences will not override the need for completion of the justification test.
7	CPO 5.112	Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.
8	CPO 5.113	Actively work with the CFRAM Programmes and catchment-based Flood Planning Groups, including where catchments go beyond the Council's administrative boundary, in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk - including those relating to storage and conveyance.
9	CPO 5.114	Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Longford County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.
10	CPO 5.115	Ensure that the reasonable requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures in the county.
11	CPO 5.116	Protect water bodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.
12	CPO 5.117	Recognise the important role of peatland and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidance.
13	CPO 5.118	Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.
14	CPO 5.119	Facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk areas designated as 'Constrained Land Use' on Settlement Plan zoning maps . Future development on these lands is limited to minor development where plan-making Justification Tests have not been undertaken and the Constrained Land Use applies. SFRA datasets will be made available to the lower-tier forward planning and Development Management and associated SFRA/FRA processes in the Council. These processes may lead to the identification of areas where the Constrained Land Use Zoning provisions contained within this Plan may apply. In this regard, prospective applicants for developments in areas that have been previously developed and are at elevated levels of flood risk are encouraged to consult with the Planning Department at the earliest opportunity. Appendix II of the SFRA that accompanies the Plan includes mapping at a County level of historic (page 2) and predictive (page 3) flood risk indicators.
15	CPO 5.120	Ensure that applications to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following - floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events. (Please Refer to CPO 5.119 and Development Management Standard DMS 16.206).

4.4 Justification Test

The levels of flood risk identified by the SFRA were a key informant of land uses in Flood Zones A and B. The Justification Test is required to be passed whereby highly vulnerable¹¹ land uses are being proposed on lands in Flood Zone A or whereby highly and/or less vulnerable land uses are being proposed on lands in Flood Zone B. Although Stage 3 detailed flood risk assessment has not been required for the Plan-preparation process thus far, it may be required for individual projects following adoption of the Plan. Table 6 provides justification tests for the Draft Plan as required.

Table 6 Justification of the Constrained Land Use Approach for Previously Developed Lands

Settlement	Zoning in Draft Plan	Justification Test			Overall Result
		Is the settlement targeted for growth under the RSES, existing CDP and/or Draft CDP?	Is the zoning of the lands required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement? All sub-criteria ¹² must be satisfied	Does the zoning of the lands required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement fail, if one of the following fails: All must be passed for the test to be passed	
Abbeyshrule	Airport Development Objective	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Yes, see Section 4, including provisions relating to Land Use Zoning and Constrained Land Uses, CPO 5.119, CPO 5.110, DMS16.205 and DMS16.205	Pass
	Residential	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Yes, see Section 4, including provisions relating to Land Use Zoning and Constrained Land Uses, CPO 5.119, CPO 5.110, DMS16.205 and DMS16.205	Pass
Aughnaclyffe	Residential (east of Smear Road)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Yes, see Section 4, including provisions relating to Land Use Zoning and Constrained Land Uses, CPO 5.119, CPO 5.110, DMS16.205 and DMS16.205	Pass
	Residential (west of Smear Road)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Yes, see Section 4, including provisions relating to Land Use Zoning and Constrained Land Uses, CPO 5.119, CPO 5.110, DMS16.205 and DMS16.205	Pass
Ballinalee	Residential	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Yes, see Section 4, including provisions relating to Land Use Zoning and Constrained Land Uses, CPO 5.119, CPO 5.110, DMS16.205 and DMS16.205	Pass
	Town Centre	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Yes, see Section 4, including provisions relating to Land Use Zoning and Constrained Land Uses, CPO 5.119, CPO 5.110, DMS16.205 and DMS16.205	Pass

¹¹ For details on what types of development are considered highly vulnerable, less vulnerable or water compatible please refer to Table 7 in **Appendix I**.

¹² (i) Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;

(ii) Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;

(iii) Is within or adjoining the core of an established or designated urban settlement;

(iv) Will be essential in achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and

(v) There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.

Settlement	Zoning in Draft Plan	Justification Test		Overall Result
		Is the settlement targeted for growth under the RSES, existing CDP and/or Draft CDP?	Is the zoning of the lands required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement? All sub-criteria ¹² must be satisfied	
Ballinamuck	Residential (east of L1017)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (west of L1017)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Social/ Community/ Education/ Public Utility	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Social/ Community/ Education/ Public Utility (east of R392)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
Ballymahon	Social/ Community/ Education/ Public Utility (west of R392)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (east of R392)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (west of R392)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Industrial/ Commercial/ Warehousing	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
Clondra	Residential	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Canal Redevelopment Area	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Town Centre	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass

Settlement	Zoning in Draft Plan	Justification Test		Overall Result
		Is the settlement targeted for growth under the RSES, existing CDP and/or Draft CDP?	Is the zoning of the lands required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement? All sub-criteria ¹² must be satisfied	
Drumlish	Residential (in east)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (in west)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Social/ Community/ Education/ Public Utility	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Industrial/ Commercial/ Warehousing (to north of Ballymahon Road)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
Edgeworthstown	Industrial/ Commercial/ Warehousing (to south of Ballymahon Road)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (to north of Ballymahon Road)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (to south of Ballymahon Road)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
Granard	Residential (in east)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (in west)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
Lanesborough	Residential (in east)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (in west)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
Legan	Residential (in east)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (in west)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass

Settlement	Zoning in Draft Plan	Justification Test		Overall Result
		Is the settlement targeted for growth under the RSES, existing CDP and/or Draft CDP?	Is the zoning of the lands required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement? All sub-criteria ¹² must be satisfied	
Longford	Town Centre	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (in north-west)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Residential (in south-west)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Social/ Community/ Education/ Public Utility	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Industrial/ Commercial/ Warehousing (north of N5)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Industrial/ Commercial/ Warehousing (northwest of Lanna Aobhinn)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Industrial/ Commercial/ Warehousing (at cross over of railway line and N63)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Industrial/ Commercial/ Warehousing (to south of railway line)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Social/ Community/ Education/ Public Utility (to south of railway line)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Social/ Community/ Education/ Public Utility (to north of Templemichael Terrace)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass
	Social/ Community/ Education/ Public Utility (to south of Templemichael Terrace)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Pass

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Settlement	Zoning in Draft Plan	Justification Test			Overall Result
		Is the settlement targeted for growth under the RSES, existing CDP and/or Draft CDP?	Is the zoning of the lands required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement? All sub-criteria ¹² must be satisfied	SFRA recommendation integrated into the Plan for management of risk?	
	Residential (north of Templemichael Terrace)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Yes, see Section 4, including provisions relating to Land Use Zoning and Constrained Land Uses, CPO 5.119, CPO 5.110, DMS16.205 and DMS16.205	Pass
	Residential (north)	Yes	This land use zoning proposal fulfils all sub-criteria and would contribute towards overall sustainable, compact and balanced regional development by inclusion as part of the Development Plan - as confirmed by the Planning Department.	Yes, see Section 4, including provisions relating to Land Use Zoning and Constrained Land Uses, CPO 5.119, CPO 5.110, DMS16.205 and DMS16.205	Pass

Section 5 Conclusion

Stage 2 SFRA has been undertaken as part of the Plan-preparation process and the SFRA has informed the preparation of the Plan.

The SFRA has mapped boundaries for Flood Risk Zones, taking into account factors including: predictive and historical indicators of flood risk; documented Council knowledge of lands; Council Engineer review and input into indicators and flood zones (local knowledge); the potential source and direction of flood paths from rivers and streams; vegetation indicative of flood risk; and the locations of topographic/built features that coincide with the flood indicator related boundaries/topographical survey.

All SFRA recommendations have been integrated into the Plan and the Plan complies with the Guidelines and associated Circular.

Appendix I: Summary of the requirements of the Flood Guidelines for land uses in Flood Zones

Requirements relating to land uses in Flood Zones as set out in the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) and Office of Public Works (OPW) 2009 Flood Guidelines (including at Chapter 3 Principles and Key Mechanisms and Chapter 5 Flooding and Development Management) and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 should be adhered to.

- The Sequential Approach, including the Justification test -

The key principles of the Guidelines' risk-based sequential approach (see Figure 1) are:

- Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding. If this is not possible, consider substituting a land use that is less vulnerable to flooding. Only when both avoidance and substitution cannot take place should consideration be given to mitigation and management of risks.
- Inappropriate types of development that would create unacceptable risks from flooding should not be planned for or permitted.
- Exceptions to the restriction of development due to potential flood risks are provided for through the use of a Justification Test, where the planning need and the sustainable management of flood risk to an acceptable level must be demonstrated.

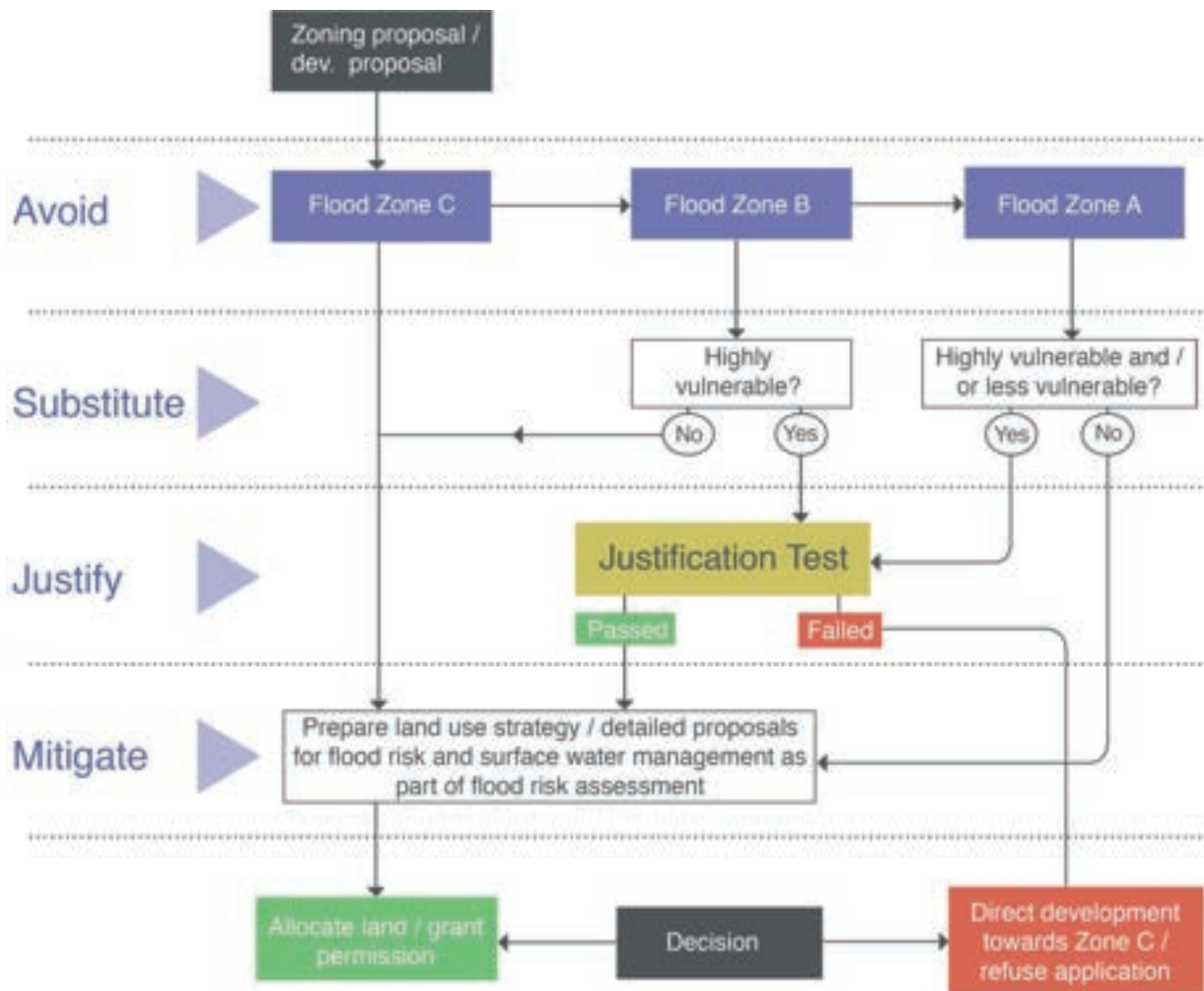


Figure 1 Sequential Approach Process¹³

In summary, the **planning implications** for each of the flood zones are:

Zone A - High probability of flooding. Most types of development would be considered inappropriate in this zone. Development in this zone should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances, such as in city and town centres, or in the case of essential infrastructure that cannot be located elsewhere, and where the Justification Test has been applied. Only water-compatible development, such as docks and marinas, dockside activities that require a waterside location, amenity open space, outdoor sports and recreation, would be considered appropriate in this zone.

Zone B - Moderate probability of flooding. Highly vulnerable development, such as hospitals, residential care homes, Garda, fire and ambulance stations, dwelling houses and primary strategic transport and utilities infrastructure, would generally be considered inappropriate in this zone, unless the requirements of the Justification Test can be met. Less vulnerable development, such as retail, commercial and industrial uses, sites used for short-let for caravans and camping and secondary strategic transport and utilities infrastructure, and water-compatible development might be considered appropriate in this zone. In general however, less vulnerable development should only be considered in this zone if adequate lands or sites are not available in Zone C and subject to a flood risk assessment to the appropriate level of detail to demonstrate that flood risk to and from the development can or will adequately be managed.

Zone C - Low probability of flooding. Development in this zone is appropriate from a flood risk perspective (subject to assessment of flood hazard from sources other than rivers and the coast) but would need to meet the normal range of other proper planning and sustainable development considerations.

¹³ Flood Zone C covers all areas outside of Zones A and B

Table 7 overleaf classifies the vulnerability of different types of development while Table 8 identifies the appropriateness of development belonging to each vulnerability class within each of the flood zones as well as identifying what instances in which the Justification Test should be undertaken. Inappropriate development that does not meet the criteria of the Justification Test should not be considered at the plan-making stage or approved within the development management process.

Table 7 Classification of vulnerability of different types of development

Vulnerability class	Land uses and types of development which include*:
Highly vulnerable development (Including essential infrastructure)	<p>Garda, ambulance and fire stations and command centres required to be operational during flooding;</p> <p>Hospitals;</p> <p>Emergency access and egress points;</p> <p>Schools;</p> <p>Dwelling houses, student halls of residence and hostels;</p> <p>Residential institutions such as residential care homes, children's homes and social services homes;</p> <p>Caravans and mobile home parks;</p> <p>Dwelling houses designed, constructed or adapted for the elderly or, other people with impaired mobility; and</p> <p>Essential infrastructure, such as primary transport and utilities distribution, including electricity generating power stations and sub-stations, water and sewage treatment, and potential significant sources of pollution (SEVESO sites, IPPC sites, etc.) in the event of flooding.</p>
Less vulnerable development	<p>Buildings used for: retail, leisure, warehousing, commercial, industrial and non-residential institutions;</p> <p>Land and buildings used for holiday or short-let caravans and camping, subject to specific warning and evacuation plans;</p> <p>Land and buildings used for agriculture and forestry;</p> <p>Waste treatment (except landfill and hazardous waste);</p> <p>Mineral working and processing; and</p> <p>Local transport infrastructure.</p>
Water-compatible development	<p>Flood control infrastructure;</p> <p>Docks, marinas and wharves;</p> <p>Navigation facilities;</p> <p>Ship building, repairing and dismantling, dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location;</p> <p>Water-based recreation and tourism (excluding sleeping accommodation);</p> <p>Lifeguard and coastguard stations;</p> <p>Amenity open space, outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms; and</p> <p>Essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category (subject to a specific warning and evacuation plan).</p>
*Uses not listed here should be considered on their own merits	

Table 8 Vulnerability Classes and Flood Zones

	Flood Zone A	Flood Zone B	Flood Zone C
Highly vulnerable development (including essential infrastructure)	Justification Test	Justification Test	Appropriate
Less vulnerable development	Justification Test	Appropriate	Appropriate
Water-compatible development	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate

The **Justification Test** which is referred to as part of the Sequential Approach is an assessment of whether a development proposal within an area at risk of flooding meets specific criteria for proper planning and sustainable development and demonstrates that it will not be subject to unacceptable risk nor increase flood risk elsewhere. The Justification Test should be applied only where development is within flood risk areas that would be defined as inappropriate under the screening test of the sequential risk based approach outlined above. This Justification Test is shown below.

Where, as part of the preparation and adoption or variation and amendment of a development/local area plan¹, a planning authority is considering the future development of areas in an urban settlement that are at moderate or high risk of flooding, for uses or development vulnerable to flooding that would generally be inappropriate as set out in Table 3.2, all of the following criteria must be satisfied:

- 1 The urban settlement is targeted for growth under the National Spatial Strategy, regional planning guidelines, statutory plans as defined above or under the Planning Guidelines or Planning Directives provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.
 - 2 The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the urban settlement and, in particular:
 - (i) Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement²;
 - (ii) Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;
 - (iii) Is within or adjoining the core³ of an established or designated urban settlement;
 - (iv) Will be essential in achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and
 - (v) There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement⁴
 - 3 A flood risk assessment to an appropriate level of detail has been carried out as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment as part of the development plan preparation process, which demonstrates that flood risk to the development can be adequately managed and the use or development of the lands will not cause unacceptable adverse impacts elsewhere.
- N.B. The acceptability or otherwise of levels of any residual risk should be made with consideration for the proposed development and the local context and should be described in the relevant flood risk assessment.

Figure 2 Justification Test ¹⁴

¹⁴ Footnotes: ¹ Including Strategic Development Zones and Section 25 Schemes in the area of the Dublin Docklands Development Authority ²In the case of Gateway planning authorities, where a number of strategic growth centres have been identified within the overall area of the authority, the Justification Test may be applied for vulnerable development within each centre. ³ See definition of the core of an urban settlement in Glossary of Terms. ⁴ This criterion may be set aside where section 4.27b applies.

Appendix II: Flood Risk Indicator and Zone Mapping

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Appendix II Flood Mapping

17/11/2021



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**Longford CDP 2021-2027
SFRA**

Settlements

- Settlement
- County Longford
- County Boundary
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD Catchments

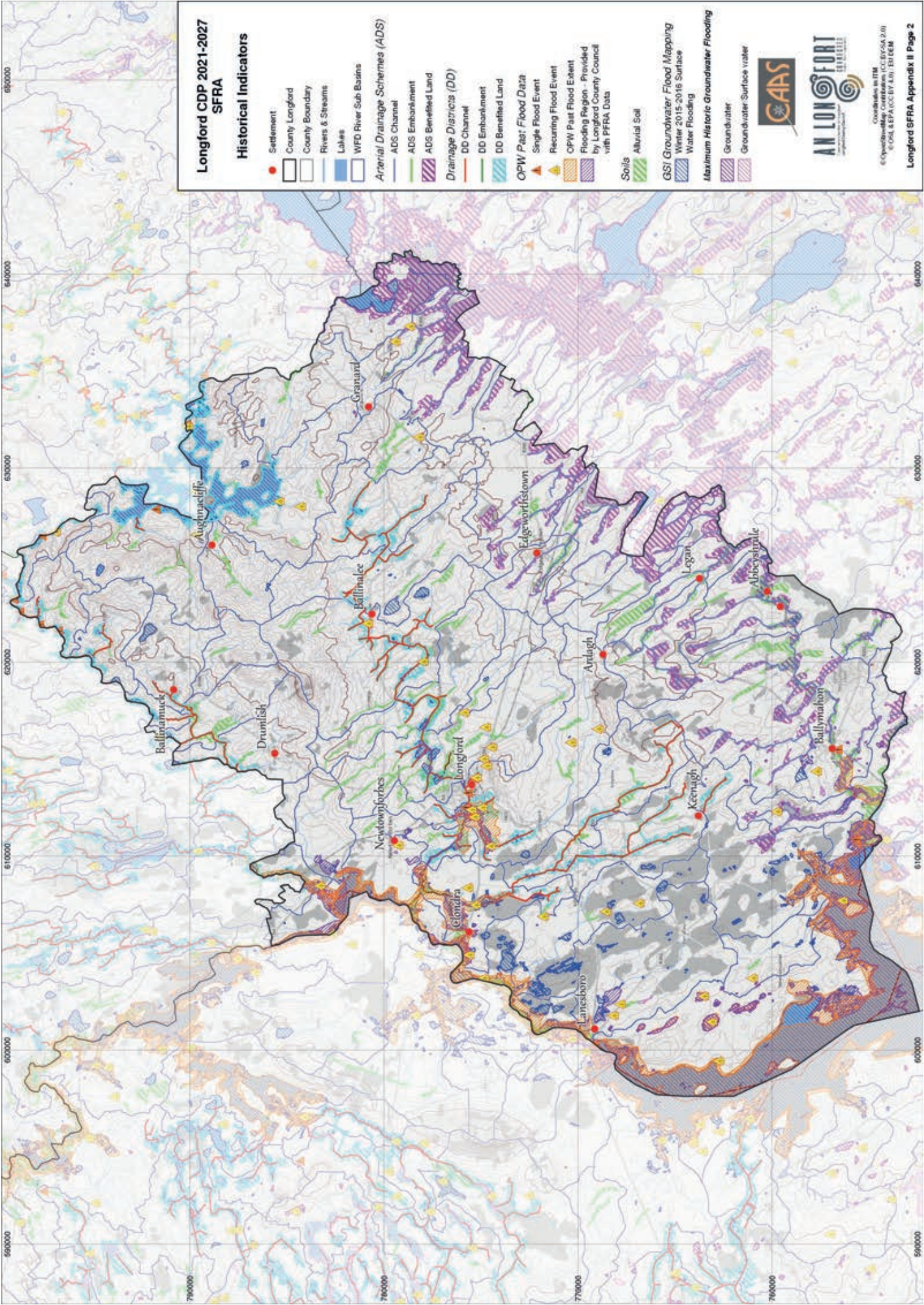


Coordinates in ITM
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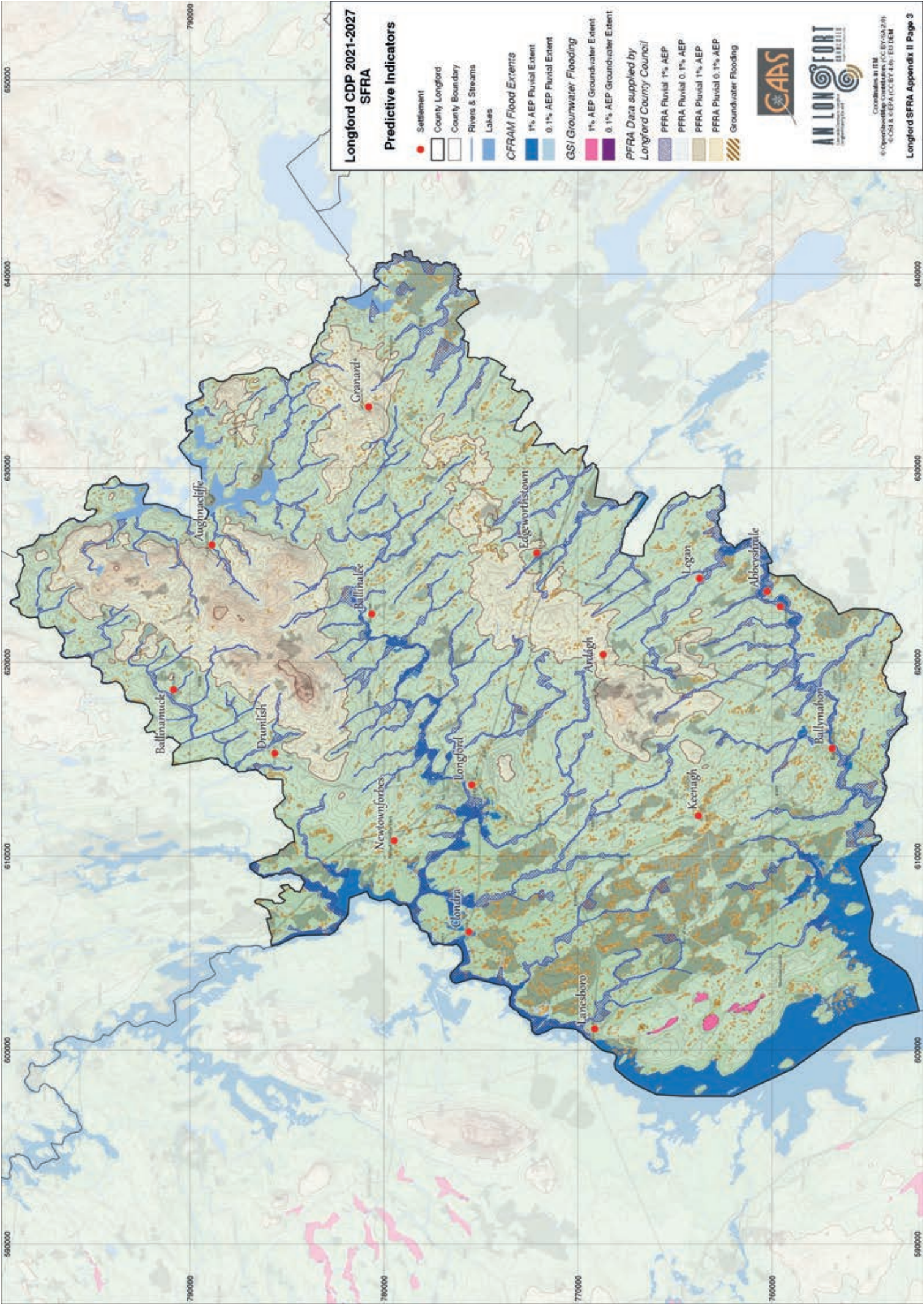
**Longford CDP 2021-2027
SFRA**

Historical Indicators

- Settlement
- County Longford
- County Boundary
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD River Sub Basins
- Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)**
- ADS Channel
- ADS Embankment
- ADS Benefitted Land
- Drainage Districts (DD)**
- DD Channel
- DD Embankment
- DD Benefitted Land
- OPW Past Flood Data**
- ▲ Single Flood Event
- ▲ Recurring Flood Event
- ▲ OPW Past Flood Extent
- ▲ Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
- Soils**
- Alluvial Soil
- GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping**
- Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
- Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding**
- Groundwater
- Groundwater Surface water



Co-ordinator: Ian ILM
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**Longford CDP 2021-2027
SFRA**






















Predictive Indicators

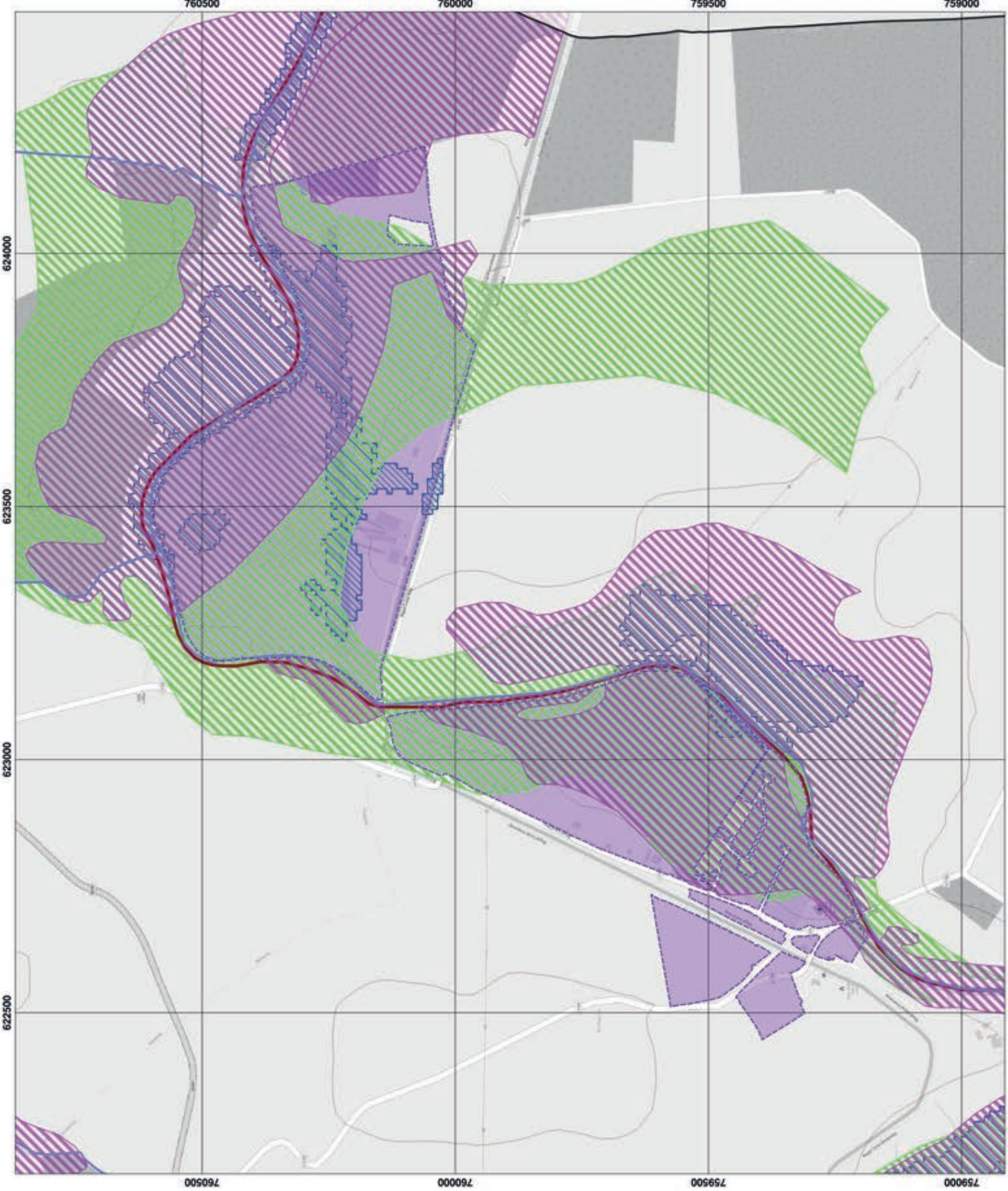
- Settlement
 - County Longford
 - County Boundary
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - CFRRAM Flood Extents**
 - 1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 - 0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 - GSI Groundwater Flooding**
 - 1% AEP Groundwater Extent
 - 0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by
Longford County Council*
- PFRA Fluvial 1% AEP
 - PFRA Fluvial 0.1% AEP
 - PFRA Fluvial 1% AEP
 - PFRA Fluvial 0.1% AEP
 - Groundwater Flooding



Longford CDP 2021-2027














Abbeyshrule Historical Indicators

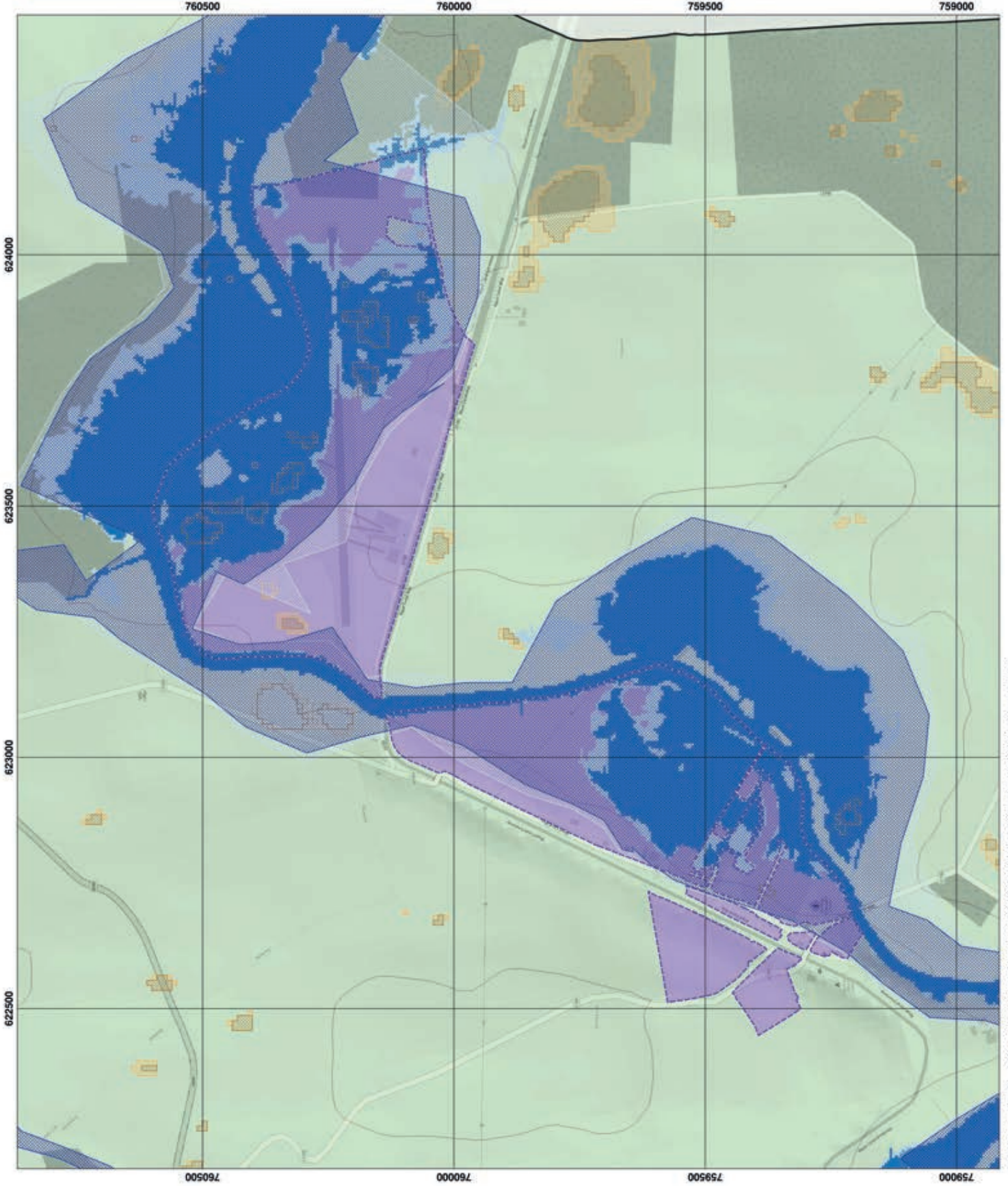
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)**
-  ADS Channel
-  ADS Embankment
-  ADS Benefitted Land
- Drainage Districts (DD)**
-  DD Channel
-  DD Embankment
-  DD Benefitted Land
- Land Commission (LC)**
-  LC Watercourse
-  LC Embankment
-  LC Benefitted Land
- OPW Past Flood Data**
-  Single Flood Event
-  Recurring Flood Event
-  OPW Past Flood Extent
-  Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
- Soils**
-  Alluvial Soils
- GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping**
-  Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
- Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding**
-  Groundwater
-  Groundwater/Surface water



Longford CDP 2021-2027

Abbeyshrule Predictive Indicators

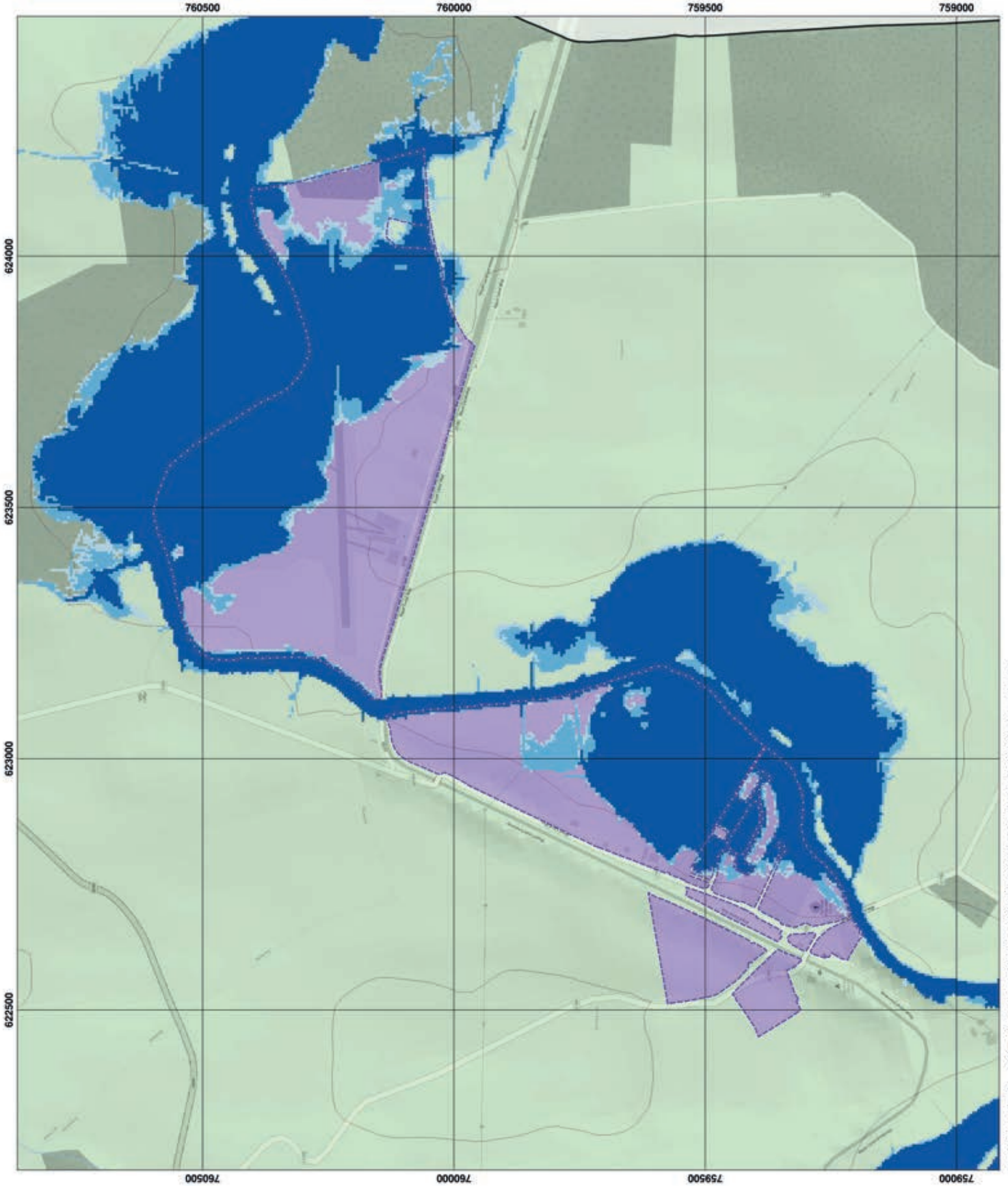
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM Flood Extents**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
- GSI Groundwater Flooding**
 -  1% AEP Groundwater Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by Longford County Council**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  Groundwater Flooding



Longford CDP 2021-2027

Abbeyshrule CFRAM All Scenarios

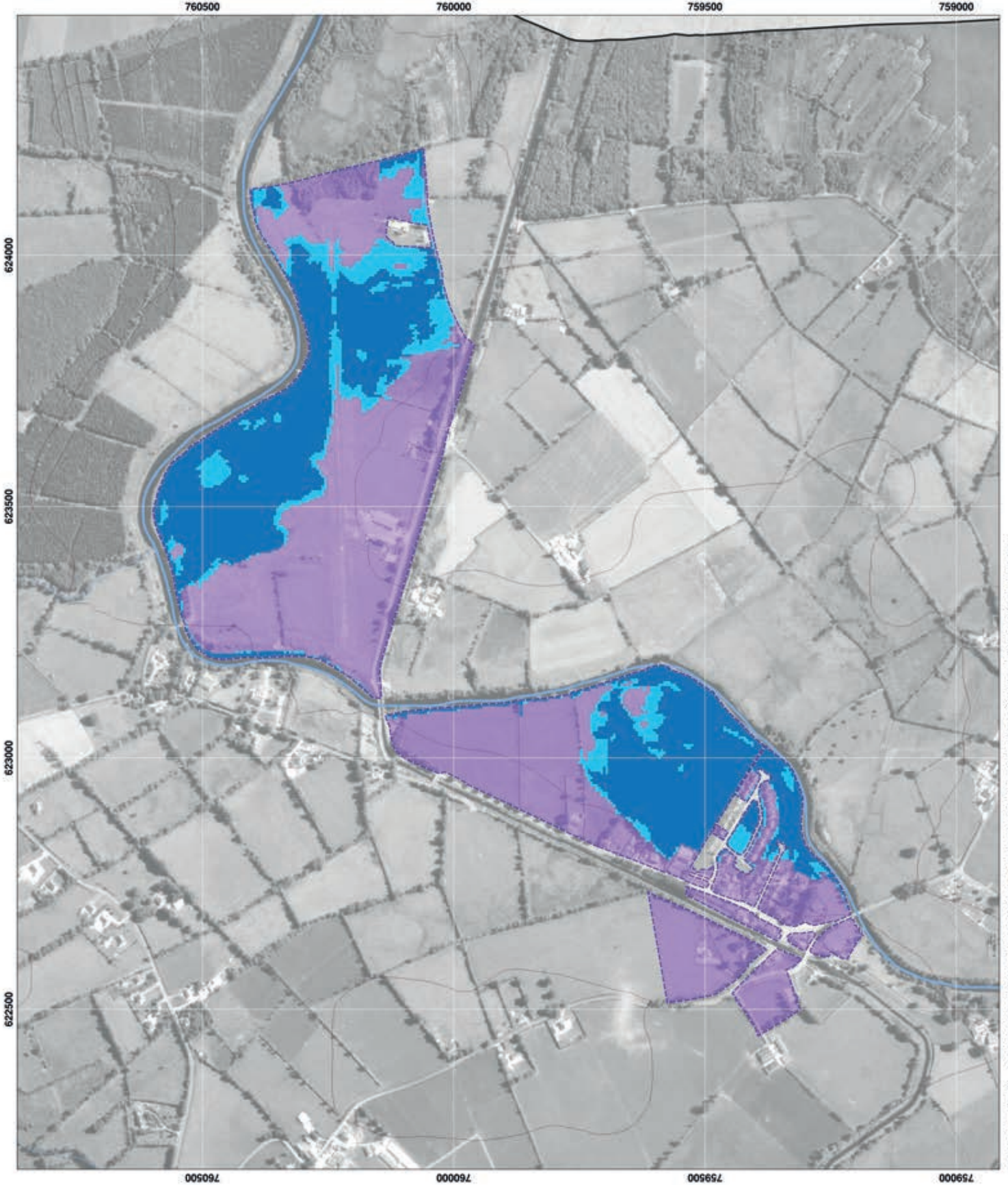
- Zoned Lands
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM All Scenarios
 - Present Day Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - Mid-Range Future Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - High-End Future Scenario 0.1% AEP



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










Abbeyshrule Flood Zones

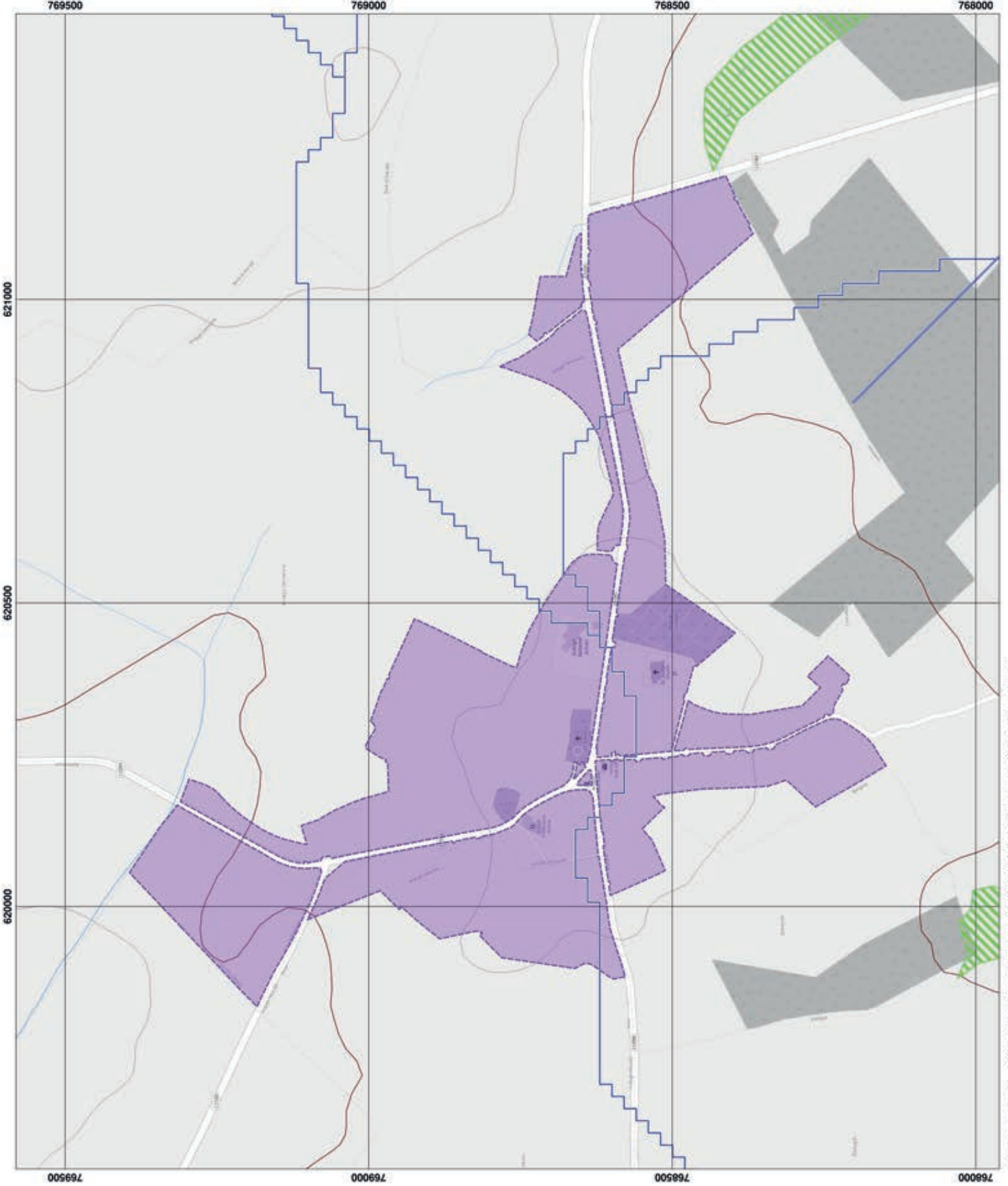
- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- Indicative Flood Zones
- Flood Zone A
 - Flood Zone B



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












Ardagh Historical Indicators

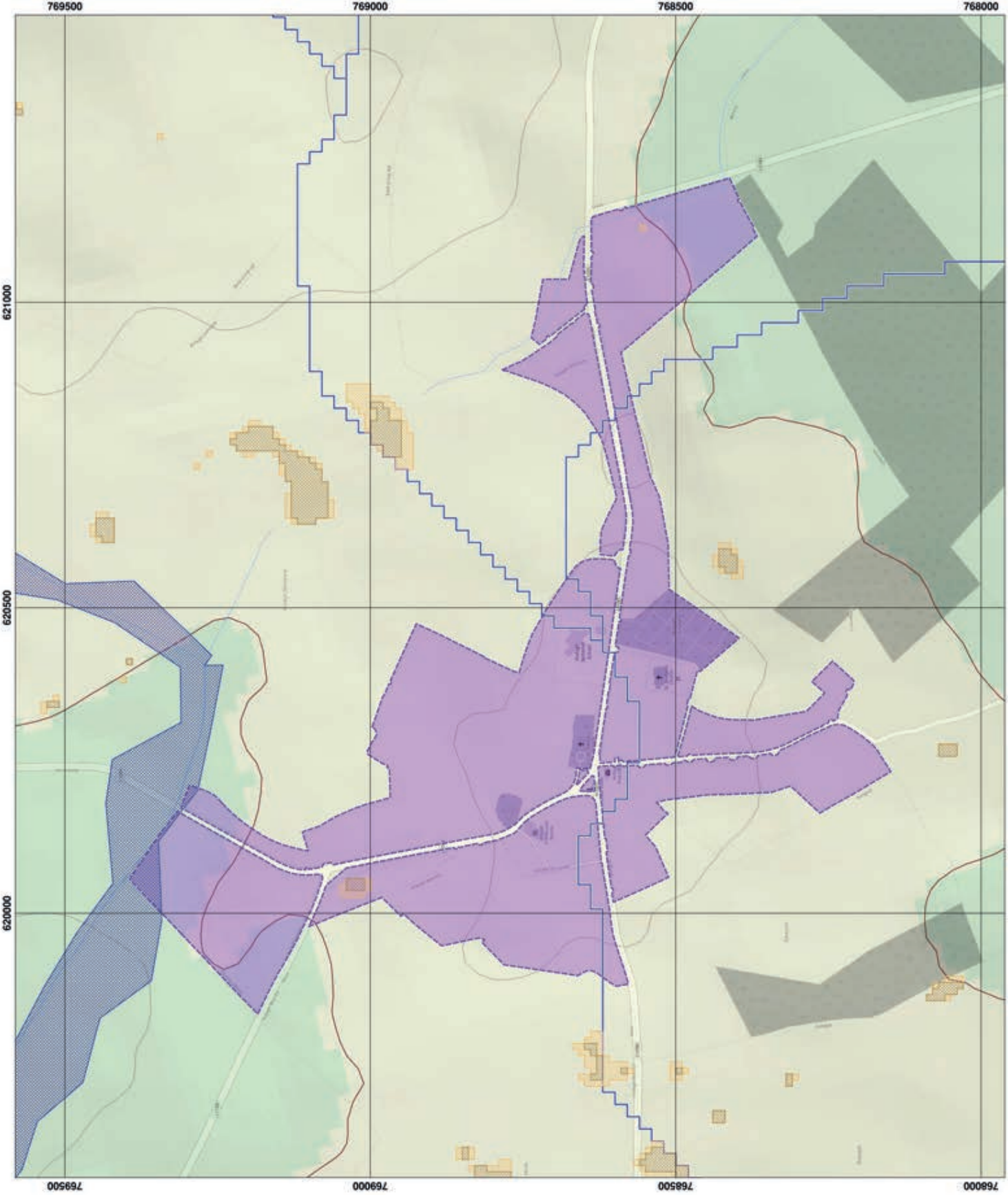
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)**
-  ADS Channel
-  ADS Embankment
-  ADS Benefitted Land
- Drainage Districts (DD)**
-  DD Channel
-  DD Embankment
-  DD Benefitted Land
- Land Commission (LC)**
-  LC Watercourse
-  LC Embankment
-  LC Benefitted Land
- OPW Past Flood Data**
-  Single Flood Event
-  Recurring Flood Event
-  OPW Past Flood Extent
-  Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
- Soils**
-  Alluvial Soils
- GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping**
-  Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
- Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding**
-  Groundwater
-  Groundwater/Surface water



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Ardagh Predictive Indicators

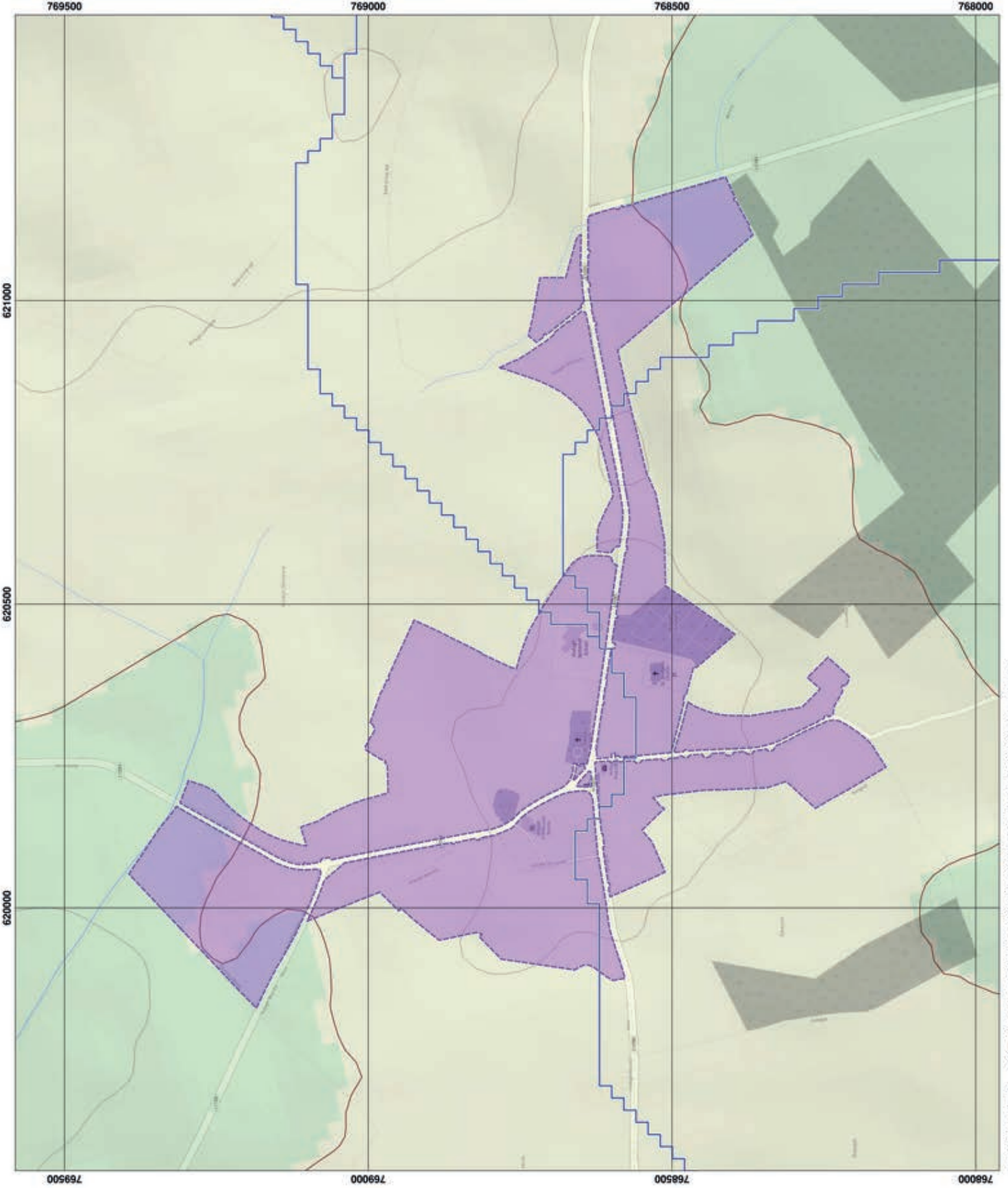
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM Flood Extents**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
- GSI Groundwater Flooding**
 -  1% AEP Groundwater Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by Longford County Council**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  Groundwater Flooding



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Ardagh CFRAM All Scenarios

- Zoned Lands
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM All Scenarios
 - Present Day Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - Mid-Range Future Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - High-End Future Scenario 0.1% AEP



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Ardagh Flood Zones

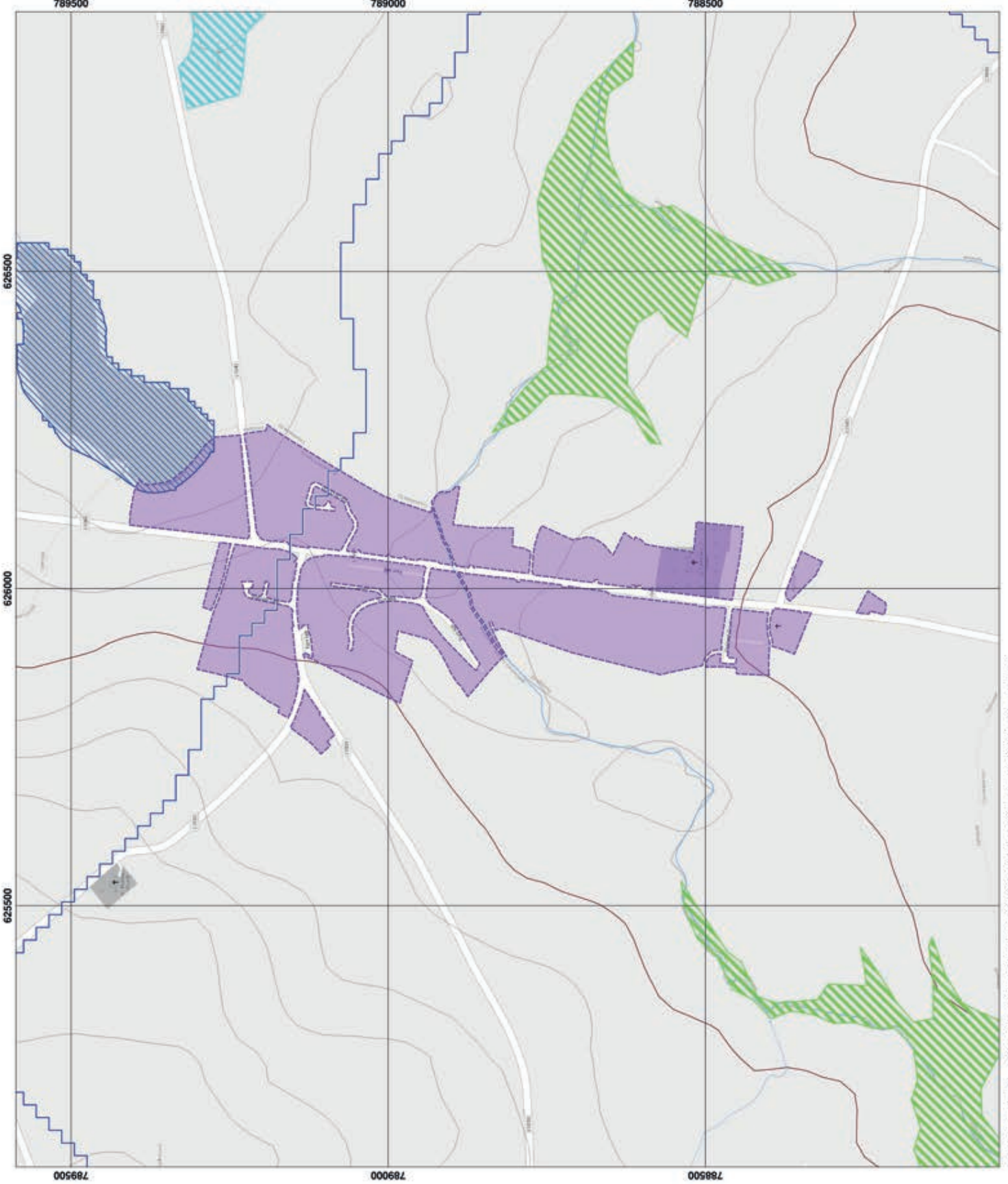
- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- Indicative Flood Zones
- Flood Zone A
 - Flood Zone B



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Aughnaclyffe Historical Indicators

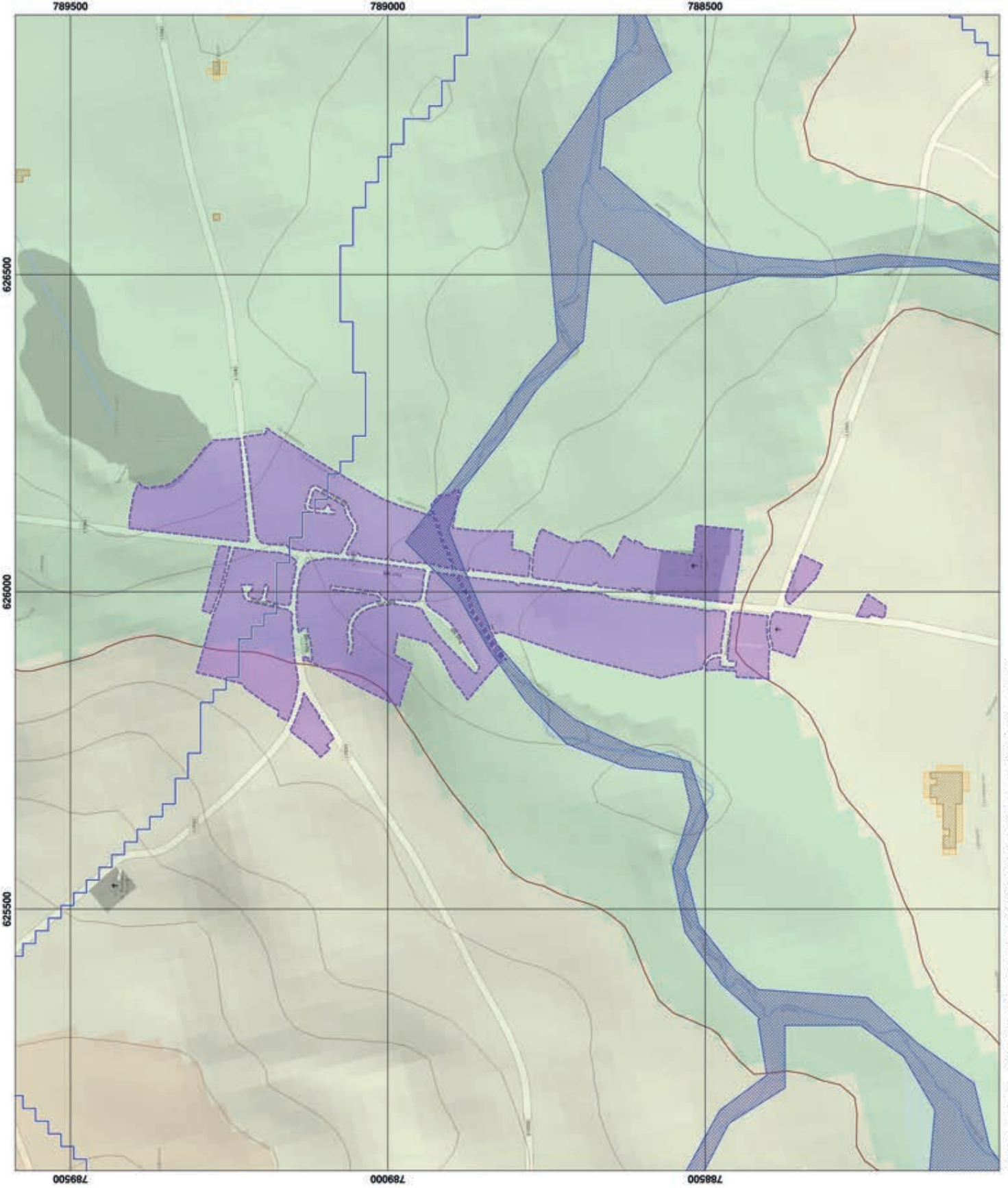
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)**
-  ADS Channel
-  ADS Embankment
-  ADS Benefitted Land
- Drainage Districts (DD)**
-  DD Channel
-  DD Embankment
-  DD Benefitted Land
- Land Commission (LC)**
-  LC Watercourse
-  LC Embankment
-  LC Benefitted Land
- OPW Past Flood Data**
-  Single Flood Event
-  Recurring Flood Event
-  OPW Past Flood Extent
-  Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
- Soils**
-  Alluvial Soils
- GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping**
-  Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
- Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding**
-  Groundwater
-  Groundwater/Surface water



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Aughnaclyffe Predictive Indicators

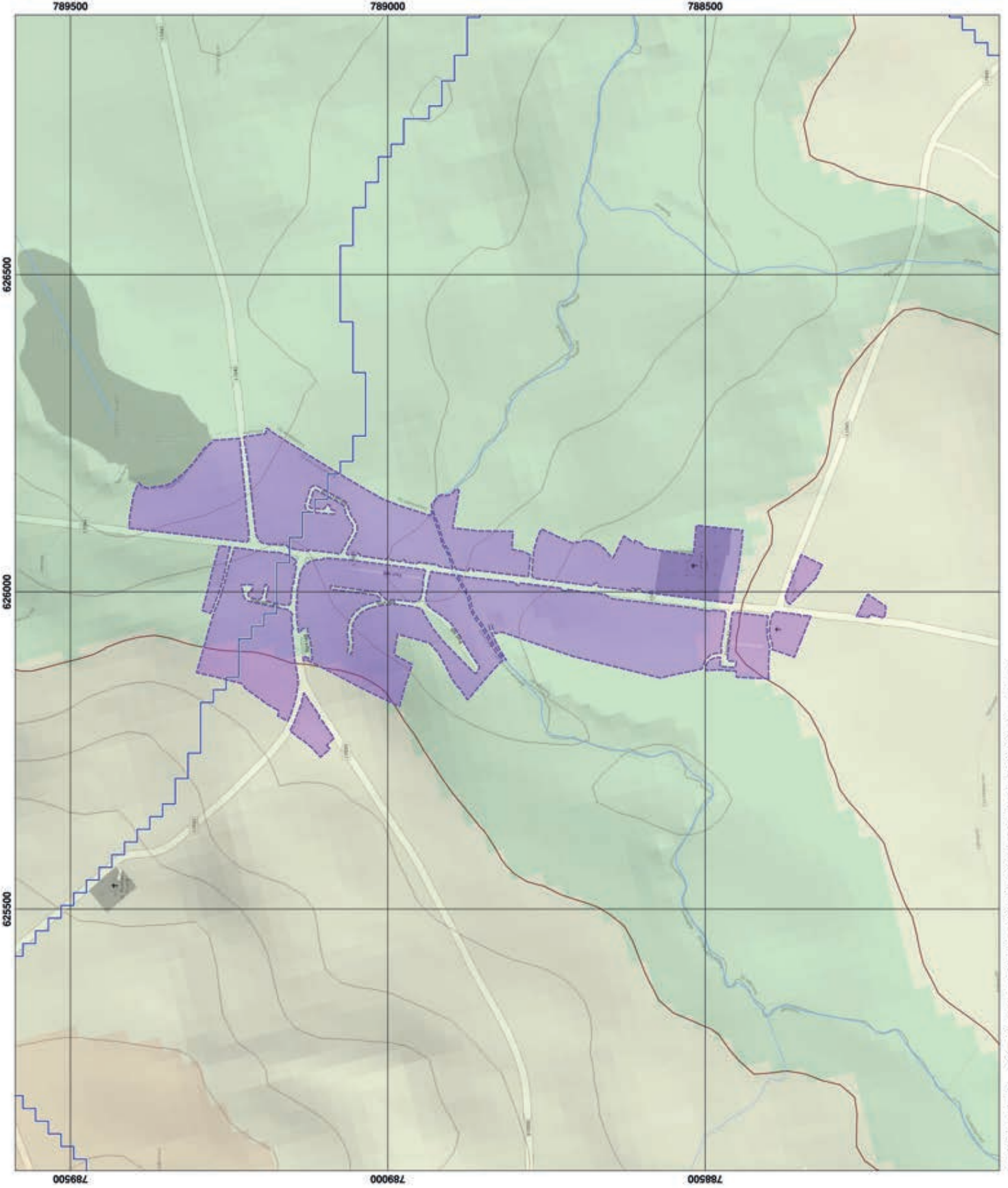
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM Flood Extents**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
- GSI Groundwater Flooding**
 -  1% AEP Groundwater Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by Longford County Council**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  Groundwater Flooding



Longford CDP 2021-2027

Aughnaculiffe CFRAM All Scenarios

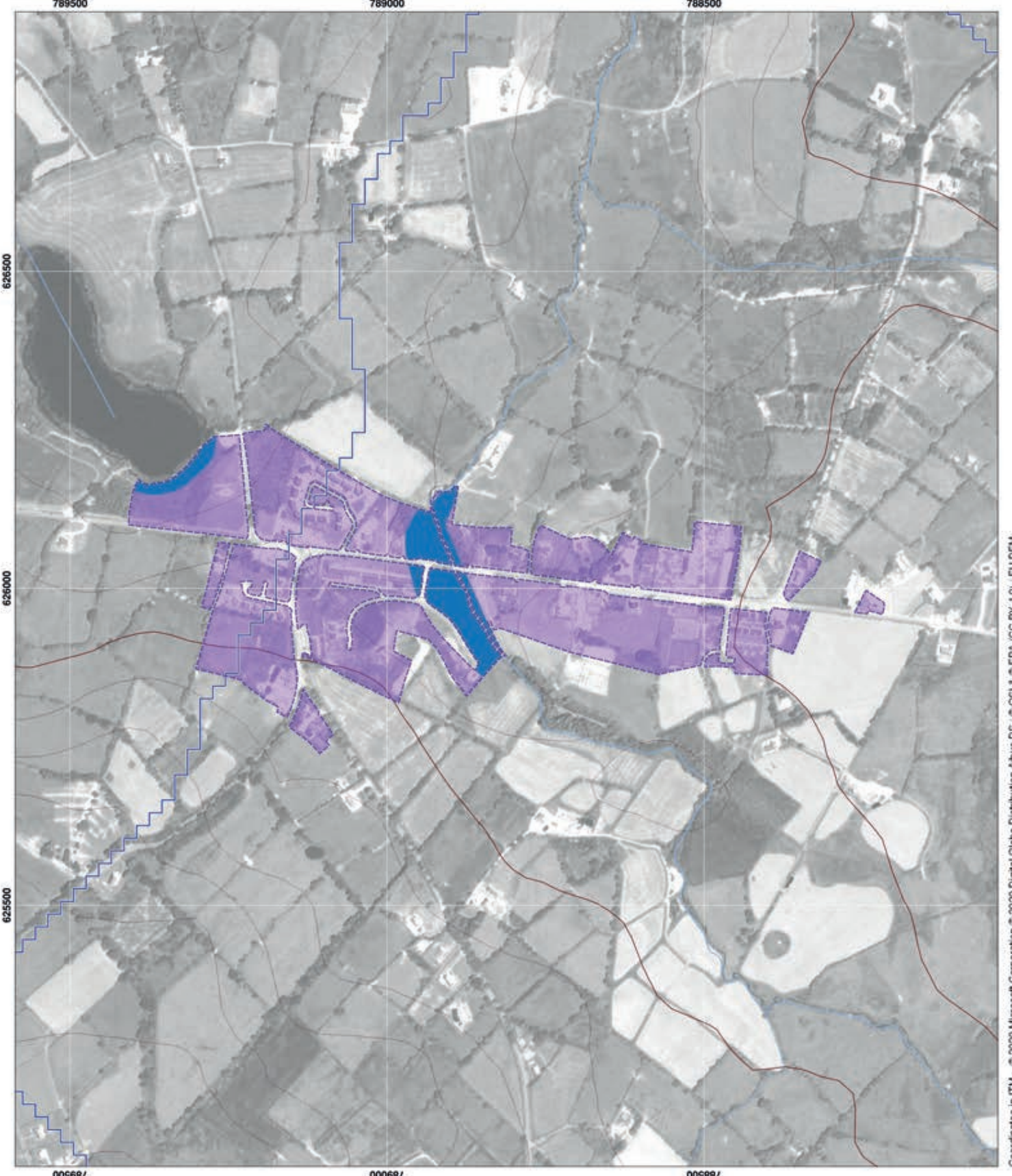
- Zoned Lands
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM All Scenarios
 - Present Day Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - Mid-Range Future Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - High-End Future Scenario 0.1% AEP



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Aughnaclyffe Flood Zones

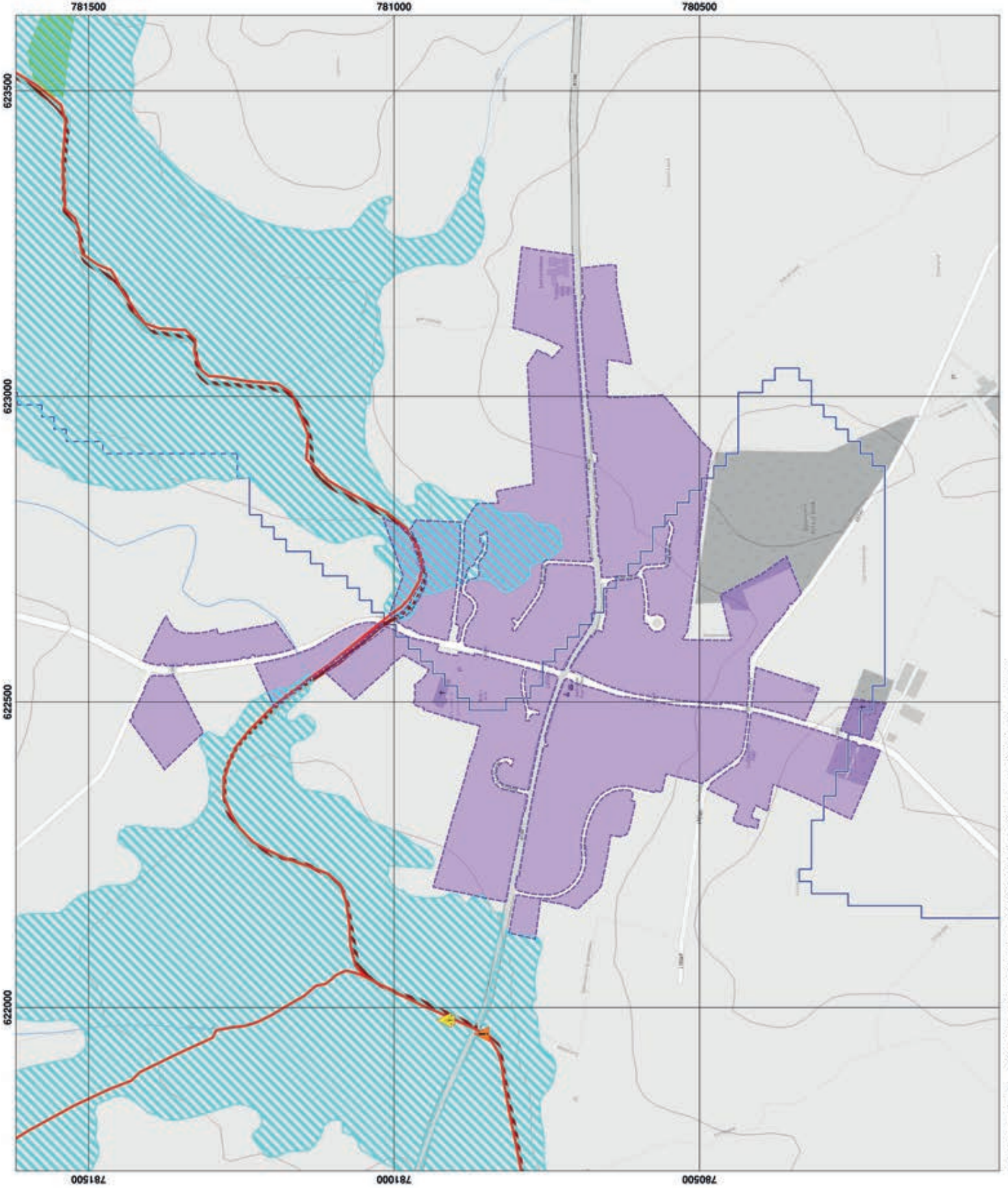
- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- Indicative Flood Zones
- Flood Zone A
 - Flood Zone B



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Ballinalee Historical Indicators

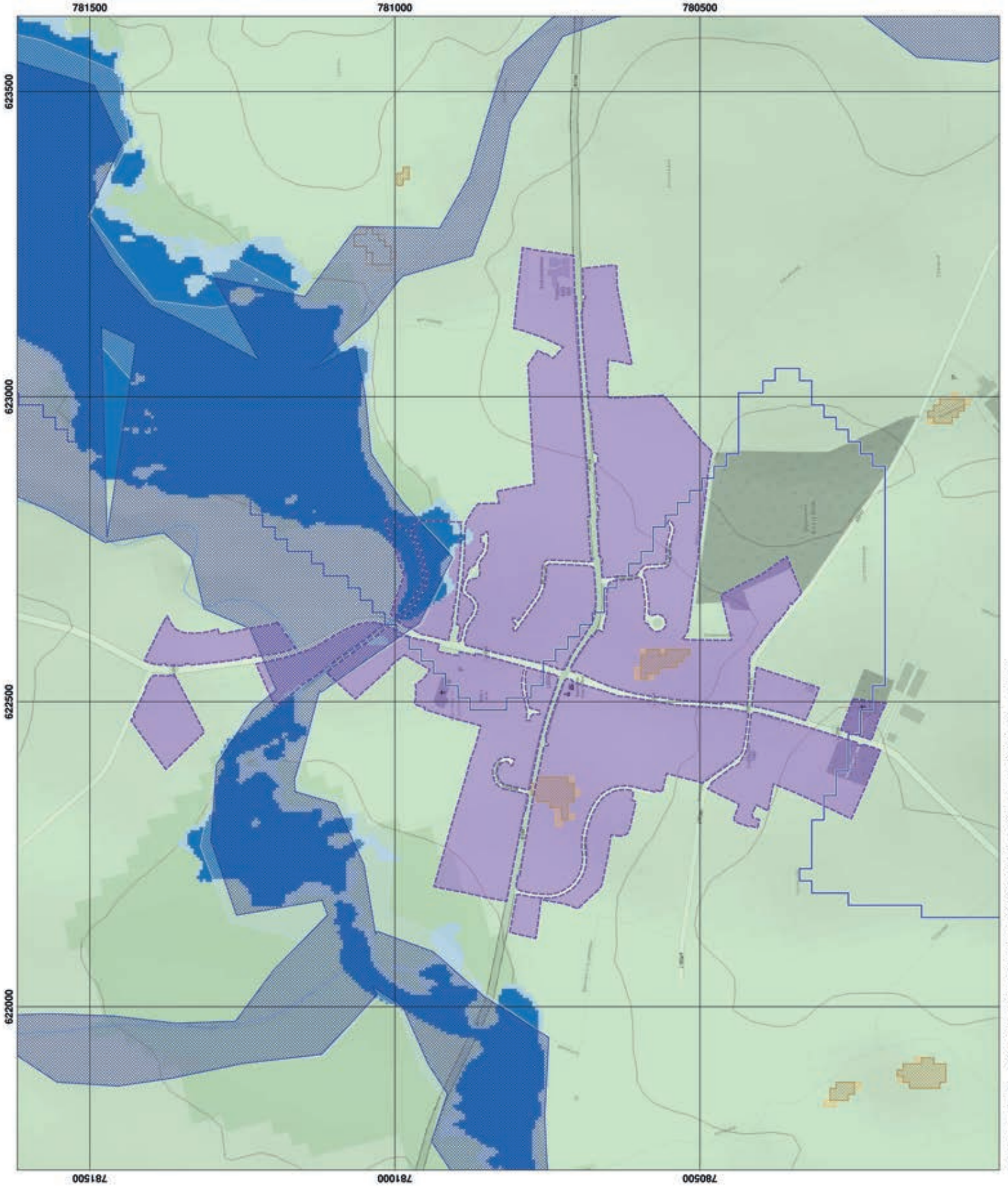
- Zoned Lands
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD River Sub Basins
- Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)**
 - ADS Channel
 - ADS Embankment
 - ADS Benefitted Land
- Drainage Districts (DD)**
 - DD Channel
 - DD Embankment
 - DD Benefitted Land
- Land Commission (LC)**
 - LC Watercourse
 - LC Embankment
 - LC Benefitted Land
- OPW Past Flood Data**
 - Single Flood Event
 - Recurring Flood Event
 - OPW Past Flood Extent
 - Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
- Soils**
 - Alluvial Soils
- GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping**
 - Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
- Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding**
 - Groundwater
 - Groundwater/Surface water



Longford CDP 2021-2027











Ballinallee Predictive Indicators

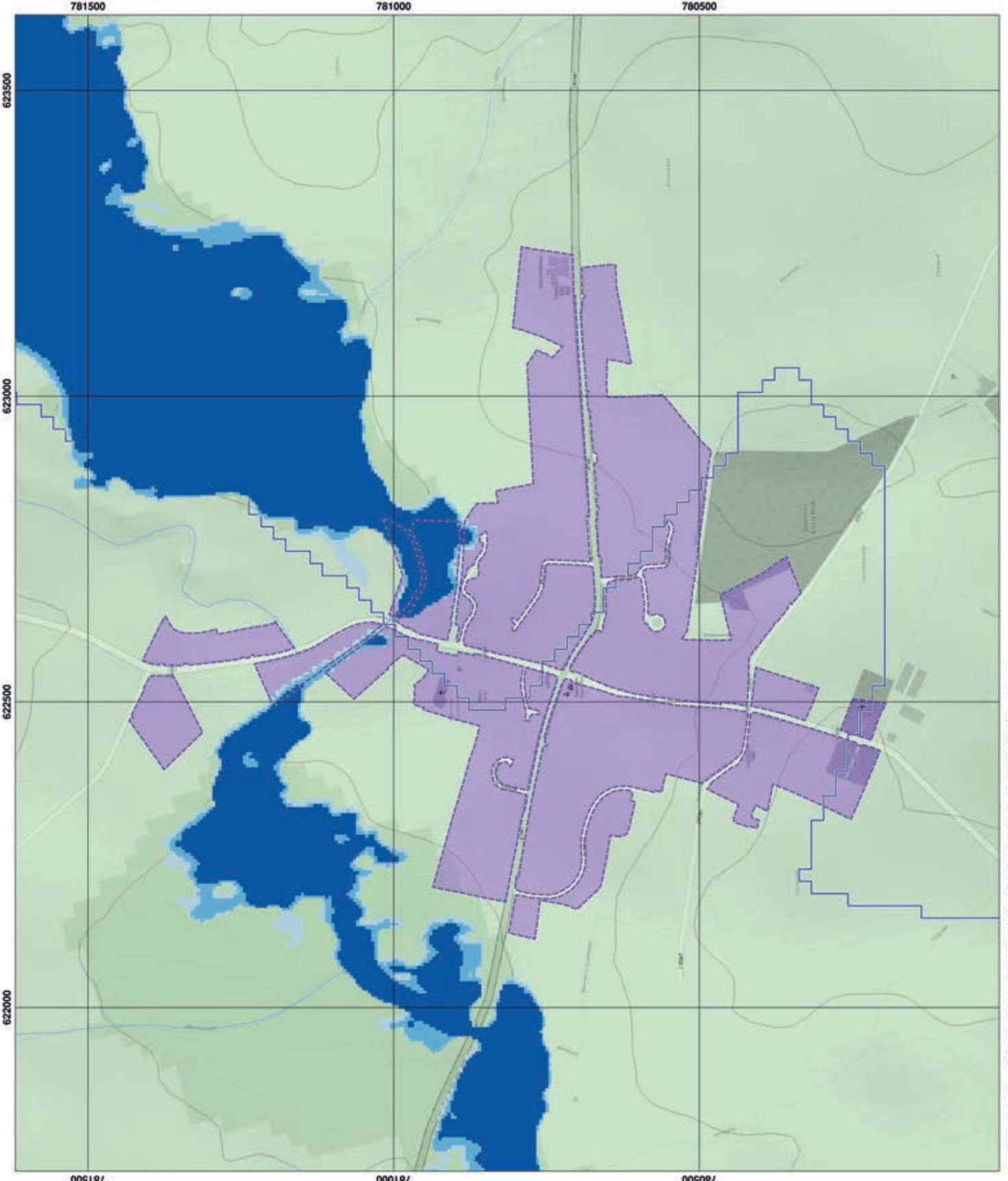
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM Flood Extents**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
- GSI Groundwater Flooding**
 -  1% AEP Groundwater Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by Longford County Council**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  Groundwater Flooding



**Longford CDP
2021-2027**

**Ballinalee
CFRAM All Scenarios**

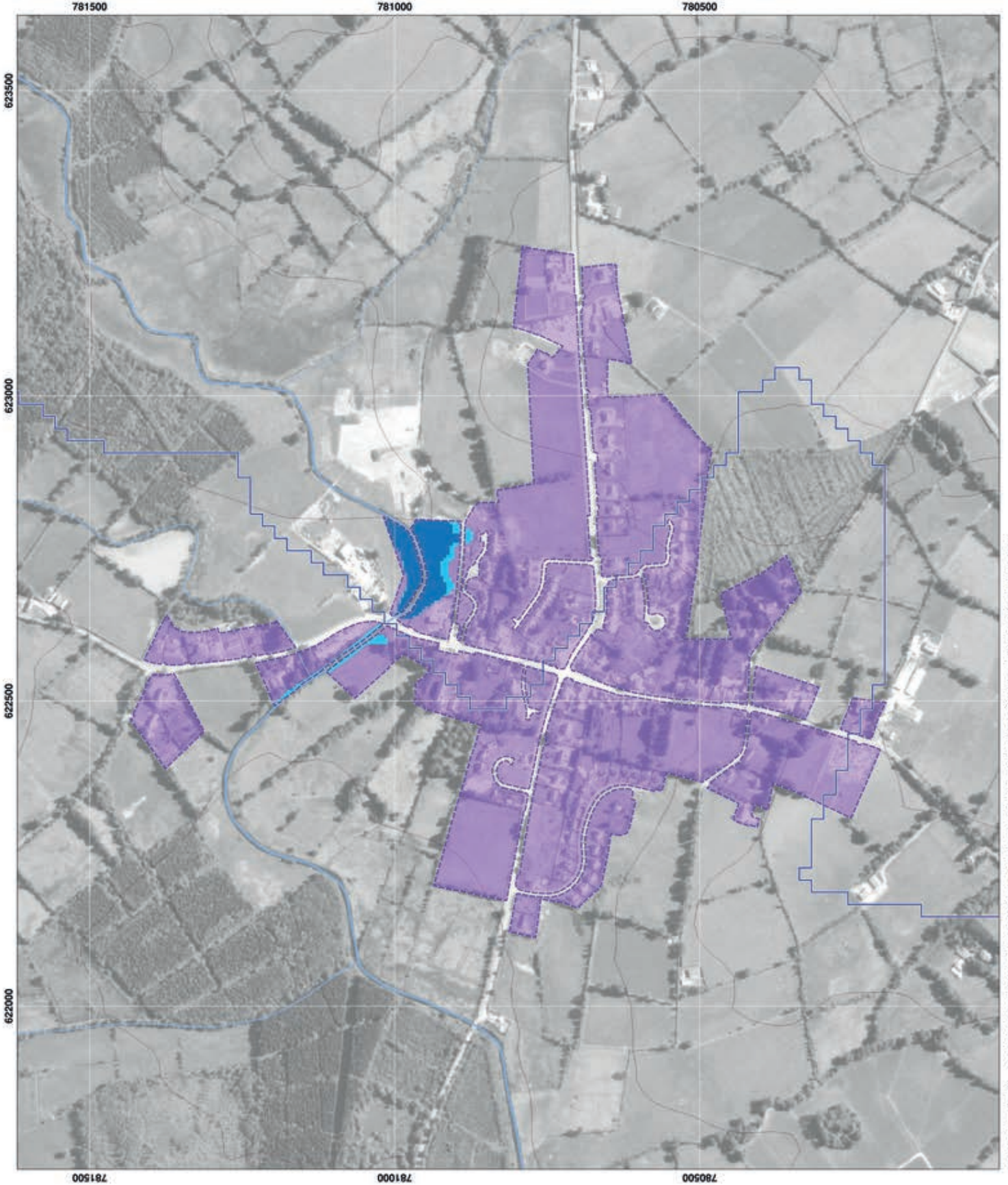
-  Zoned Lands
 -  Rivers & Streams
 -  Lakes
 -  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM All Scenarios**
-  Present Day Scenario
 -  0.1% AEP
 -  Mid-Range Future Scenario
 -  0.1% AEP
 -  High-End Future Scenario
 -  0.1% AEP



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Ballinallee Flood Zones

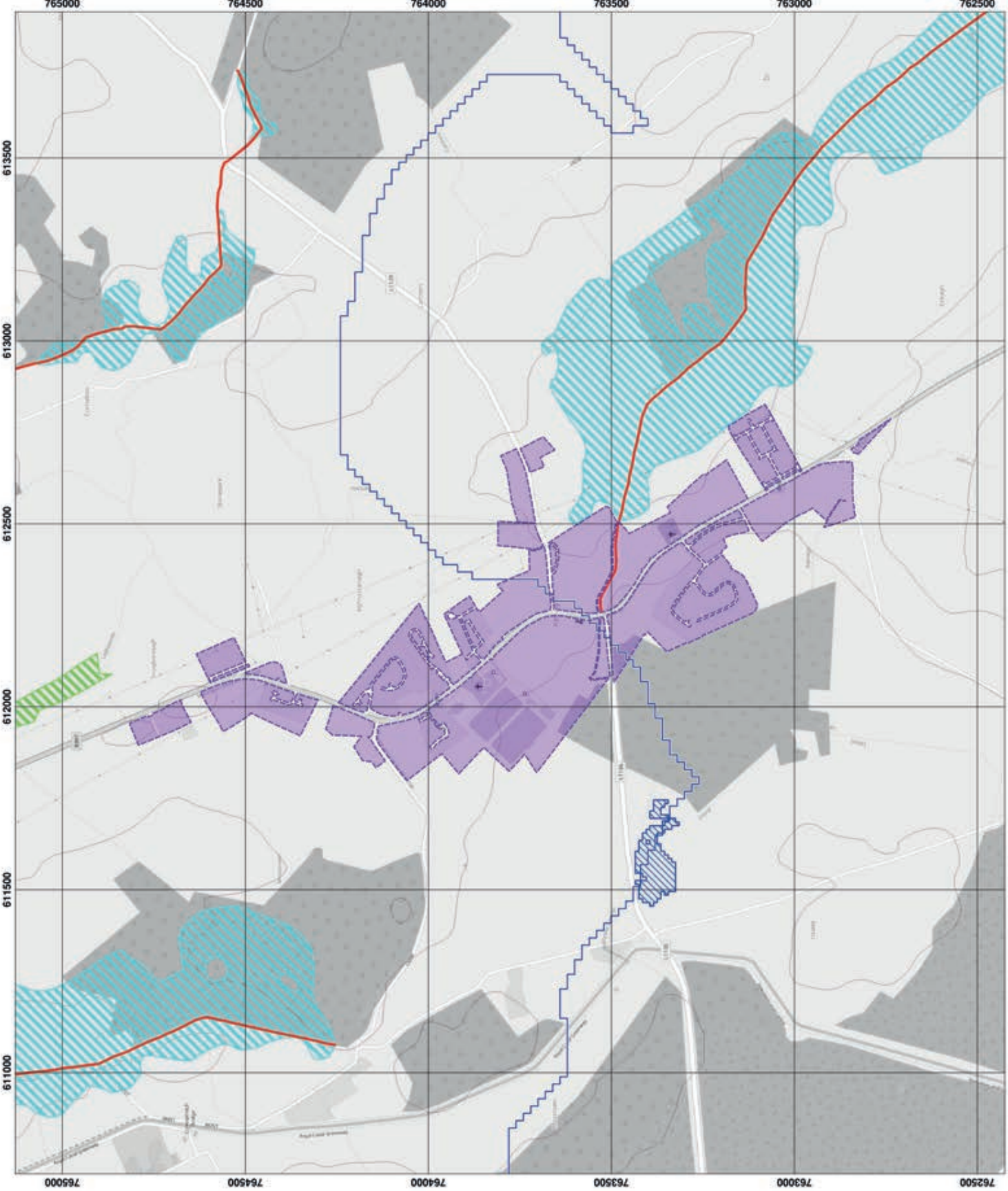
- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- Indicative Flood Zones
- Flood Zone A
 - Flood Zone B



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Ballinamore Historical Indicators

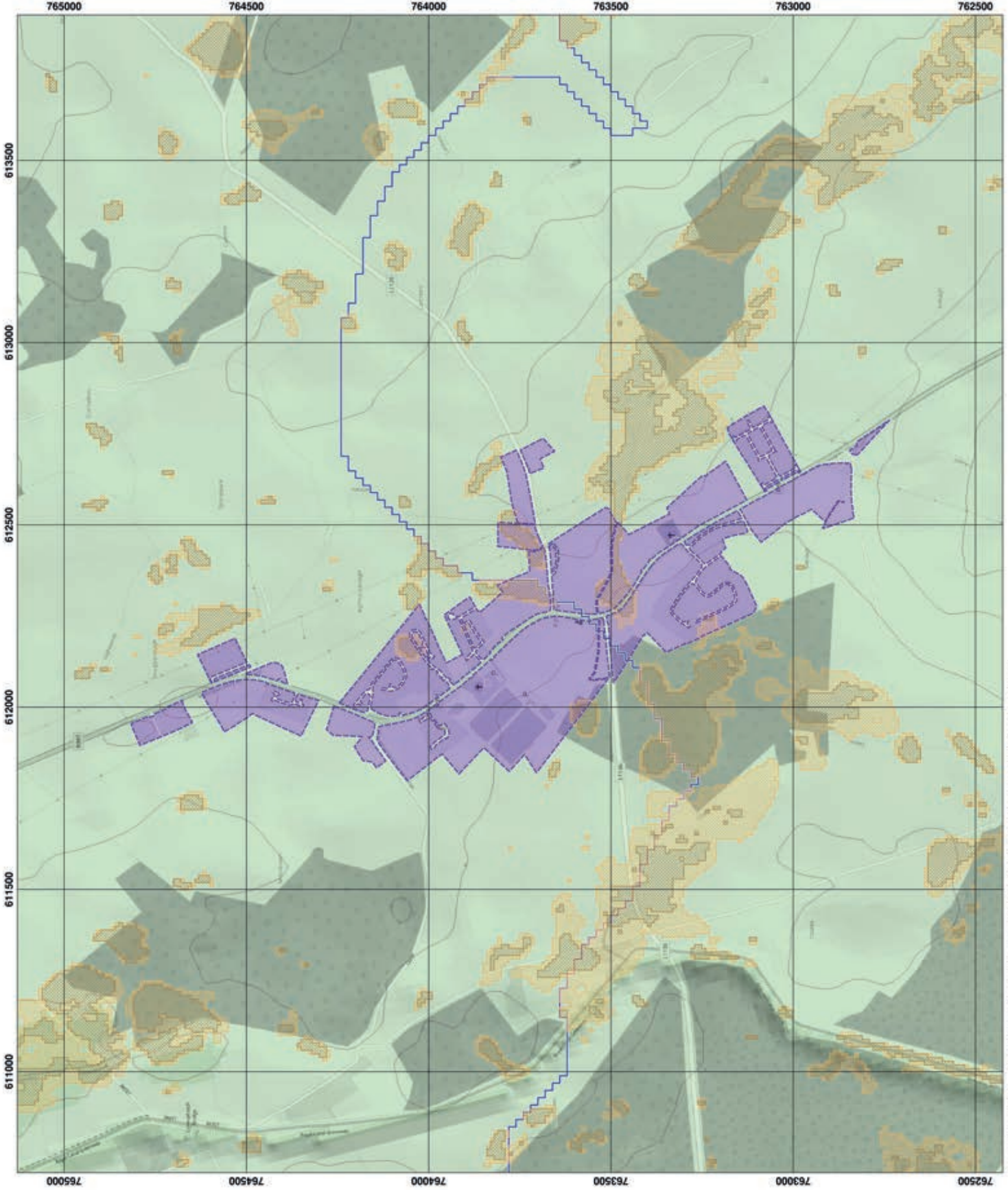
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)**
-  ADS Channel
-  ADS Embankment
-  ADS Benefitted Land
- Drainage Districts (DD)**
-  DD Channel
-  DD Embankment
-  DD Benefitted Land
- Land Commission (LC)**
-  LC Watercourse
-  LC Embankment
-  LC Benefitted Land
- OPW Past Flood Data**
-  Single Flood Event
-  Recurring Flood Event
-  OPW Past Flood Extent
-  Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
- Soils**
-  Alluvial Soils
- GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping**
-  Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
- Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding**
-  Groundwater
-  Groundwater/Surface water



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Ballinamore Predictive Indicators

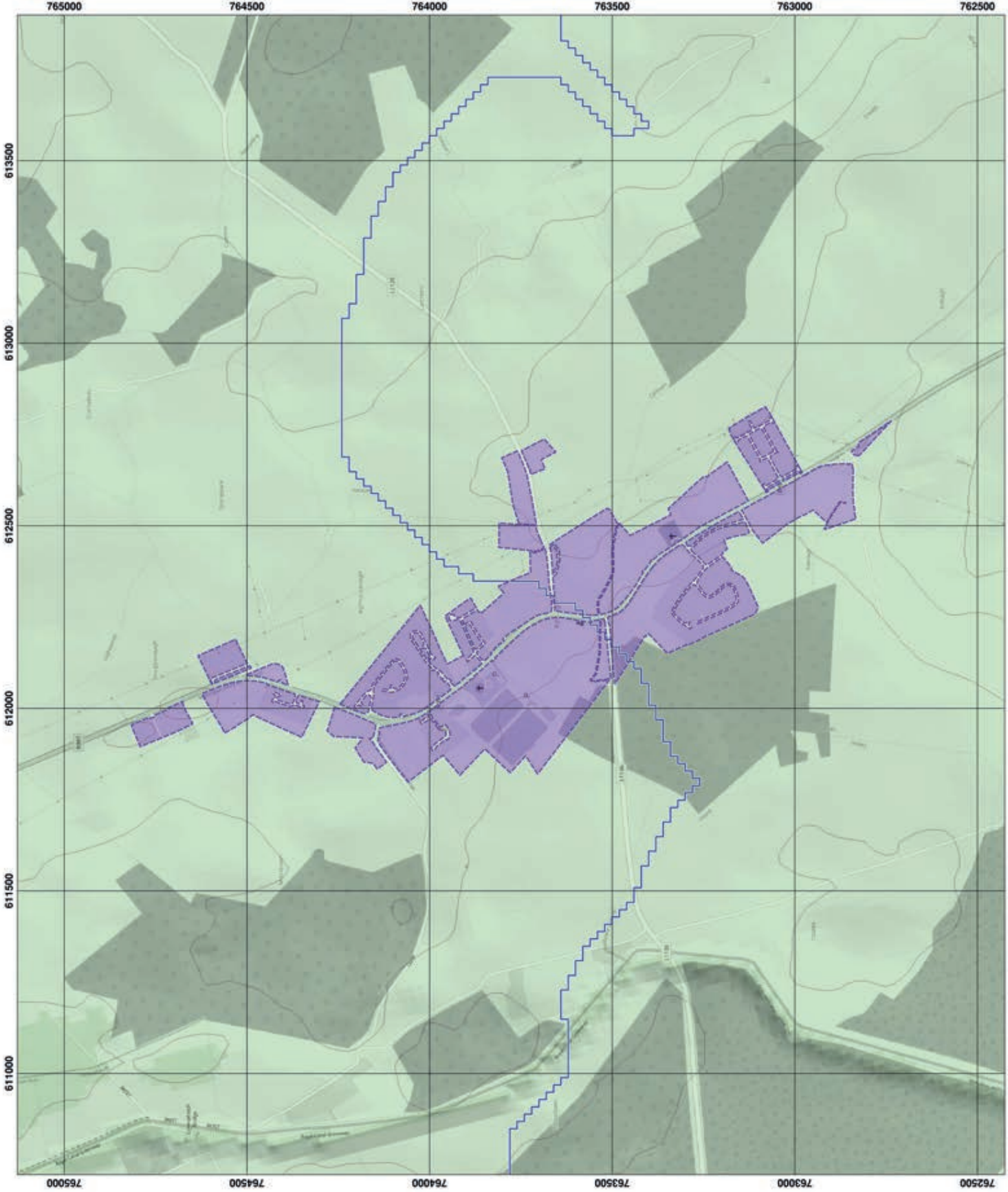
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFFRAM Flood Extents**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
- GSI Groundwater Flooding**
 -  1% AEP Groundwater Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by Longford County Council**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  Groundwater Flooding



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Ballinamore CFRAM All Scenarios

- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM All Scenarios**
- Present Day Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - Mid-Range Future Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - High-End Future Scenario 0.1% AEP



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Ballinamore Flood Zones

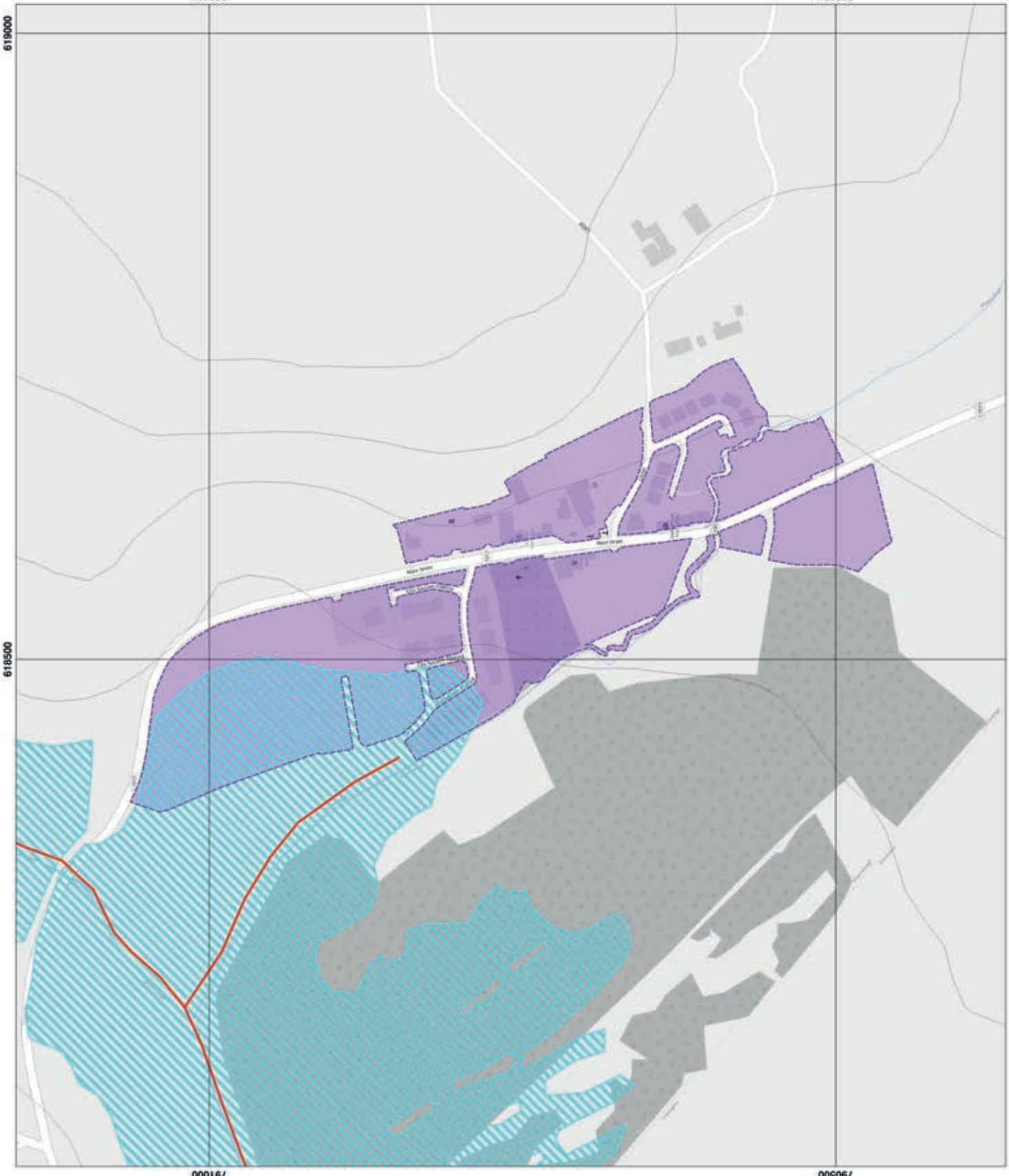
- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- Indicative Flood Zones
- Flood Zone A
 - Flood Zone B



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Ballinamuck Historical Indicators

- Zoned Lands
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD River Sub Basins
- Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)
 - ADS Channel
 - ADS Embankment
 - ADS Benefitted Land
- Drainage Districts (DD)
 - DD Channel
 - DD Embankment
 - DD Benefitted Land
- Land Commission (LC)
 - LC Watercourse
 - LC Embankment
 - LC Benefitted Land
- OPW Past Flood Data
 - Single Flood Event
 - Recurring Flood Event
 - OPW Past Flood Extent
 - Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
- Soils
 - Alluvial Soils
- GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping
 - Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
- Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding
 - Groundwater
 - Groundwater/Surface water



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Ballinamuck Predictive Indicators

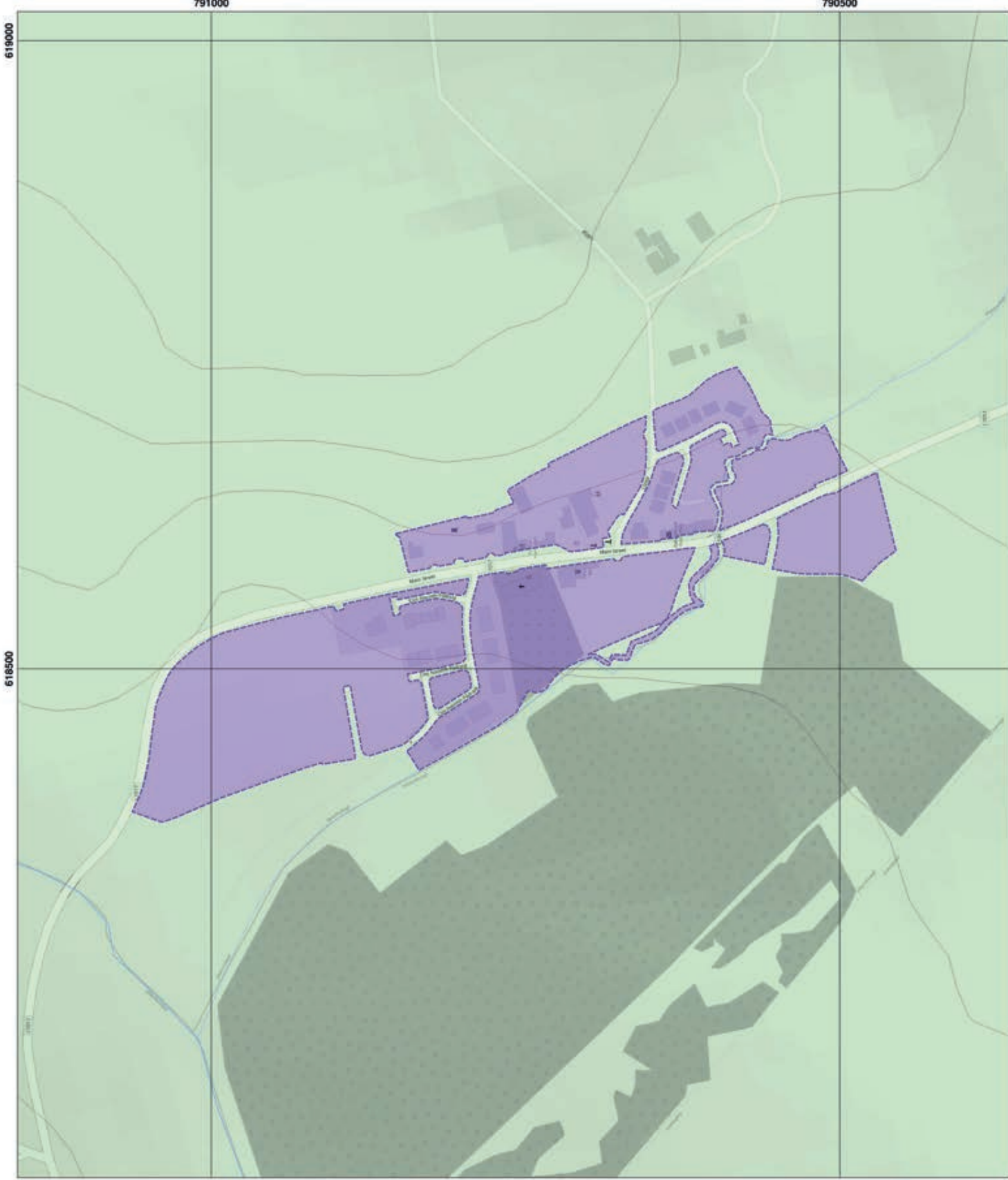
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM Flood Extents**
-  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
-  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
- GSI Groundwater Flooding**
-  1% AEP Groundwater Extent
-  0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by
Longford County Council**
-  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
-  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
-  1% AEP Pluvial Extent
-  0.1% AEP Pluvial Extent
-  Groundwater Flooding



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Ballinamuck CFRAM All Scenarios

- Zoned Lands
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM All Scenarios
 - Present Day Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - Mid-Range Future Scenario 0.1% AEP
 - High-End Future Scenario 0.1% AEP



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Ballinamuck Flood Zones

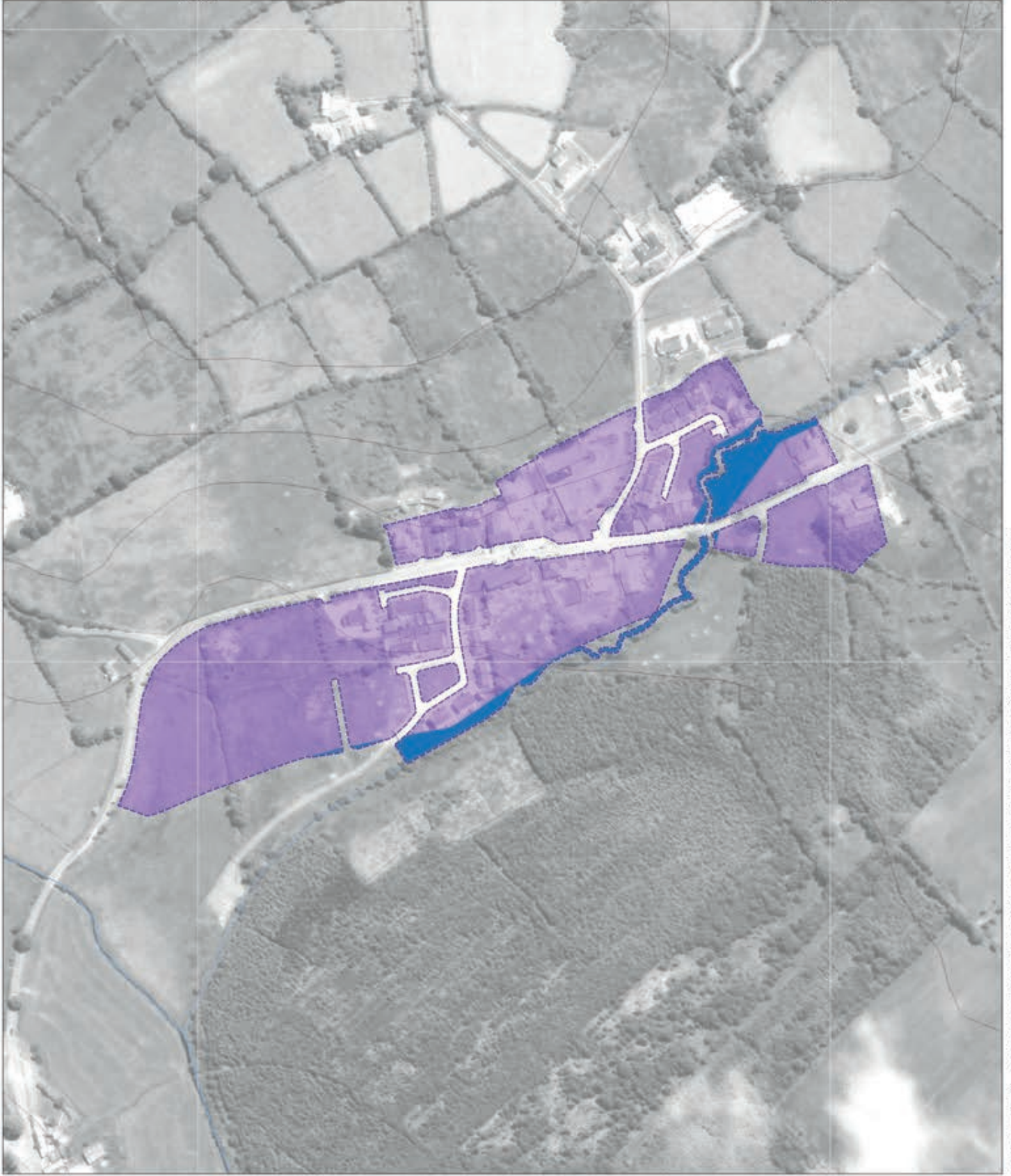
- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- Indicative Flood Zones
- Flood Zone A
 - Flood Zone B

619000

618500

791000

790500



791000

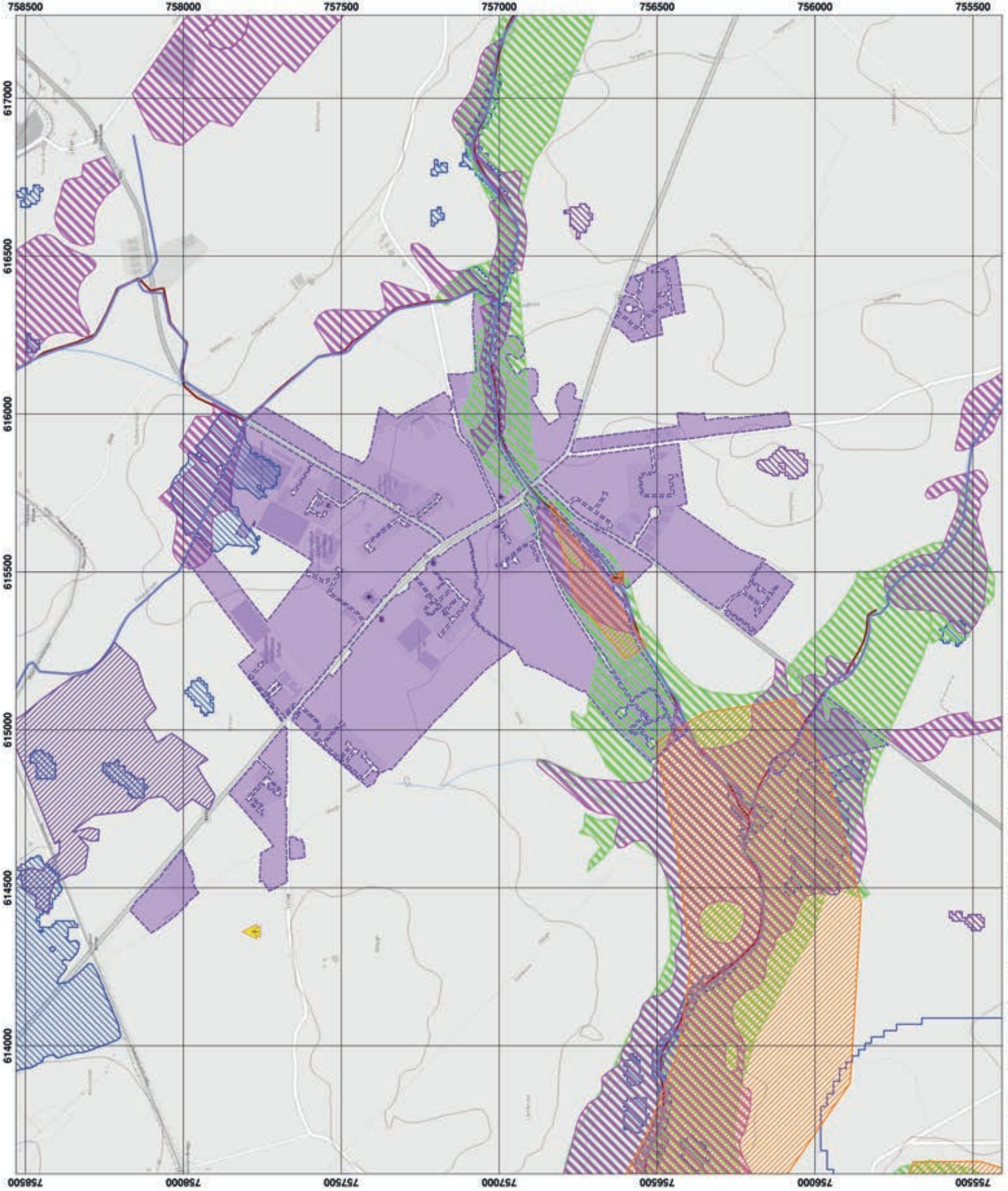
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




Ballymahon Historical Indicators

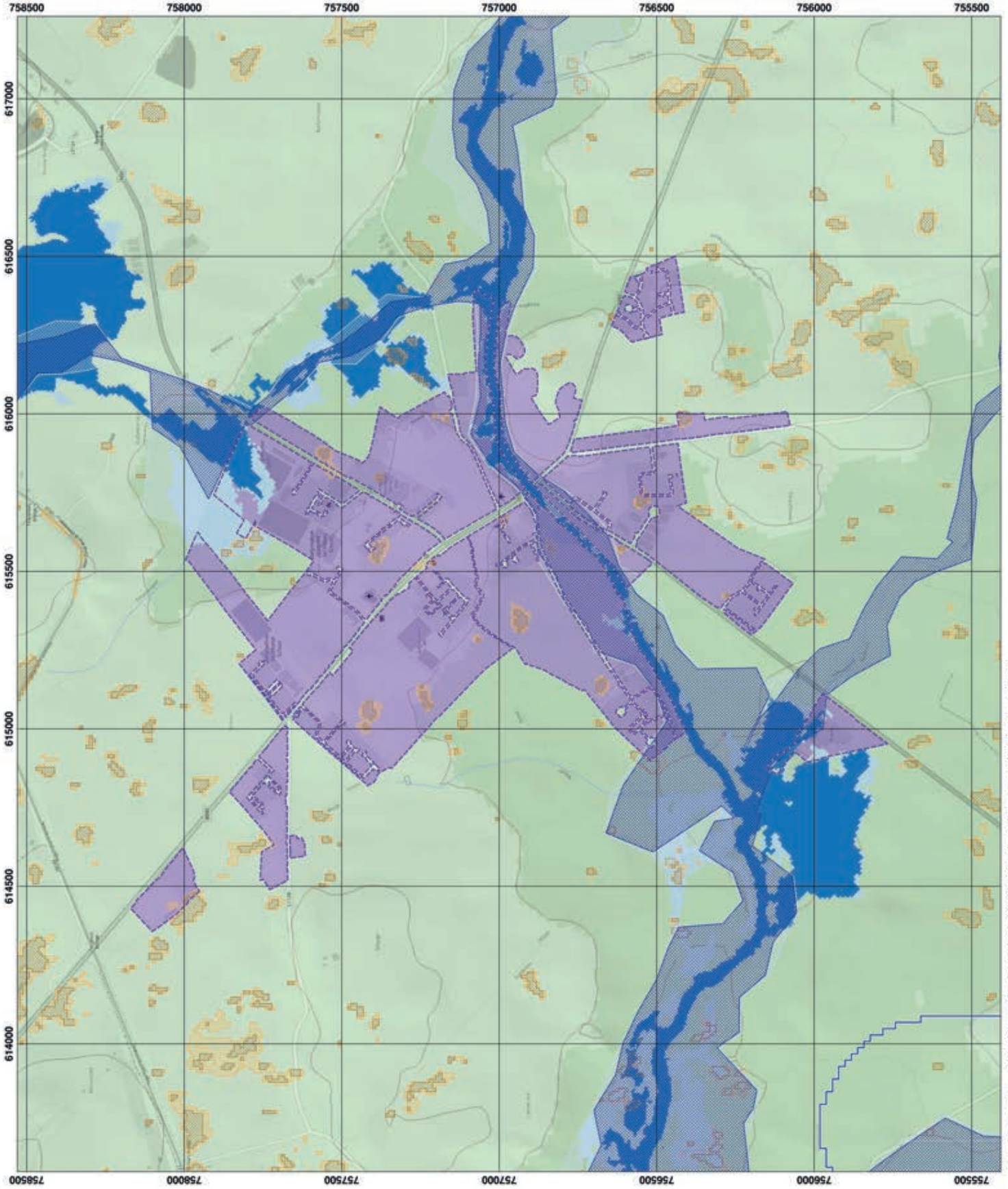
- Zoned Lands
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes
- WFD River Sub Basins
- Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)**
 - ADS Channel
 - ADS Embankment
 - ADS Benefitted Land
- Drainage Districts (DD)**
 - DD Channel
 - DD Embankment
 - DD Benefitted Land
- Land Commission (LC)**
 - LC Watercourse
 - LC Embankment
 - LC Benefitted Land
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 - Single Flood Event
 - Recurring Flood Event
 - OPW Past Flood Extent
 - Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
- Soils**
 - Alluvial Soils
- GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping**
 - Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
- Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding**
 - Groundwater
 - Groundwater/Surface water



Longford CDP 2021-2027











Ballymahon Predictive Indicators

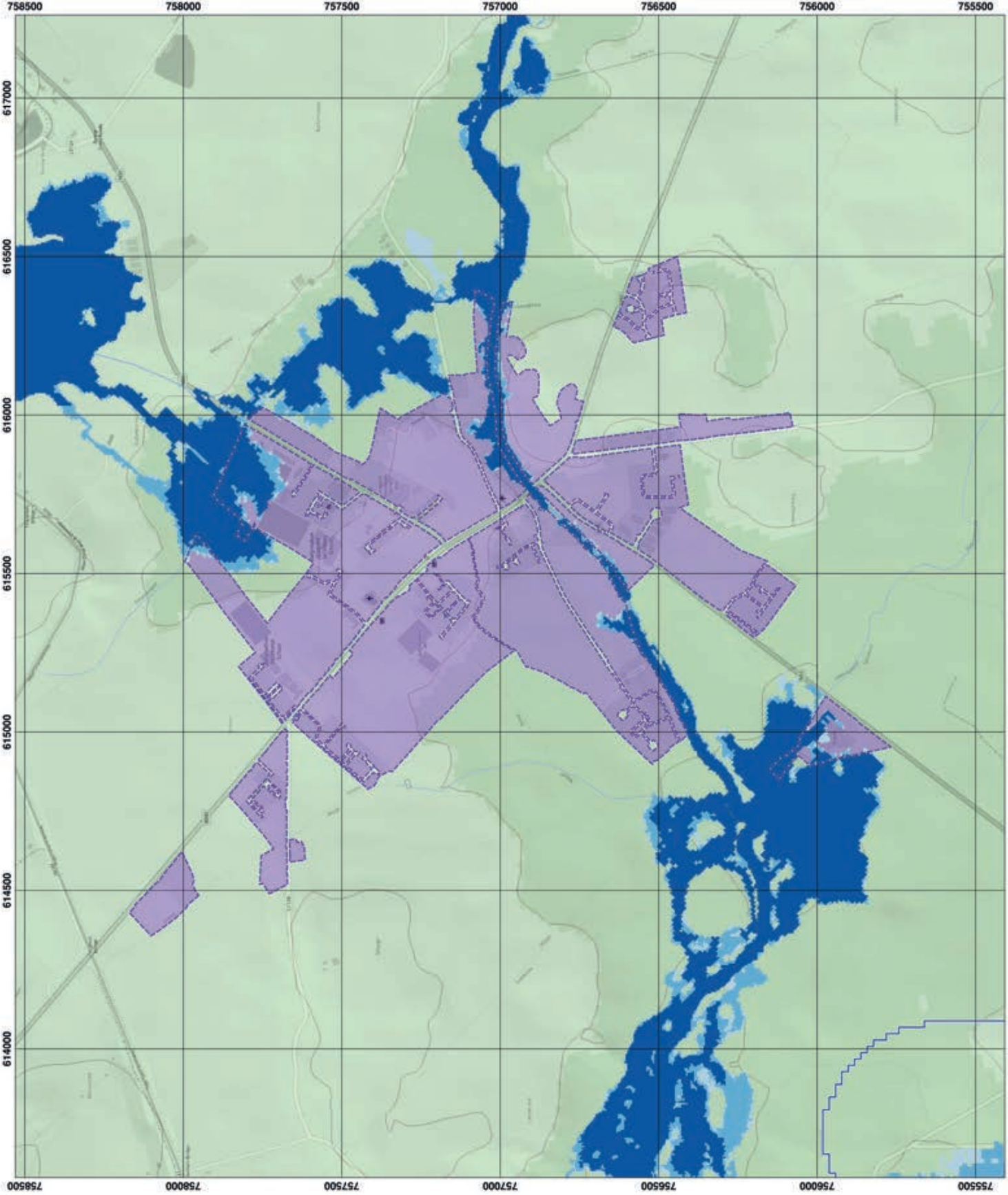
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM Flood Extents**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
- GSI Groundwater Flooding**
 -  1% AEP Groundwater Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by Longford County Council**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  Groundwater Flooding



**Longford CDP
2021-2027**

**Ballymahon
CFRAM All Scenarios**

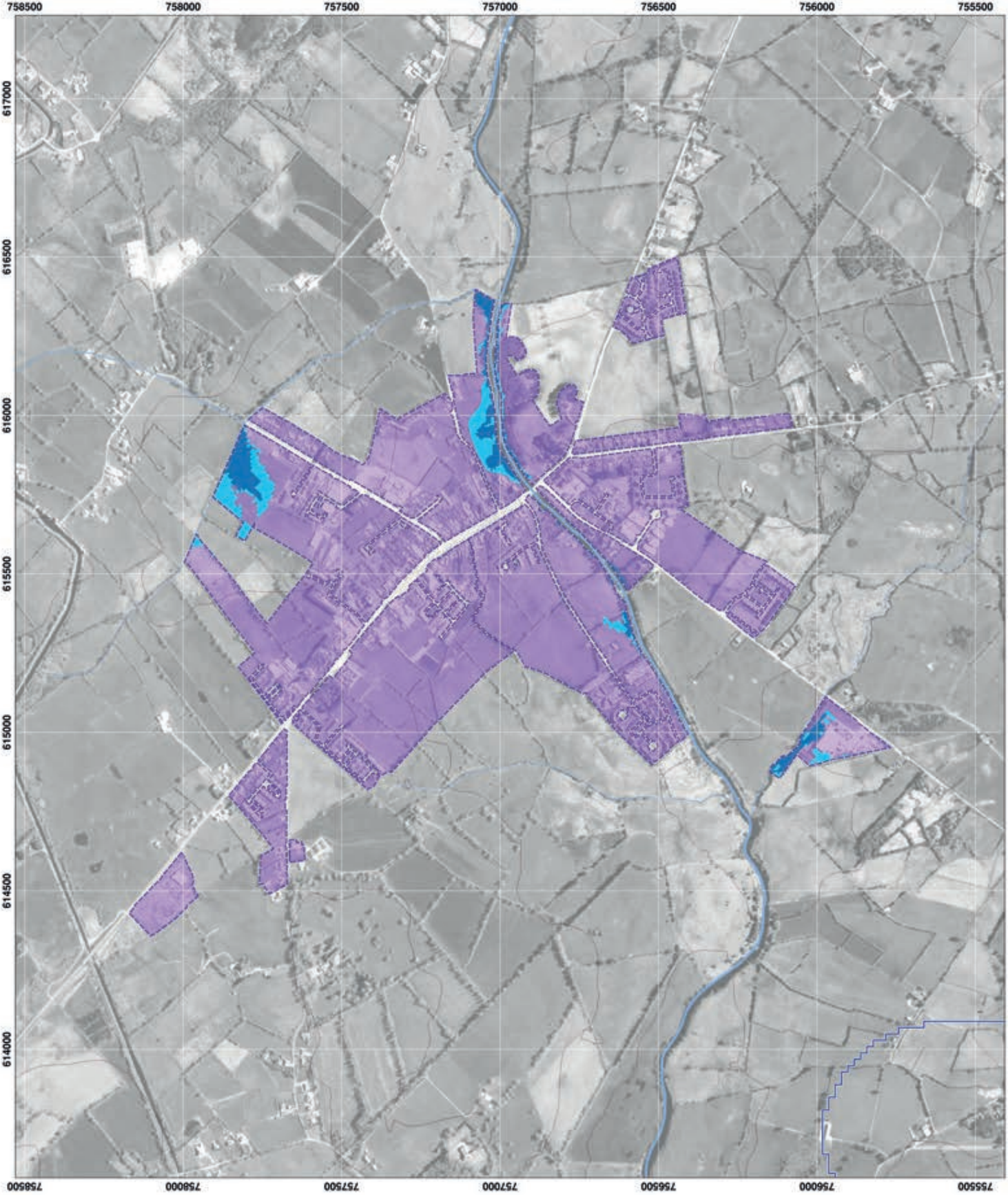
-  Zoned Lands
 -  Rivers & Streams
 -  Lakes
 -  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM All Scenarios**
-  Present Day Scenario
 -  0.1% AEP
 -  Mid-Range Future Scenario
 -  0.1% AEP
 -  High-End Future Scenario
 -  0.1% AEP



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Ballymahon Flood Zones

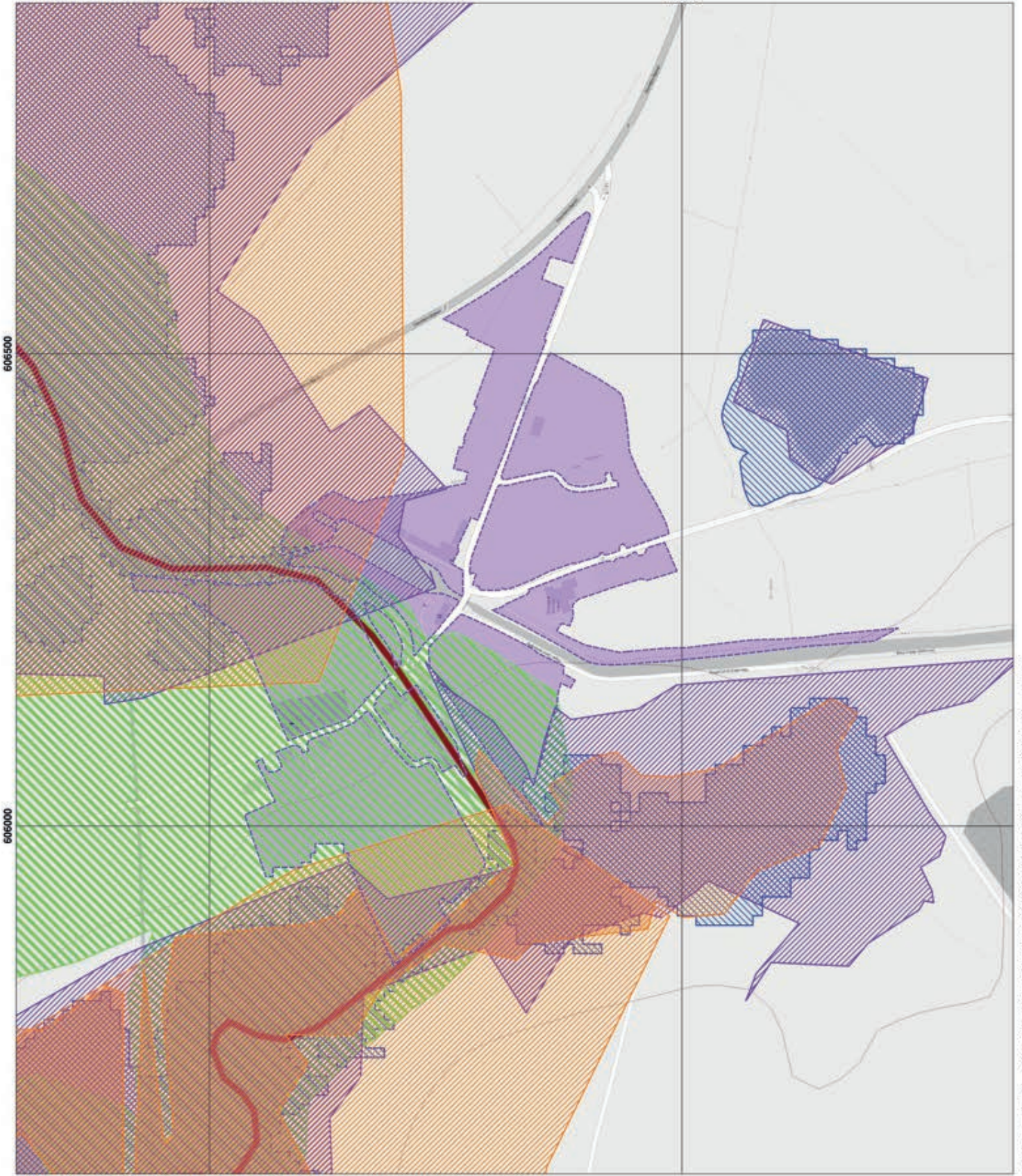
- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- Indicative Flood Zones
- Flood Zone A
 - Flood Zone B



Longford CDP 2021-2027














Clondra Historical Indicators

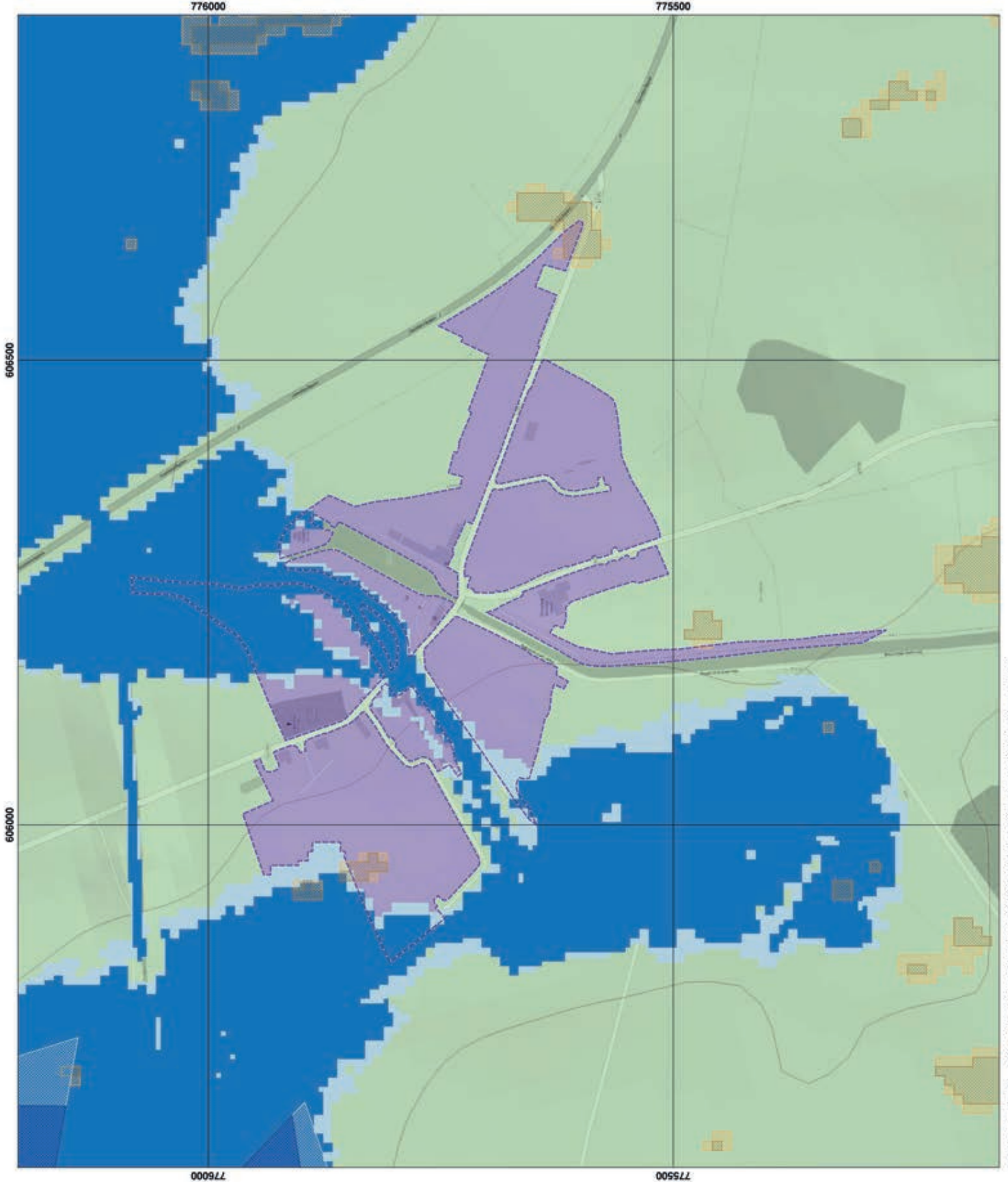
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
-  Arterial Drainage Schemes (ADS)
-  ADS Channel
-  ADS Embankment
-  ADS Benefitted Land
-  Drainage Districts (DD)
-  DD Channel
-  DD Embankment
-  DD Benefitted Land
-  Land Commission (LC)
-  LC Watercourse
-  LC Embankment
-  LC Benefitted Land
-  OPW Past Flood Data
-  Single Flood Event
-  Recurring Flood Event
-  OPW Past Flood Extent
-  Flooding Region - Provided by Longford County Council with PFRA Data
-  Soils
-  Alluvial Soils
-  GSI Groundwater Flood Mapping
-  Winter 2015-2016 Surface Water Flooding
-  Maximum Historic Groundwater Flooding
-  Groundwater
-  Groundwater/Surface water



Longford CDP 2021-2027

Clondra Predictive Indicators

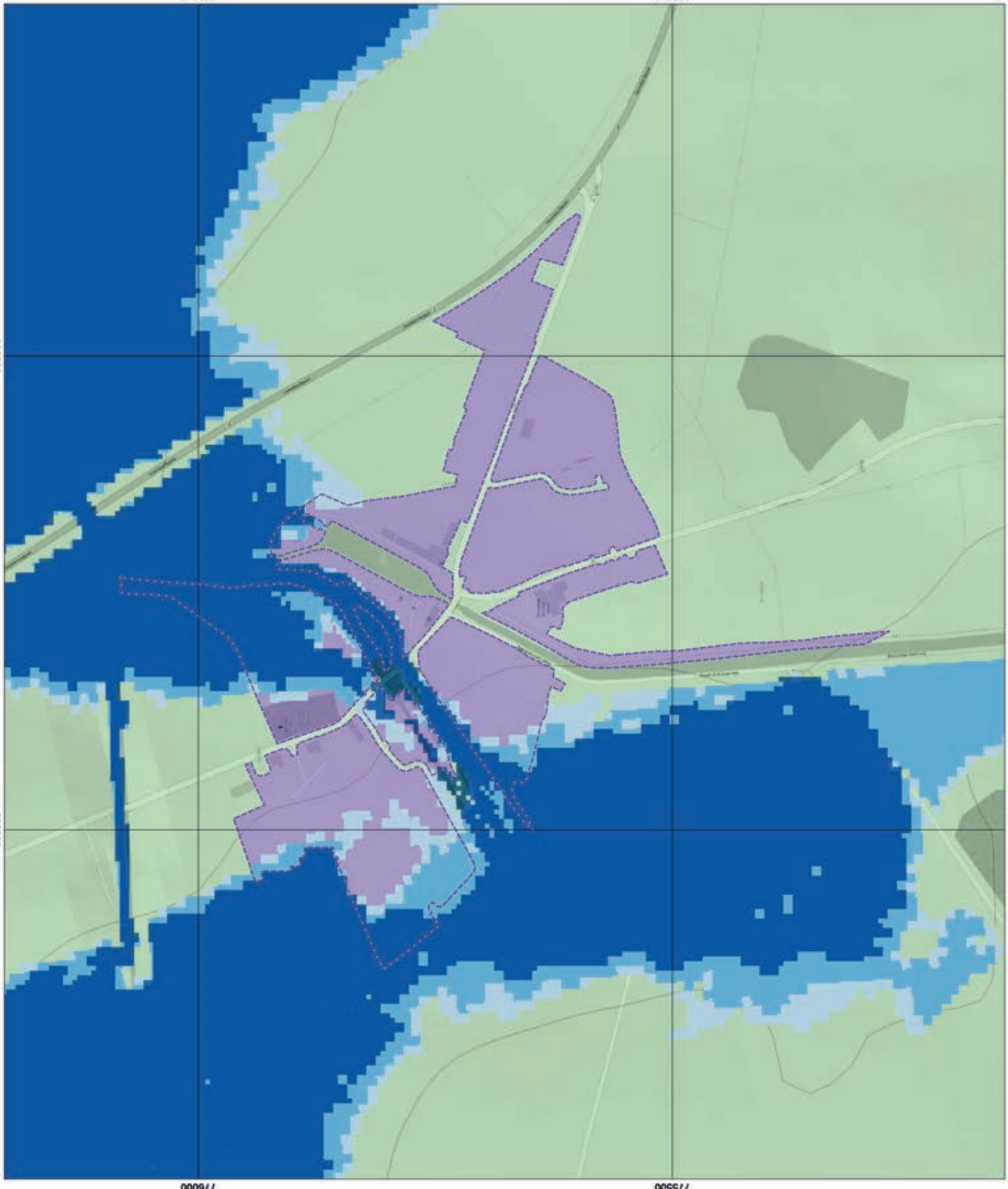
-  Zoned Lands
-  Rivers & Streams
-  Lakes
-  WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM Flood Extents**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
- GSI Groundwater Flooding**
 -  1% AEP Groundwater Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Groundwater Extent
- PFRA Data supplied by Longford County Council**
 -  1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Fluvial Extent
 -  1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  0.1% AEP Pluvial Extent
 -  Groundwater Flooding



Longford CDP
2021-2027

Clondra
CFRAM All Scenarios

- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
- CFRAM All Scenarios
- Present Day Scenario
 - 0.1% AEP
 - Mid-Range Future Scenario
 - 0.1% AEP
 - High-End Future Scenario
 - 0.1% AEP



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Clondra Flood Zones

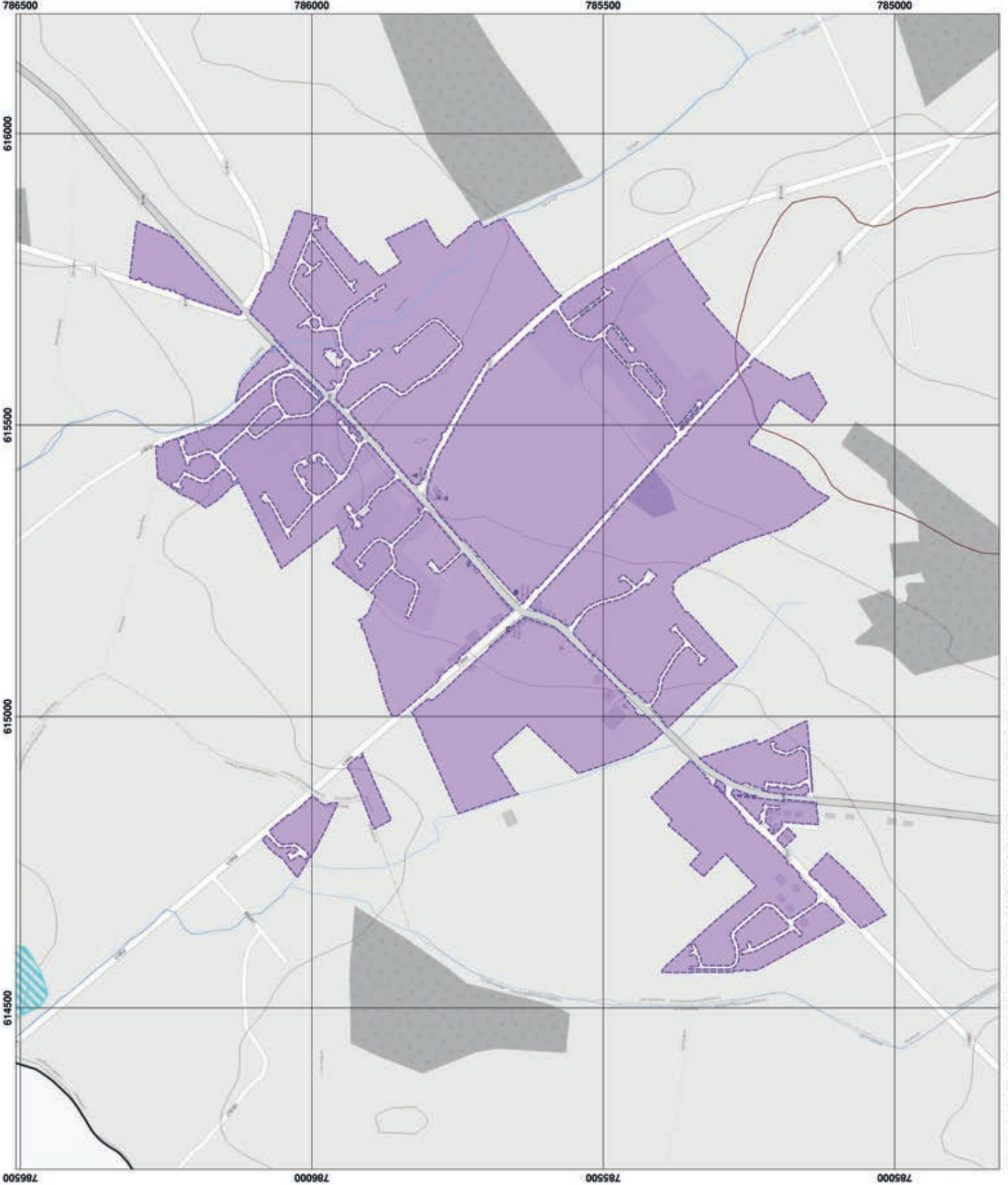
- Zoned Lands
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Lakes
 - WFD River Sub Basins
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Longford CDP 2021-2027














Drumlish Historical Indicators

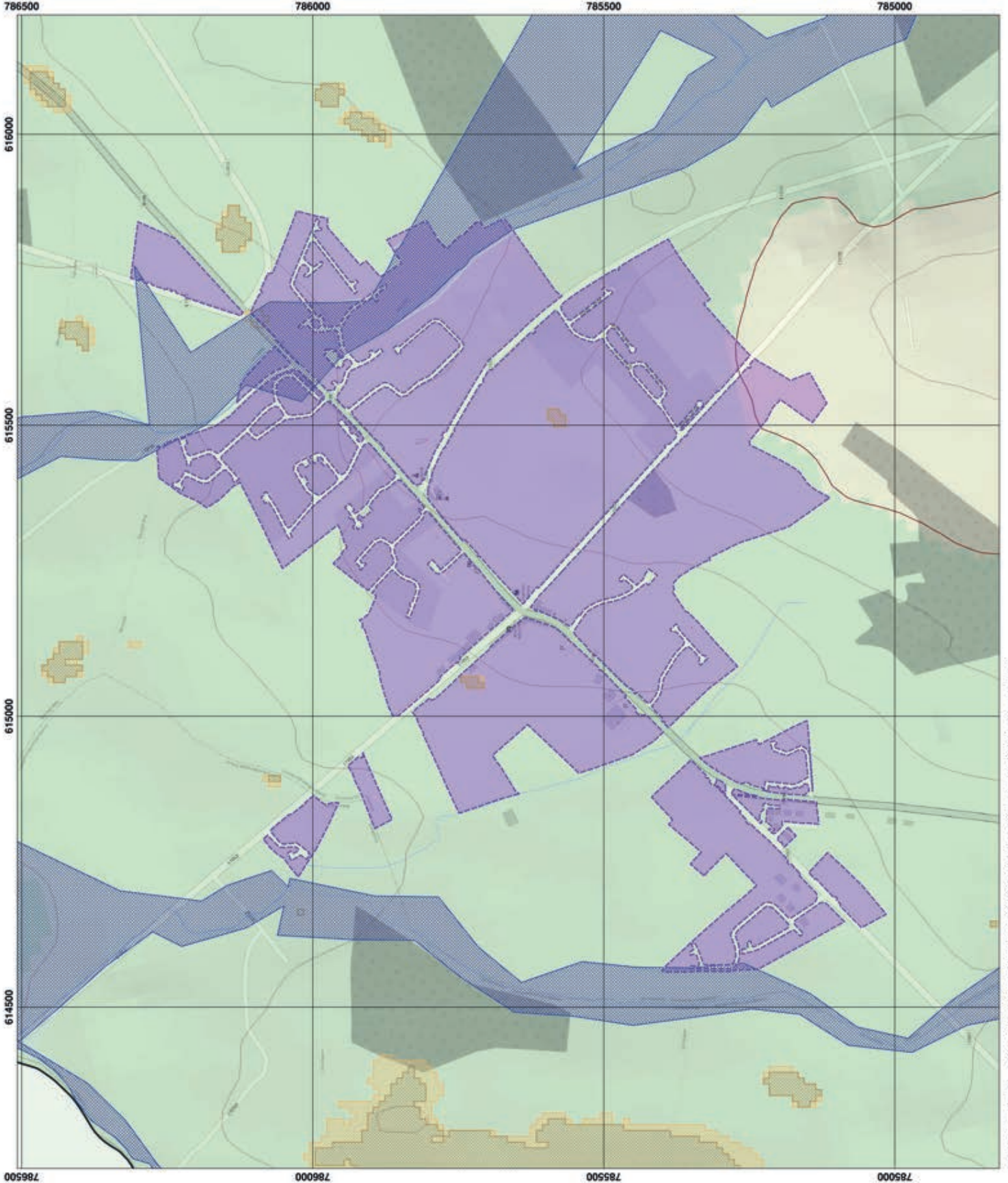
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Longford CDP 2021-2027

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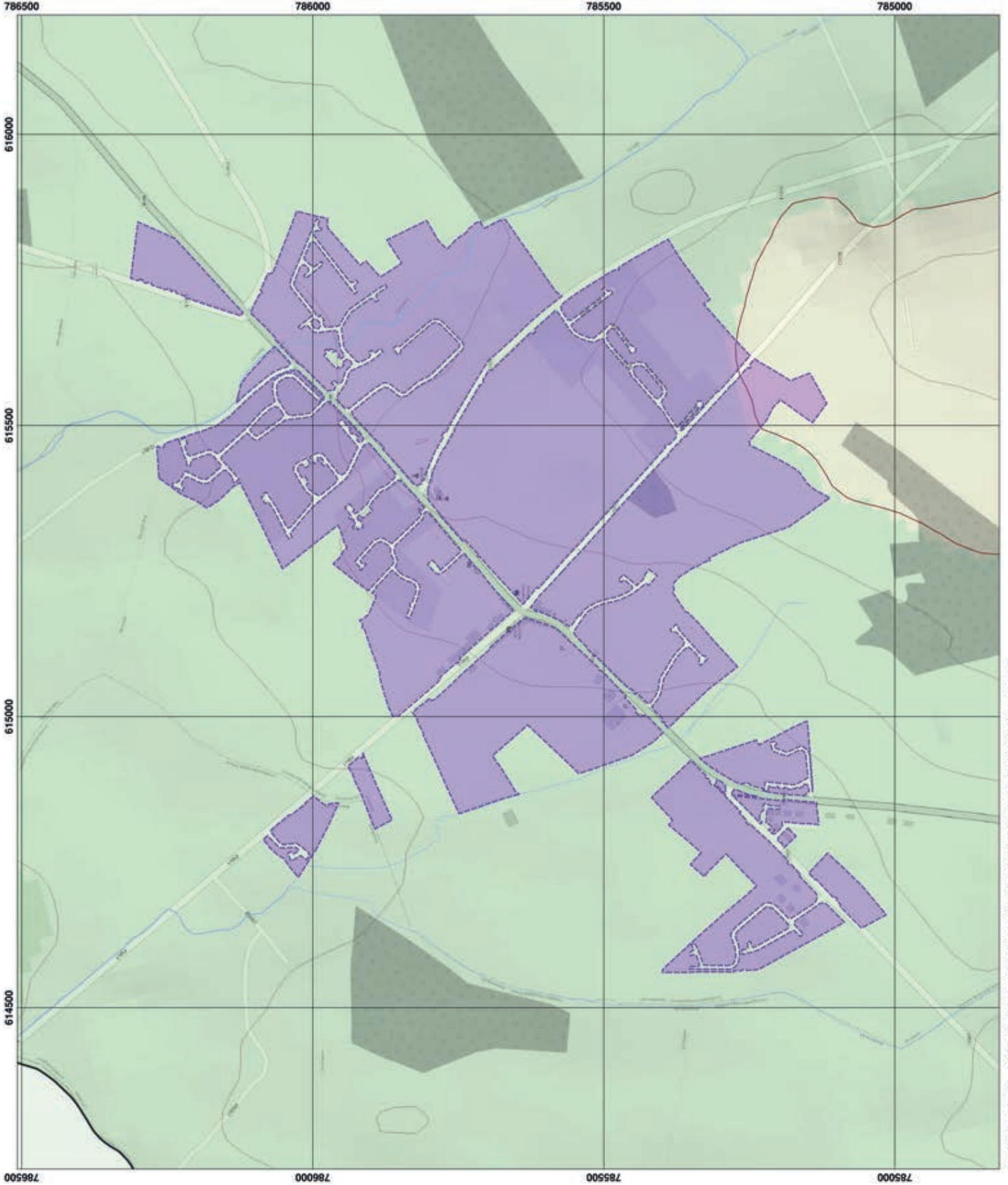
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Longford CDP 2021-2027

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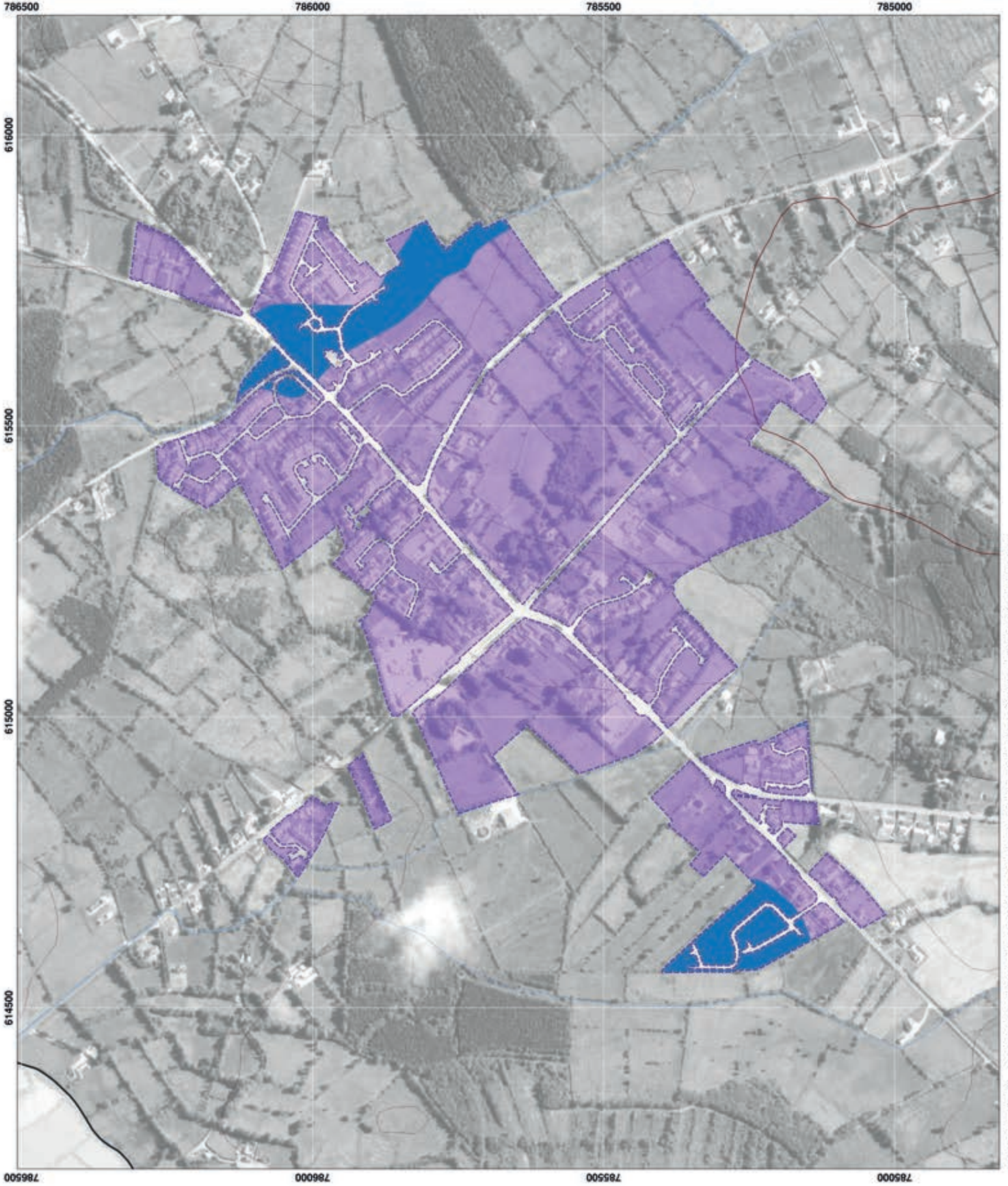
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Longford CDP 2021-2027






















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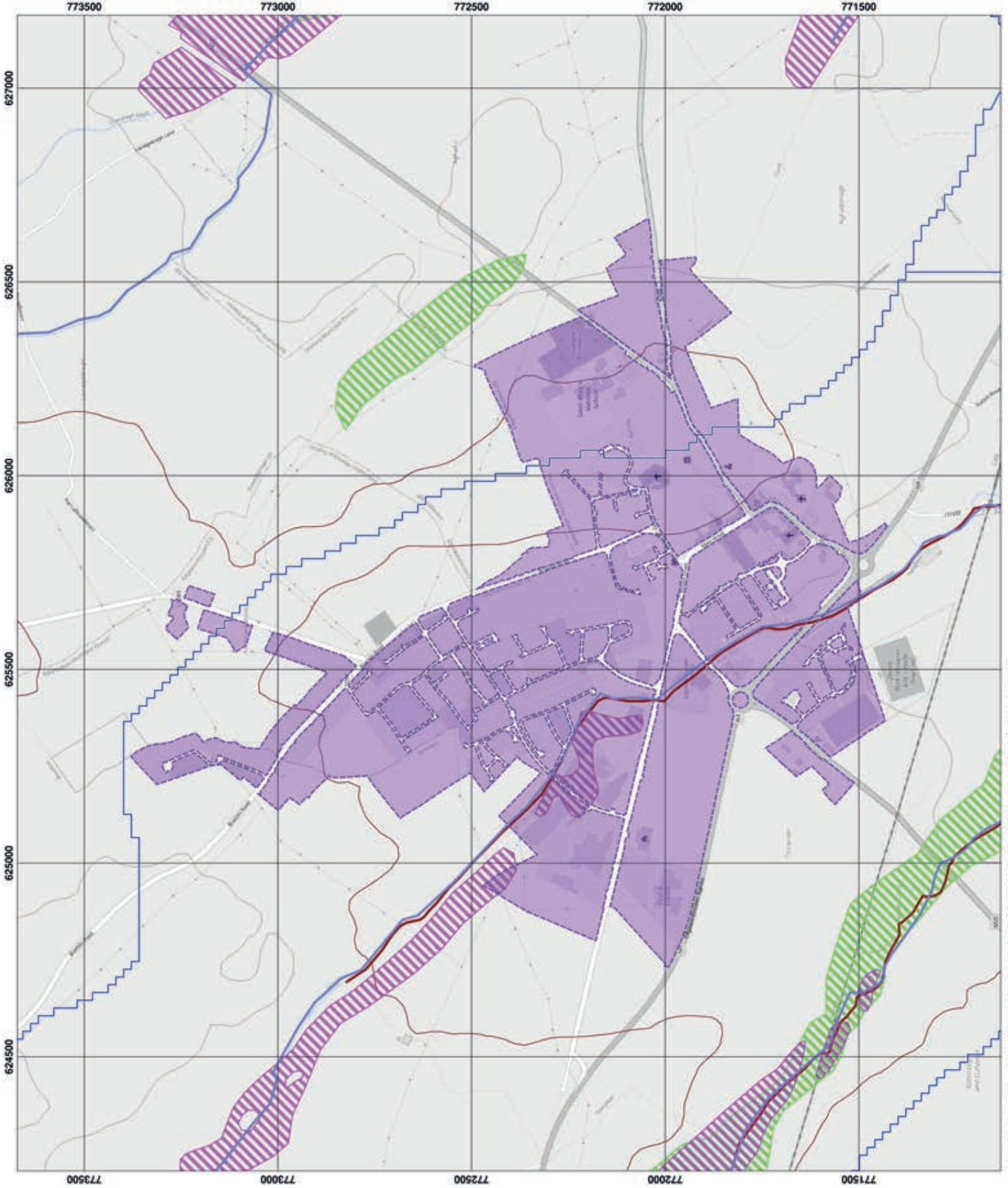
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Longford CDP 2021-2027














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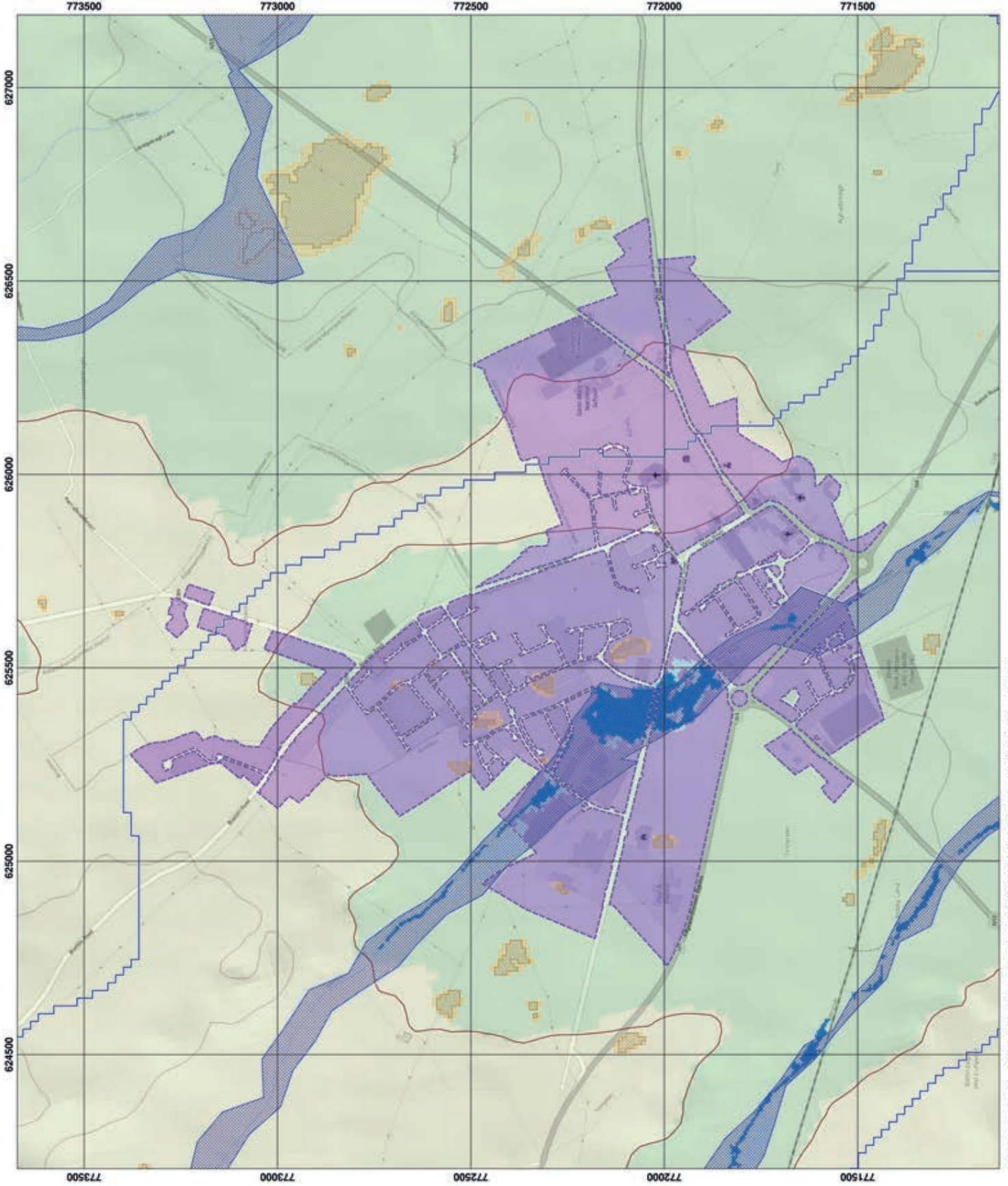
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Longford CDP 2021-2027











Edgeworthstown Predictive Indicators

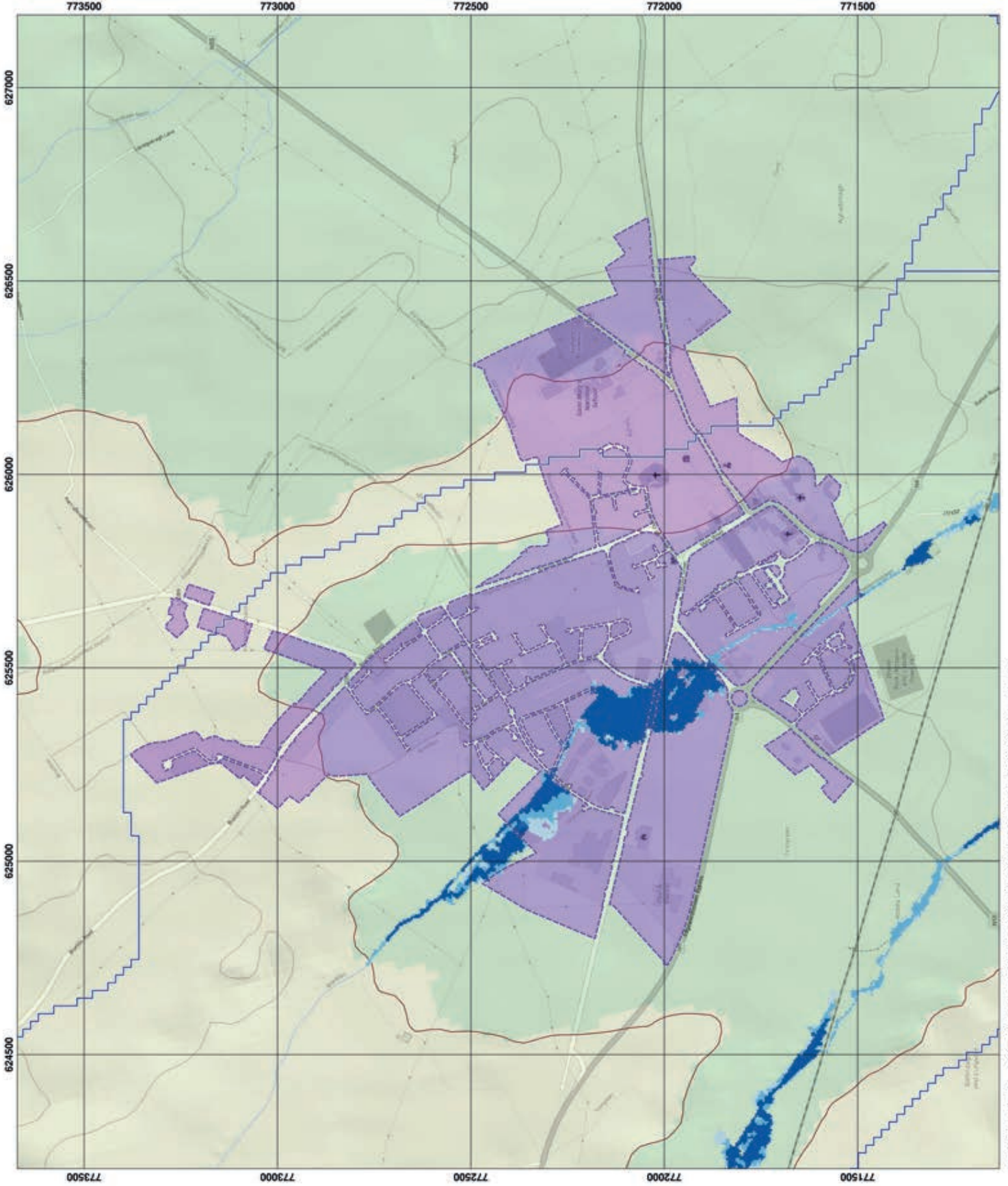
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Longford CDP 2021-2027

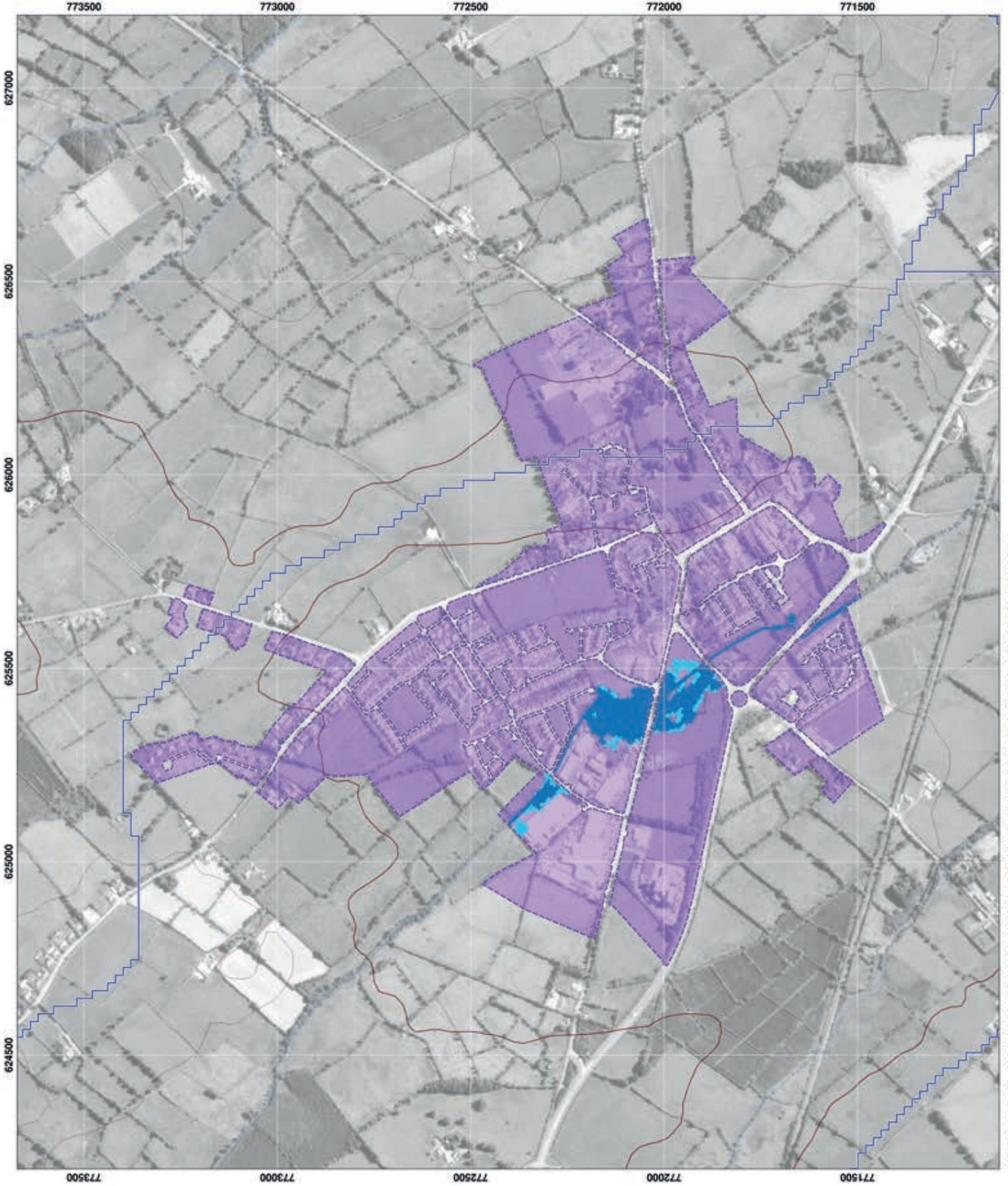
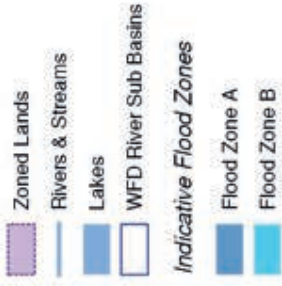
Edgeworthstown CFRAM All Scenarios

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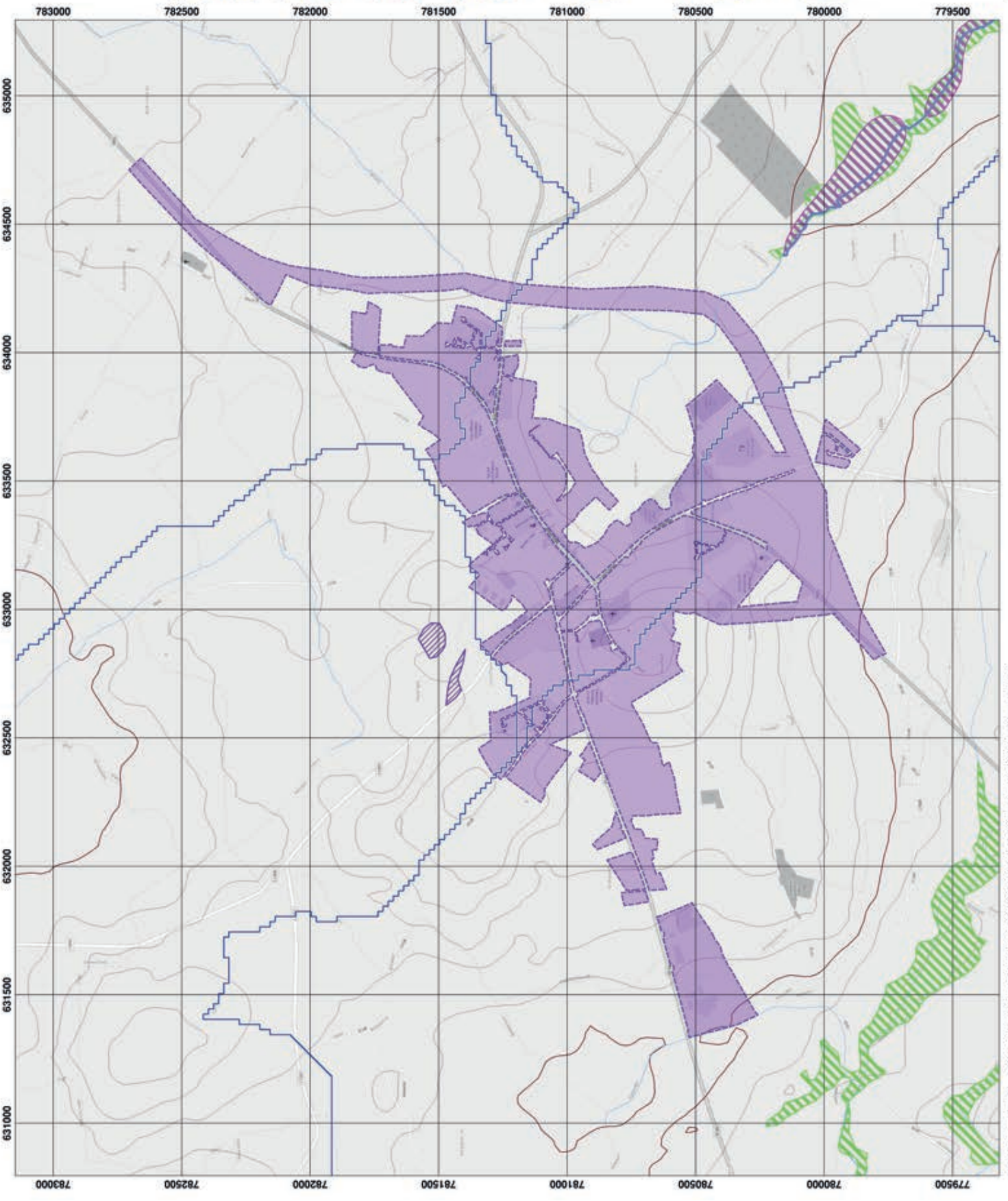
Edgeworthstown Flood Zones



Longford CDP 2021-2027














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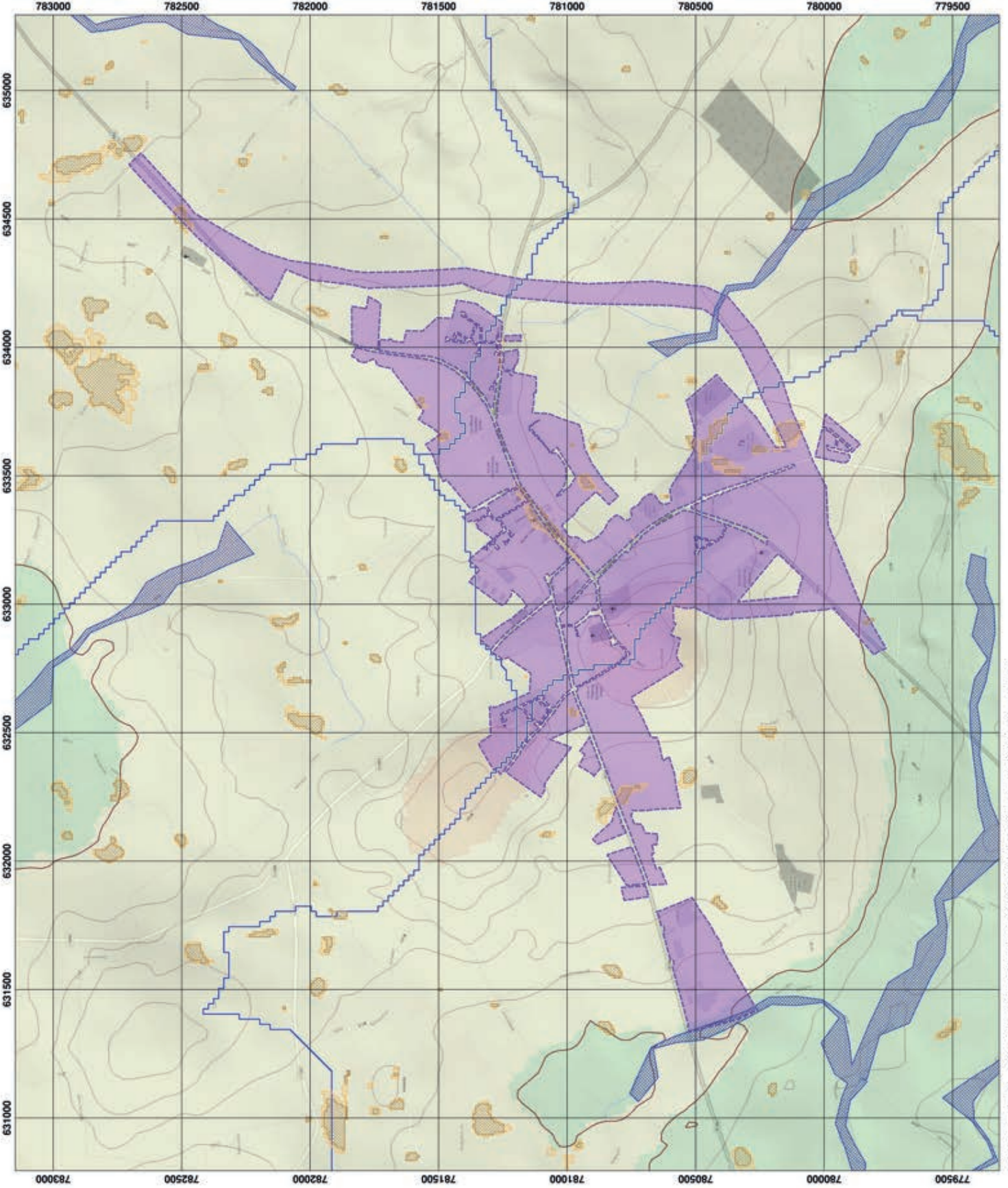
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Granard Predictive Indicators

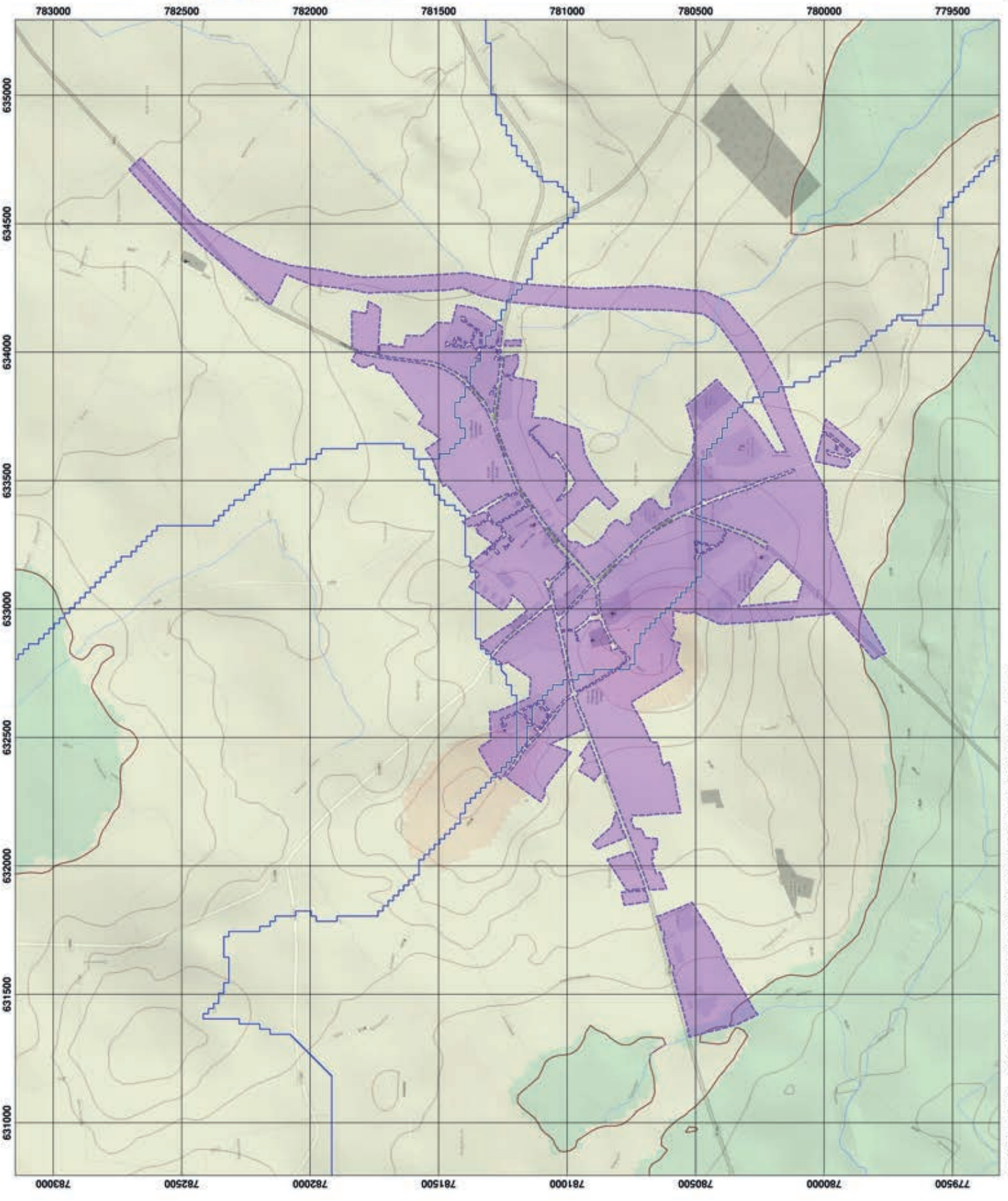
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**Longford CDP
2021-2027**

**Granard
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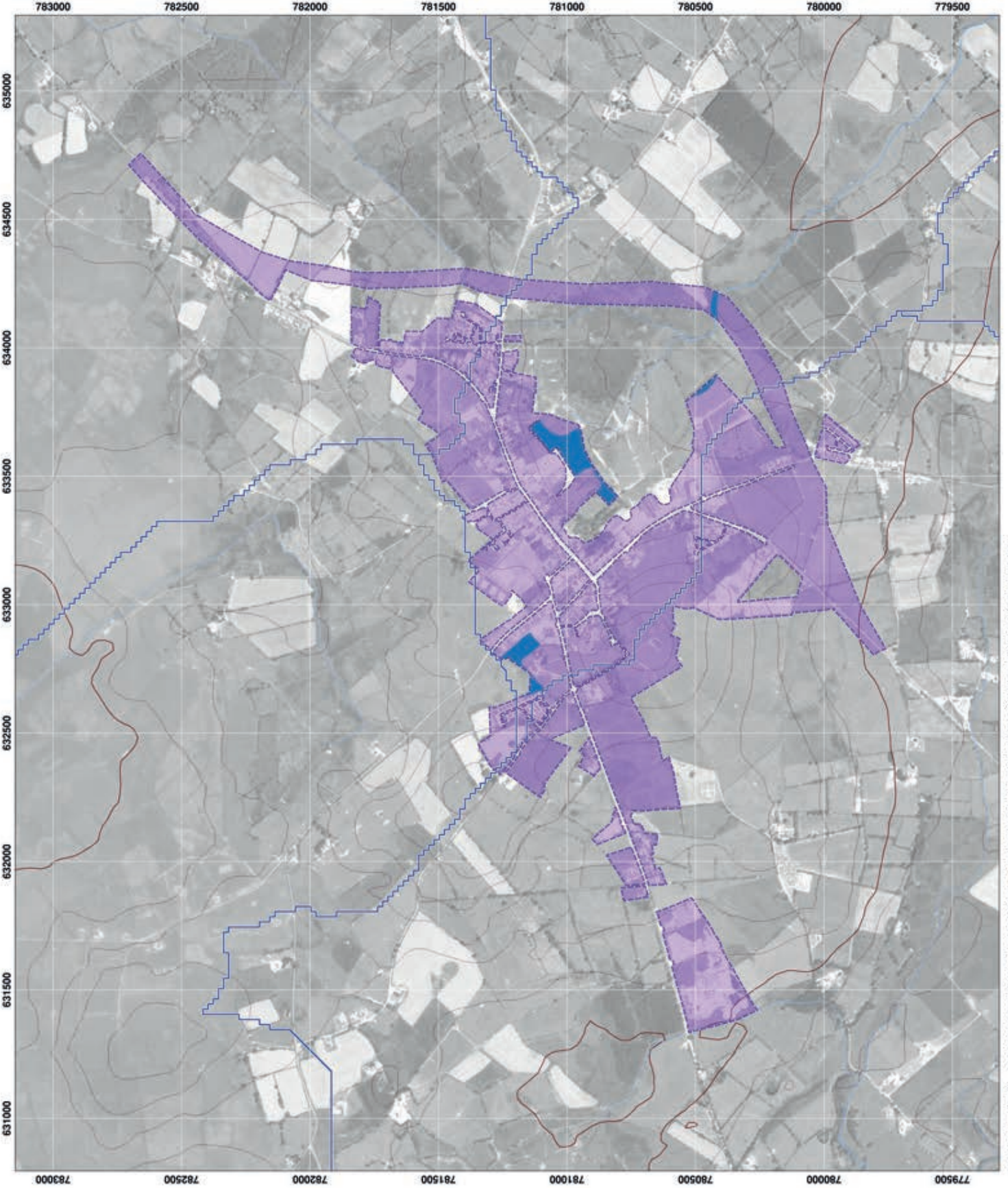
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














Granard Flood Zones

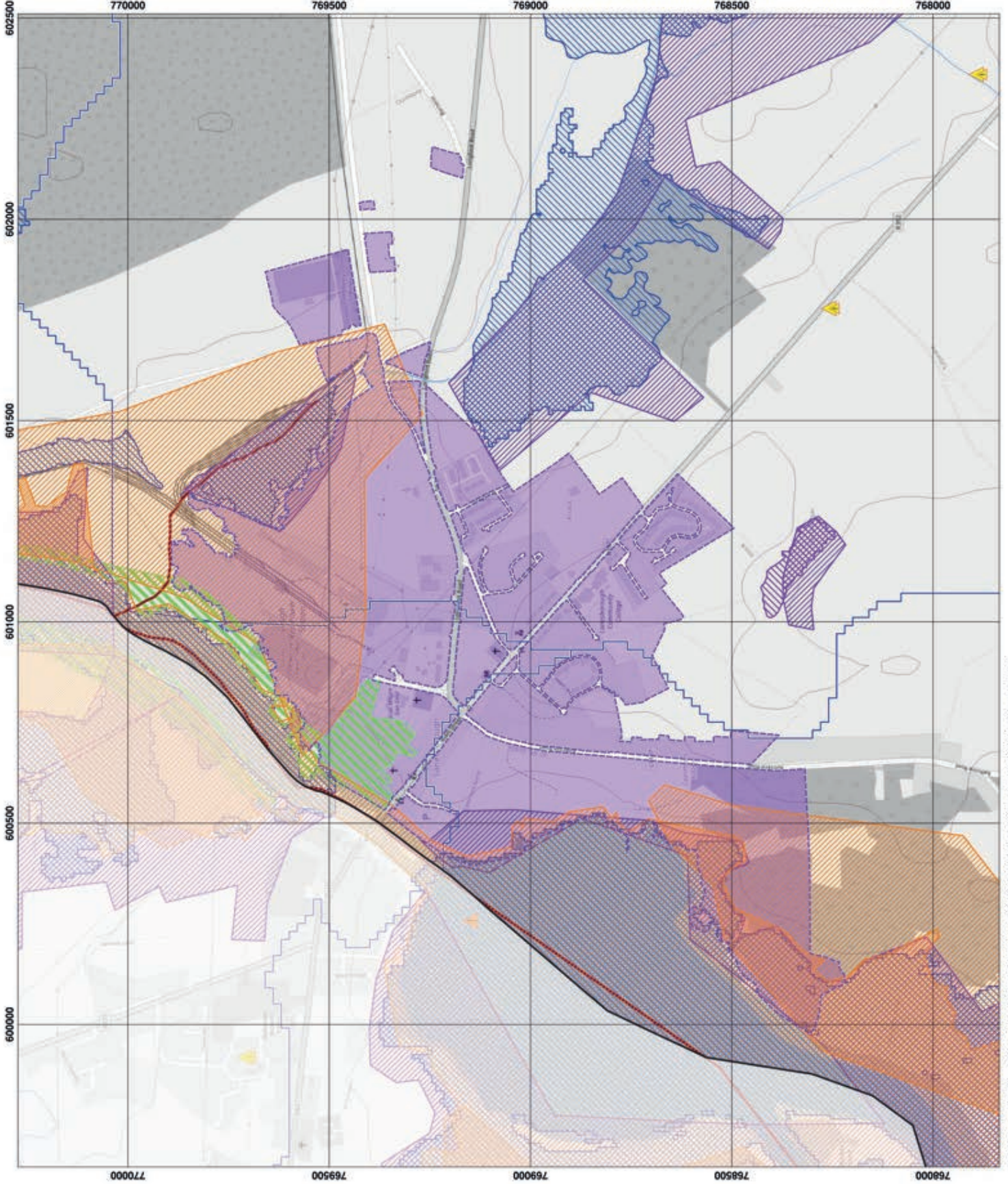
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Longford CDP 2021-2027














Lanesborough Historical Indicators

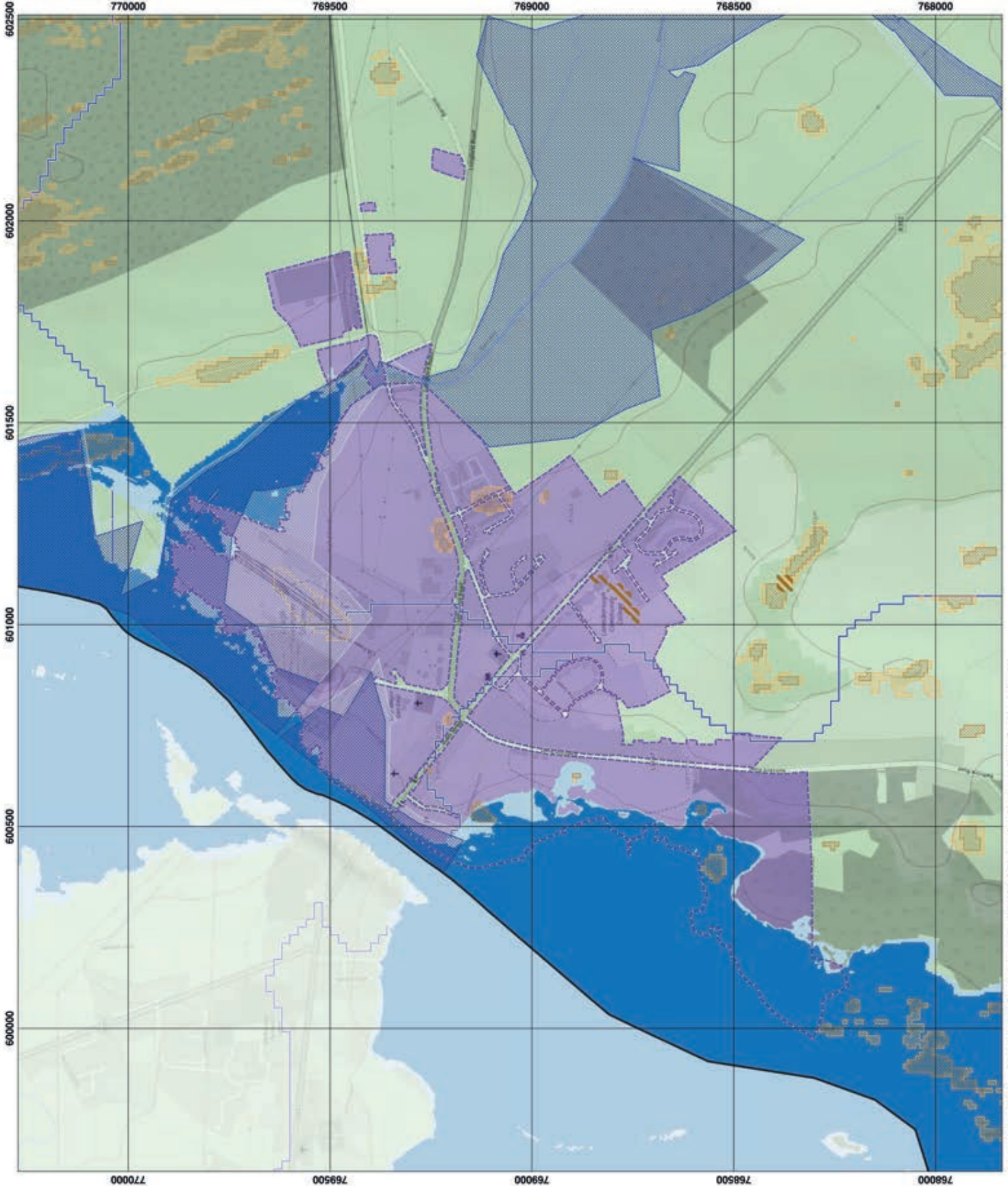
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Longford CDP 2021-2027











Lanesborough Predictive Indicators

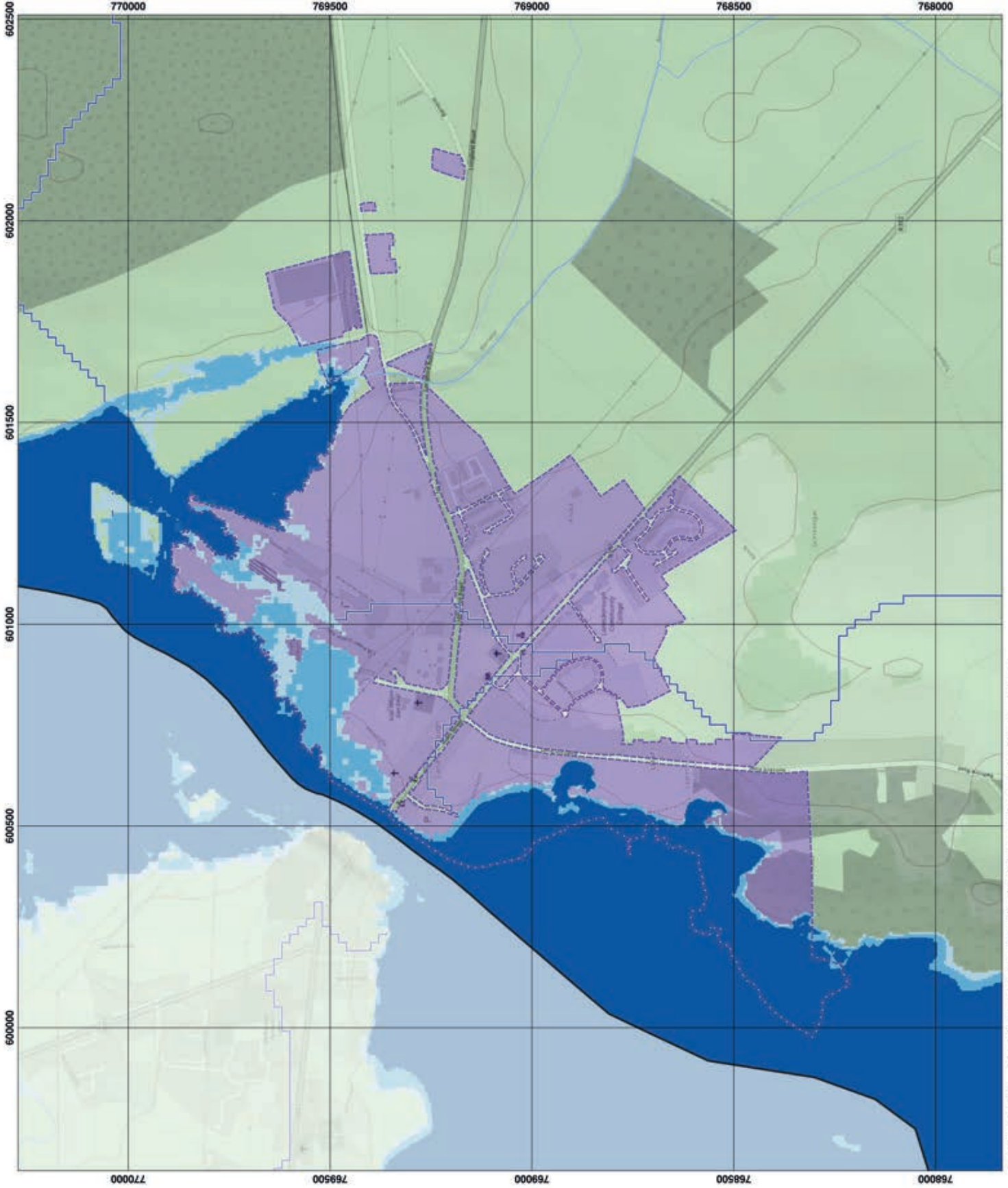
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Longford CDP 2021-2027







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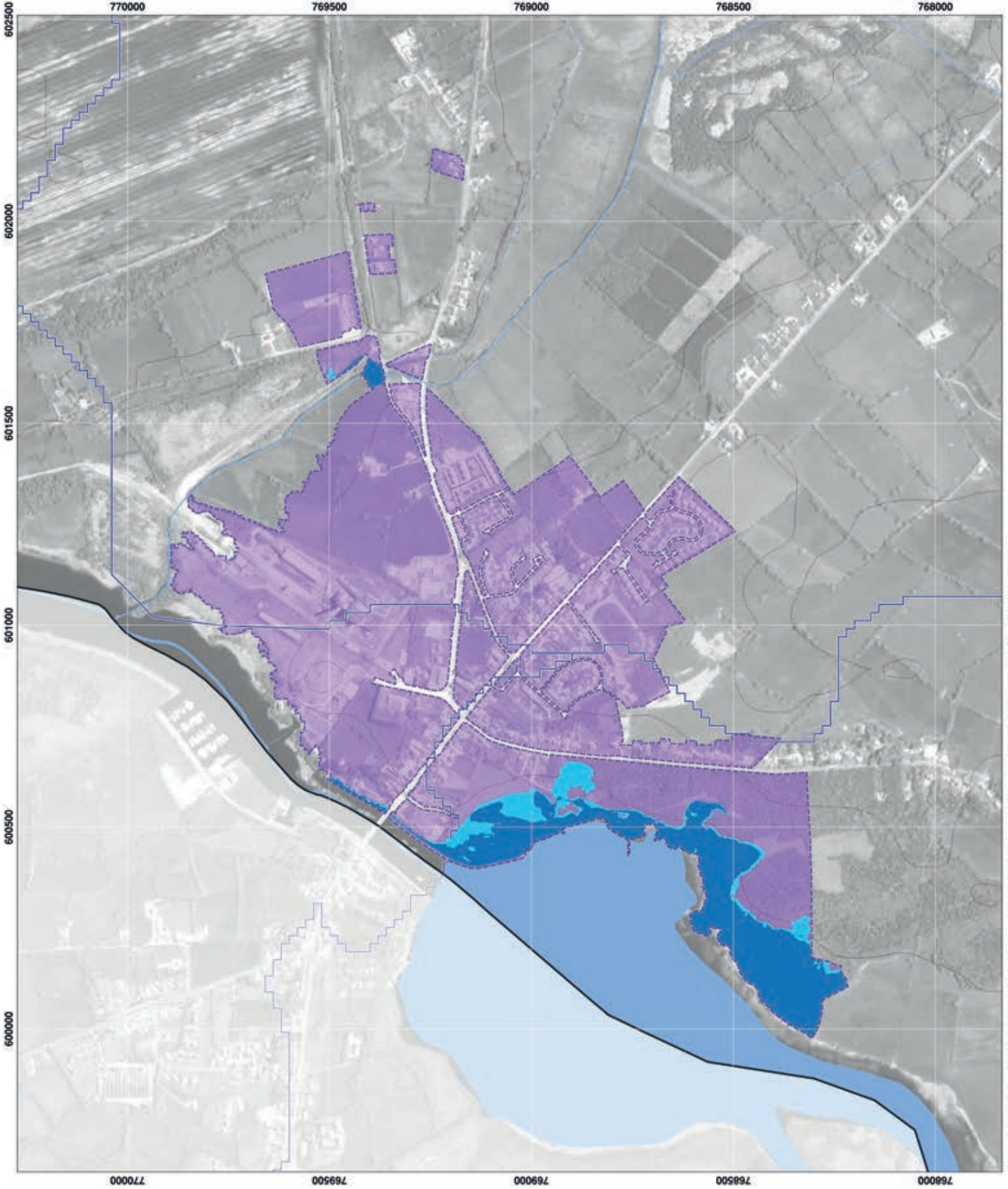
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Longford CDP 2021-2027






















Lanesborough Flood Zones

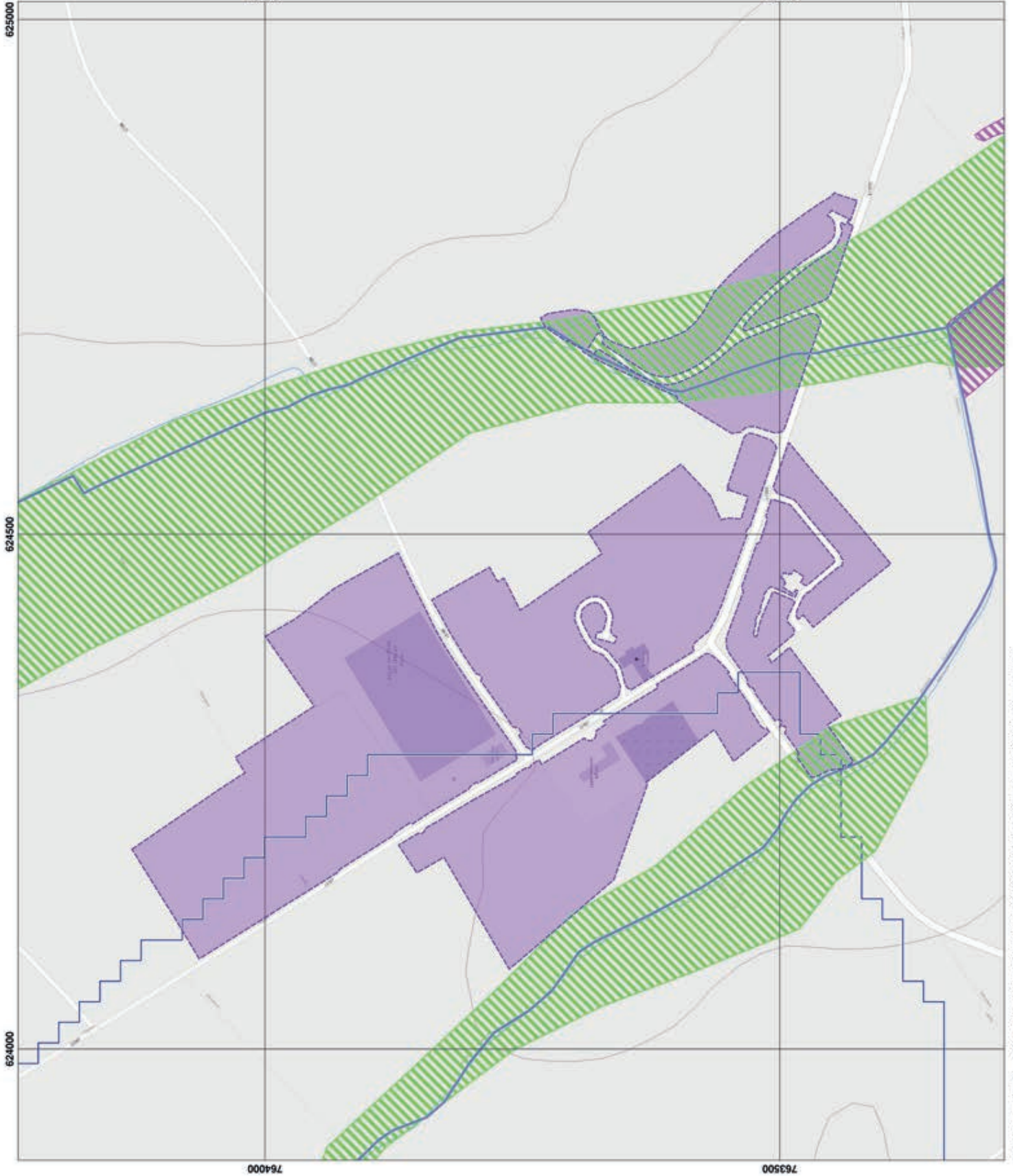
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Longford CDP 2021-2027














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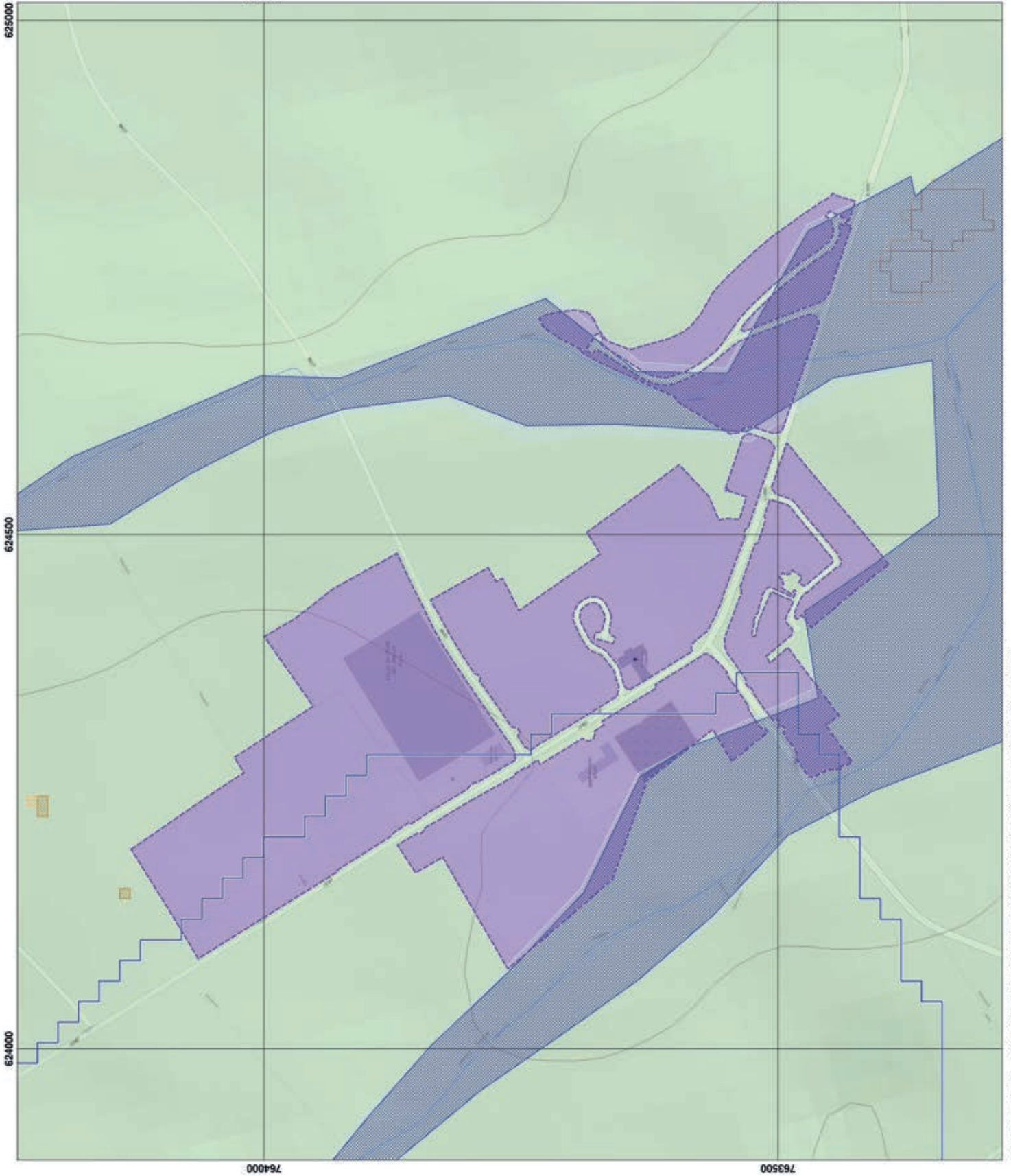
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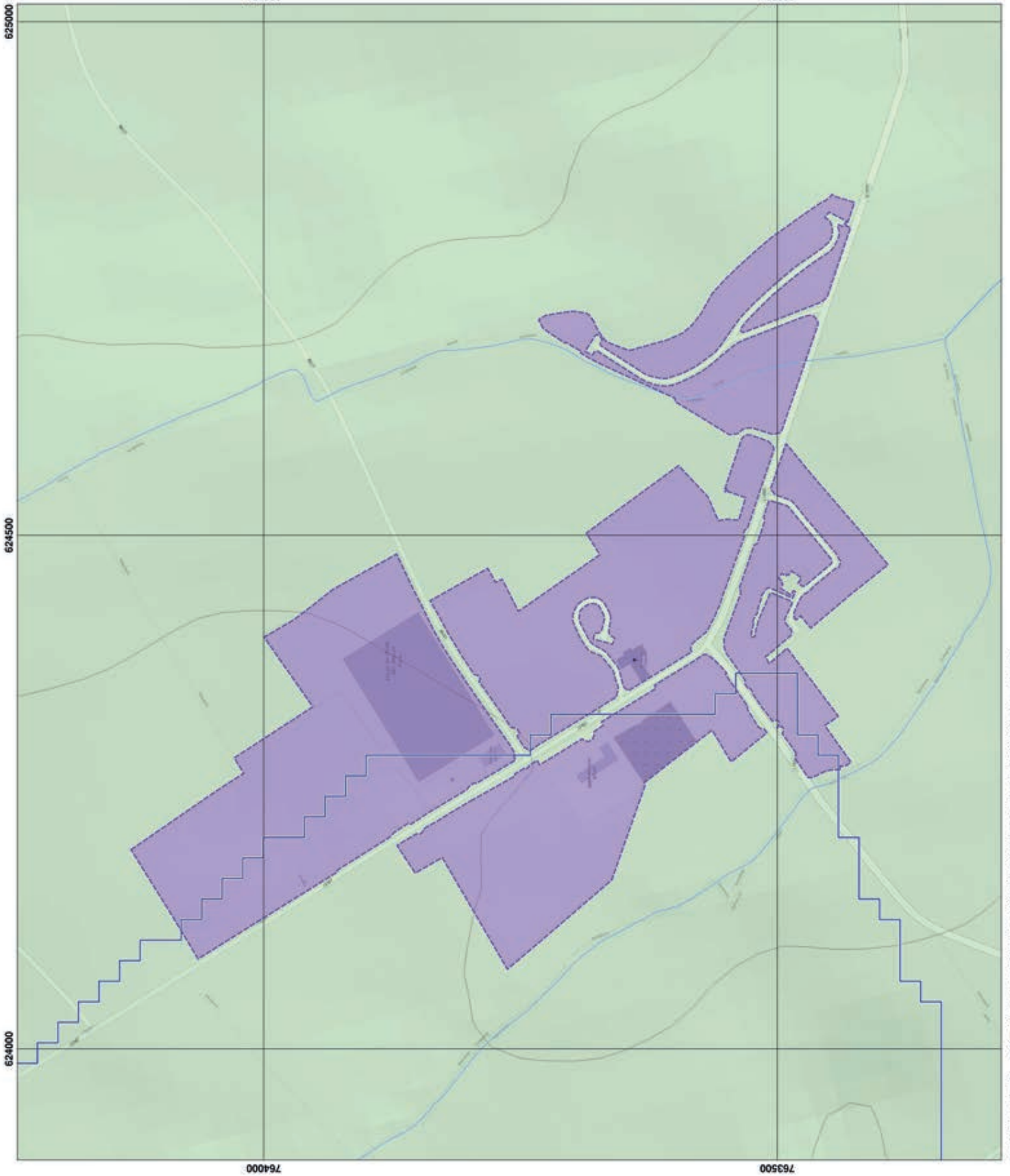
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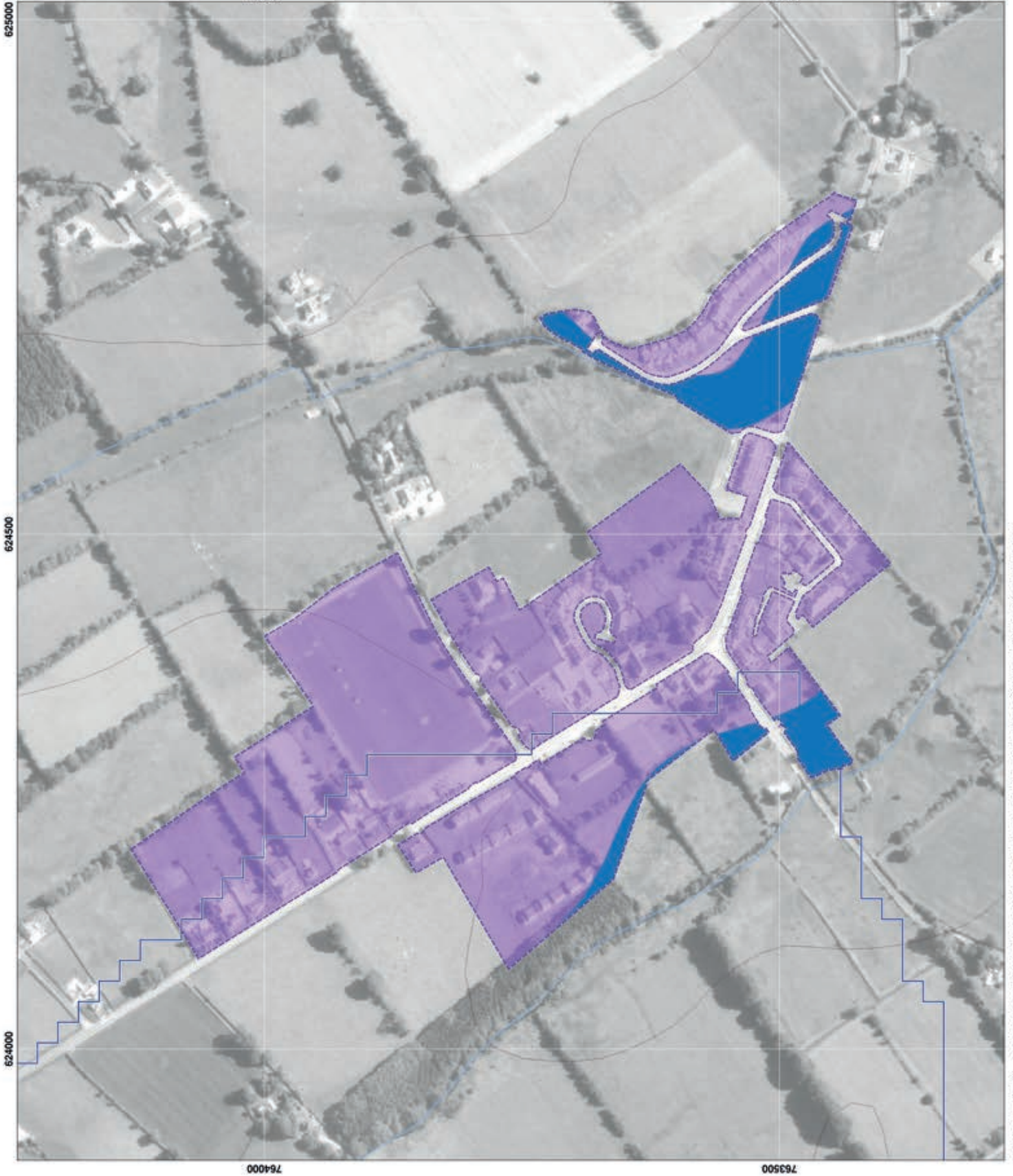
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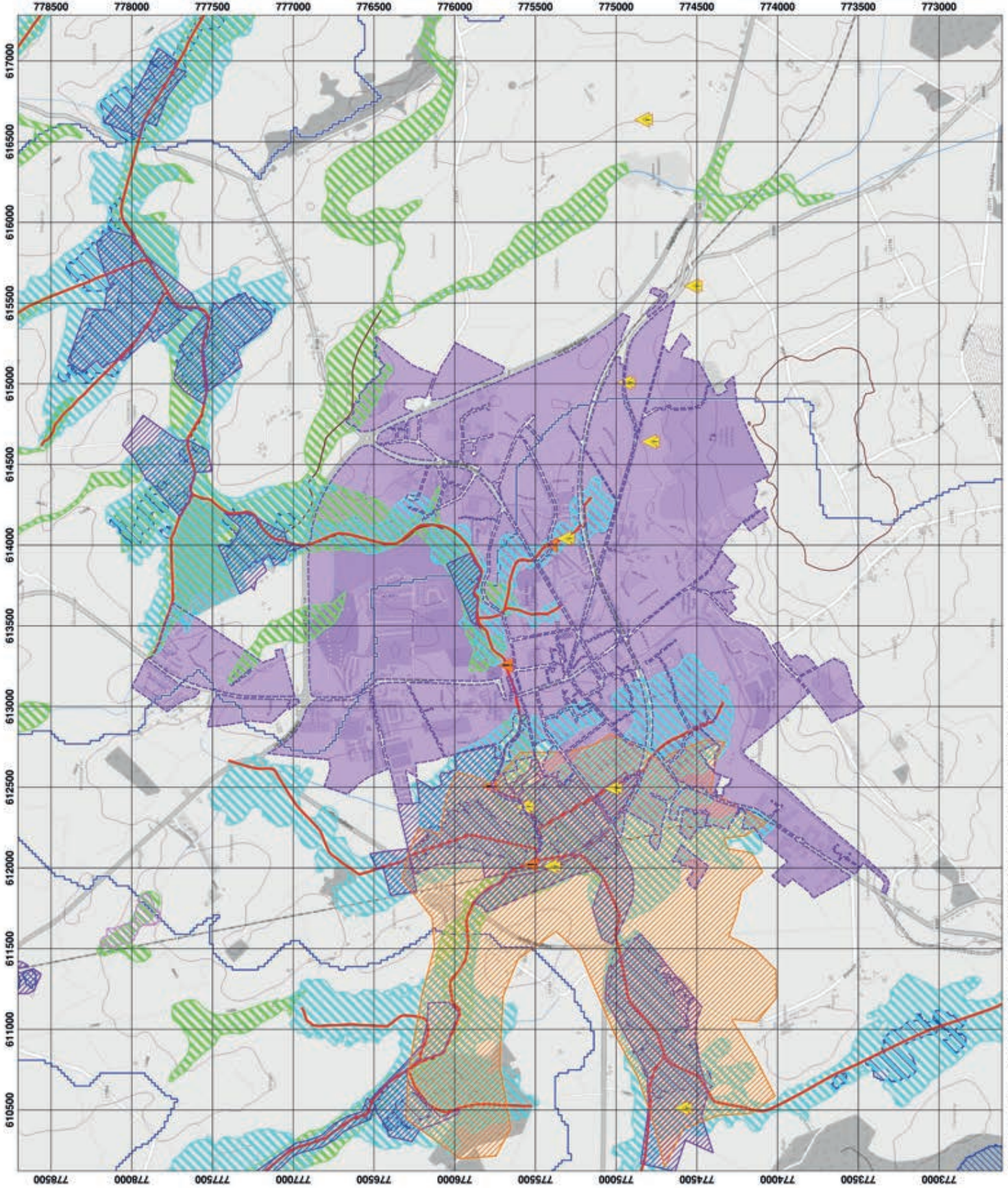
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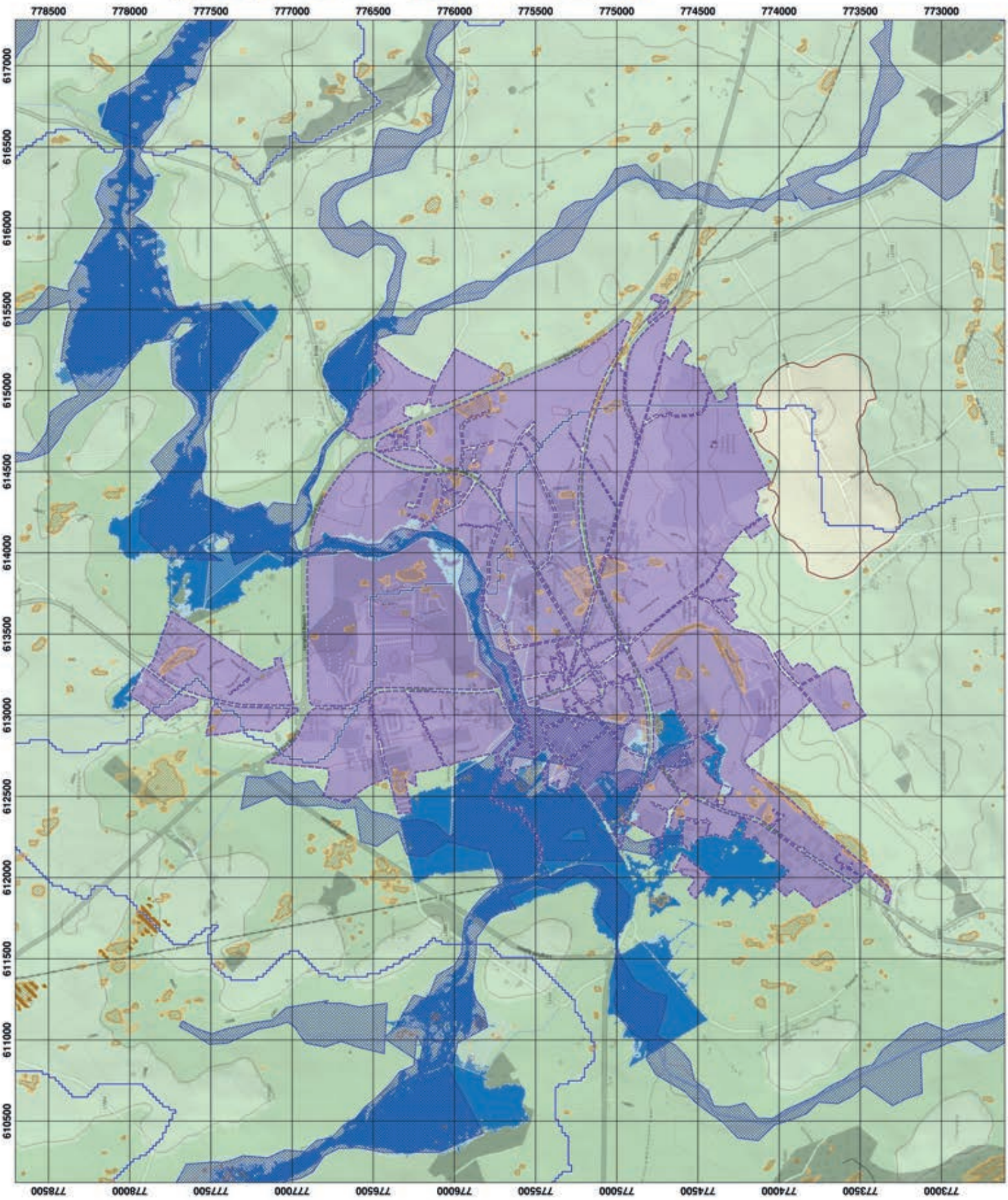
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Longford CDP 2021-2027

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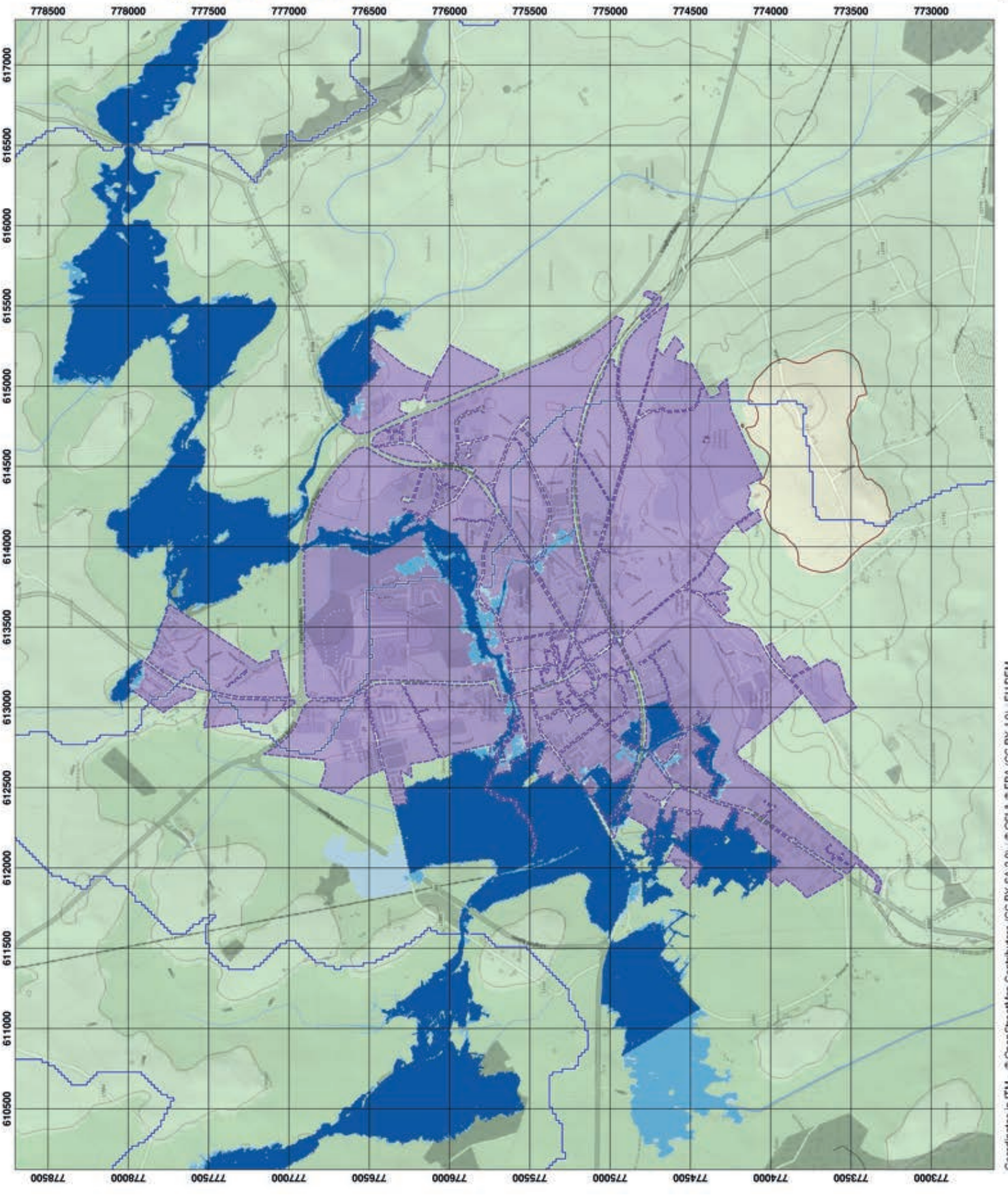
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Longford CDP 2021-2027

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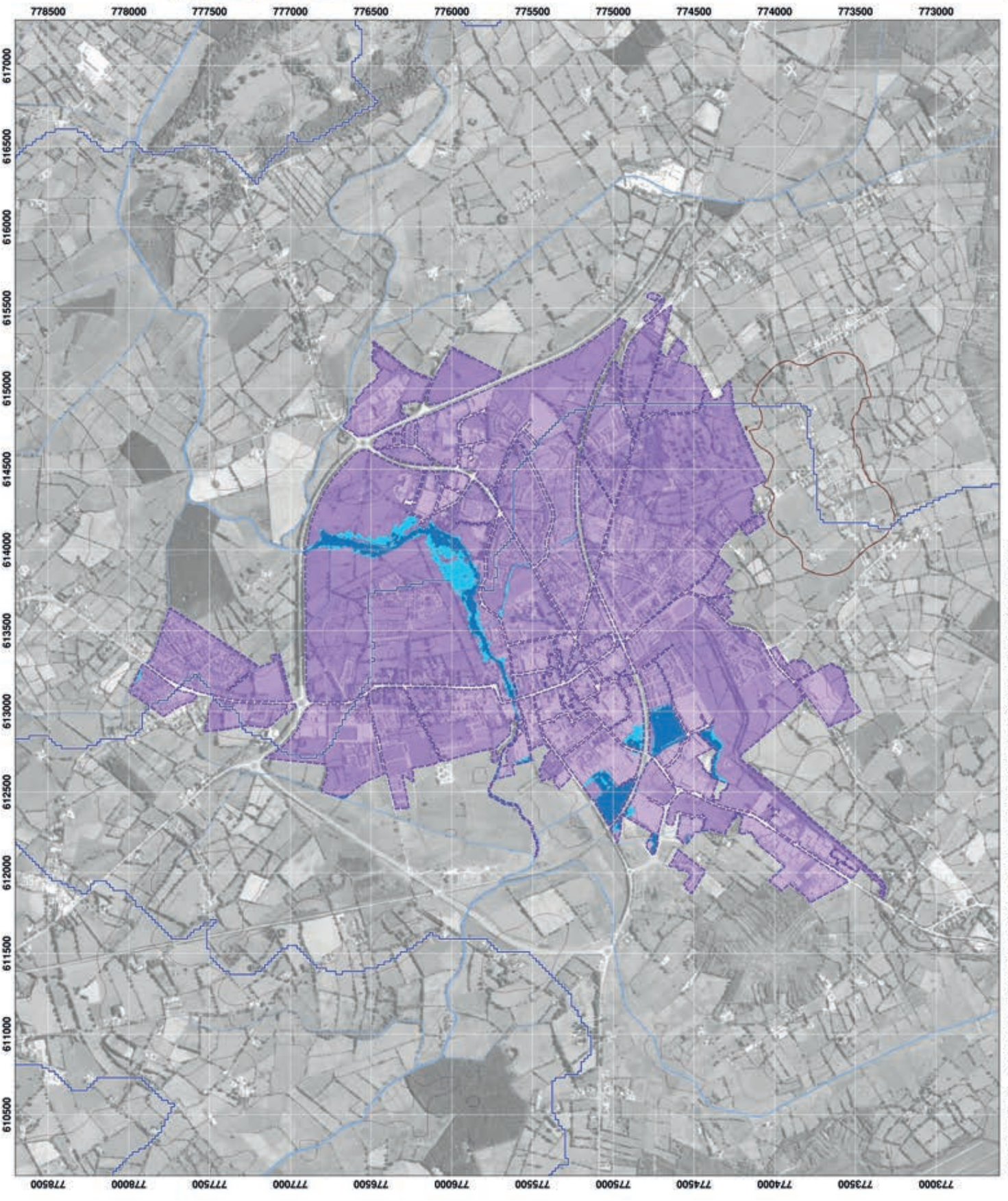
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Longford CDP 2021-2027






















Longford Town Flood Zones

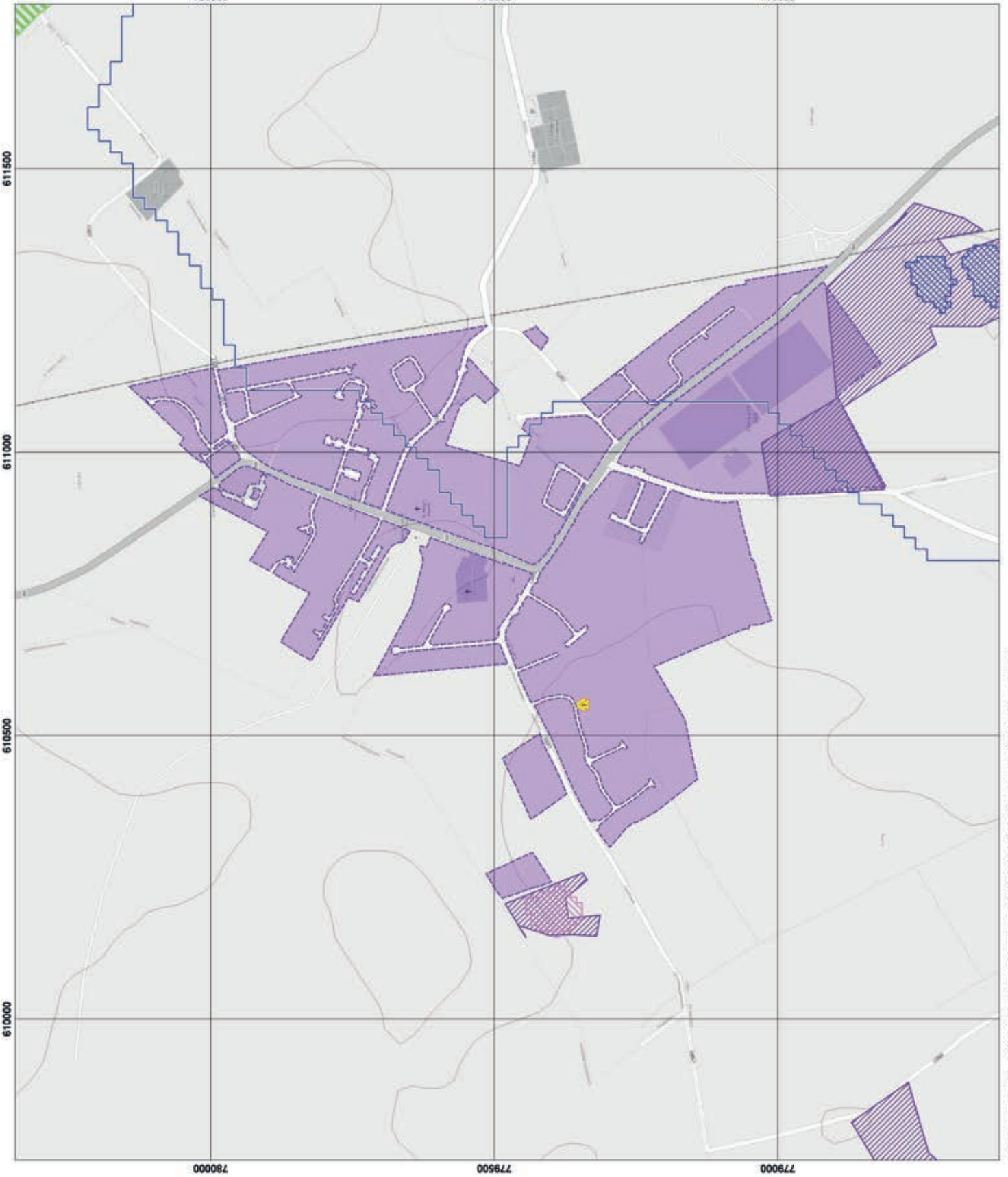
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Newtownforbes Historical Indicators

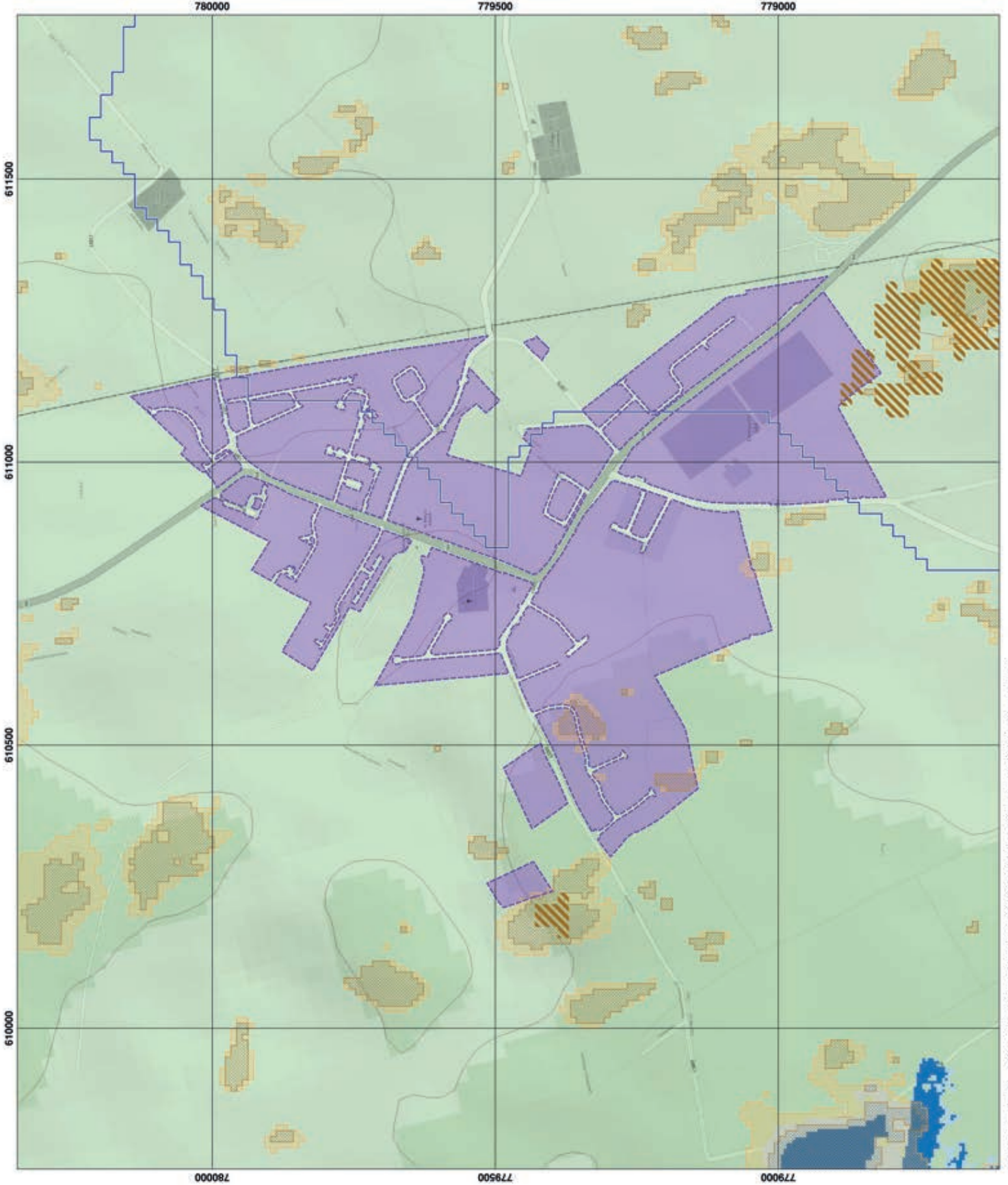
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Longford CDP 2021-2027

Newtownforbes Predictive Indicators

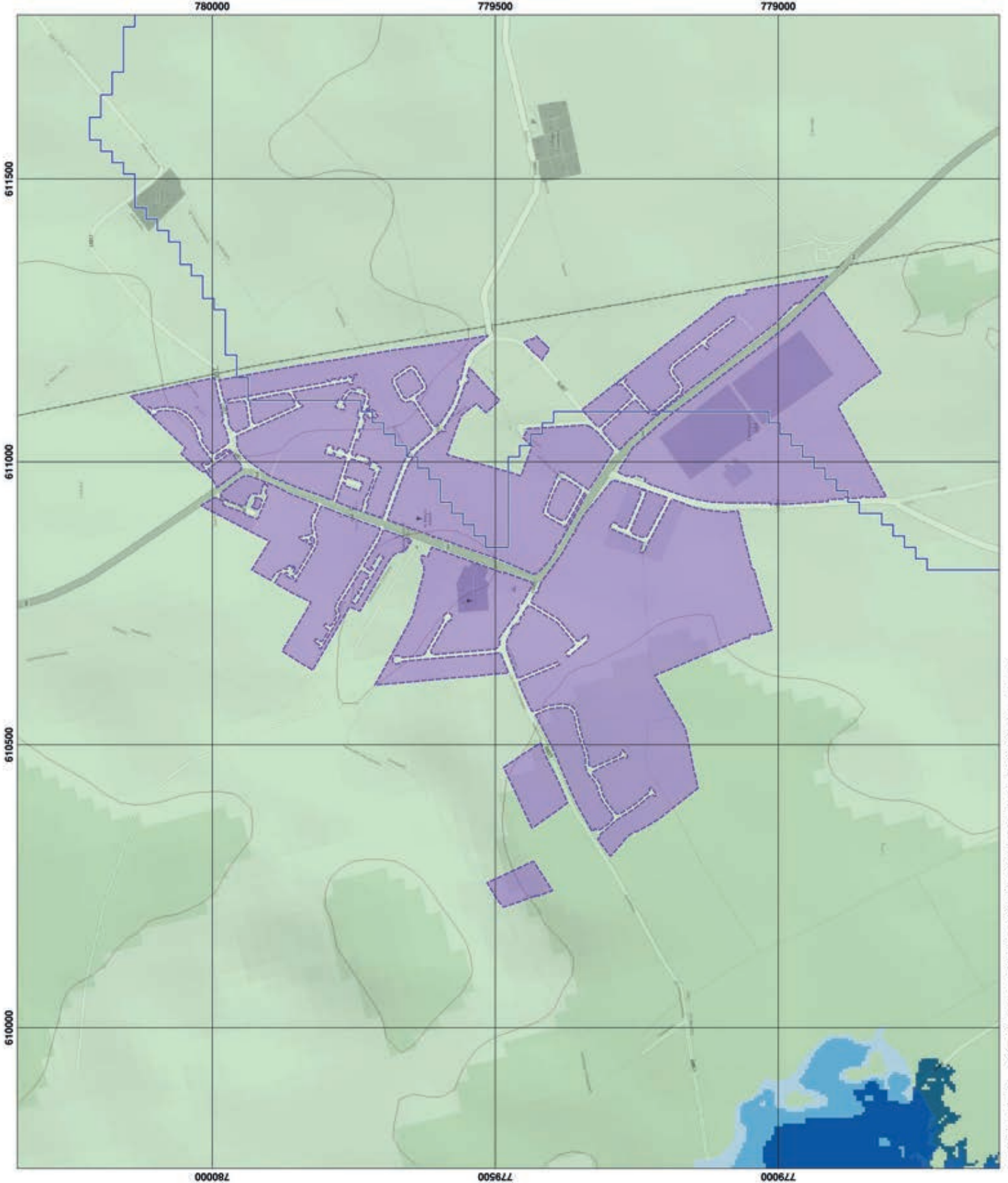
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Longford CDP 2021-2027

Newtownforbes CFRAM All Scenarios

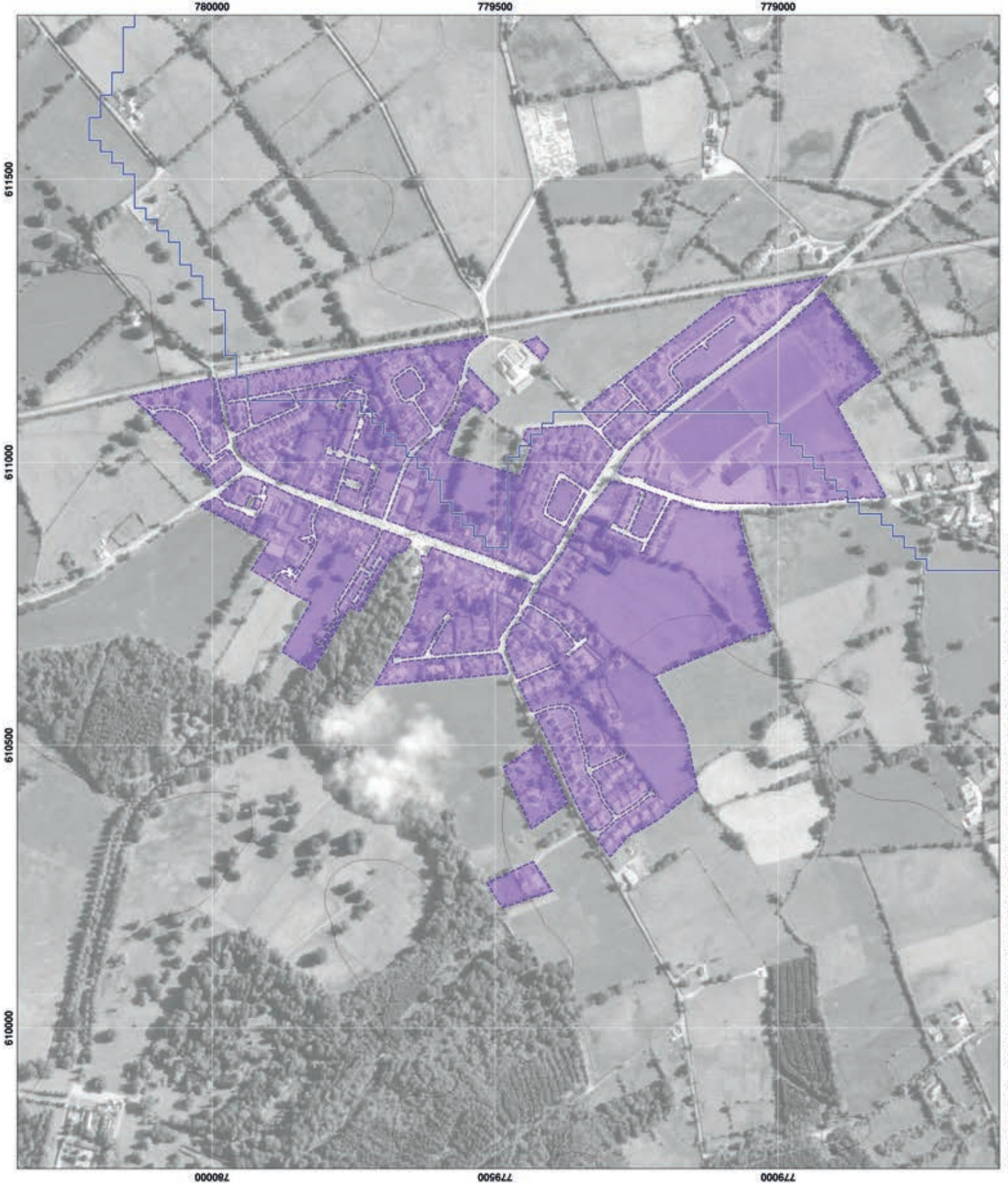
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Longford CDP 2021-2027

Newtownforbes Flood Zones

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This report was created using



Consolidated Natura Impact Report



CONSOLIDATED NATURA IMPACT REPORT

IN SUPPORT OF THE **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR THE

LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

for: Longford County Council

Great Water Street
Longford
County Longford



by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin



OCTOBER 2021

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This consolidated Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive") and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan.

In carrying out AA and in preparing this consolidated NIR, the Council takes into account the matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the following:

- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan (an earlier version of this consolidated document);
- The Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents.

This document should be considered alongside all other documentation relating to the matters above.

An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adaption that will include the final AA determination expected to be made at adoption.

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when Longford County Council finalises the AA at adoption of the Plan.

1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European Sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites).

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European Site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

1.3 Approach

The Draft Plan was informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report was prepared to accompany it on public display. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited.

¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Submissions received resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan. These alterations were subject to AA. Taking into account the measures that were integrated into the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations it was determined that the Proposed Material Alterations are not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects².

In September 2021, the Chief Executive made Recommendations that may or may not be adopted as part of the Plan. Subsequently, Members proposed further modifications. None of the Chief Executive's Recommendations or Members' further modifications would introduce additional sources for effects that are not already provided for by the Plan through related and/or overarching provisions and they incorporate a number of relatively minor modifications that would not affect the integrity of any European site. It is concluded that, taking into account the measures that were integrated into the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations, the Recommendations or Members' further modifications are not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects³.

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature⁴ was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of the Plan comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary with identification of potential pathway links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15 km from the Plan boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European Sites with identification of potential pathways from the Plan area; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

There are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

Stage One: Screening

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European Site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European Sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European Site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European Sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European Sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for

² Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

⁴ Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.

imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor⁵ model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European Site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Plan.

The AA exercise has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002; and
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000.
- Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

This evaluation has been made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

⁵ Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

Section 2 Description of the Plan⁶

The Longford County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Longford over the six-year period 2021-2027. Not later than four years after the adoption of the Plan, the Council is required to review it and commence the preparation of a new Plan. It is a policy objective of the Council to prepare a Local Area Plan for Longford Town. The Plan includes a Written Statement, that provides the development policies, Core Strategy and mandatory and discretionary objectives for different policy areas addressed by the Development Plan. The Written Statement is divided into 16 separate chapters setting out various policies and objectives under the headings of:

- Chapter 1: Introduction and Strategic Context
- Chapter 2: County Profile
- Chapter 3: Climate Change
- Chapter 4: Core, Settlement and Housing Strategies
- Chapter 5: Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications
- Chapter 6: Regeneration
- Chapter 7: Placemaking
- Chapter 8: Economic Development
- Chapter 9: Rural Economy
- Chapter 10: Tourism
- Chapter 11: Built and Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 12: Natural Heritage and Environment
- Chapter 13: Green Infrastructure
- Chapter 14: Landscape Character
- Chapter 15: Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation
- Chapter 16: Development Management Standards

The Plan includes, at Appendix I, Land Use Zoning for Longford Town, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard, Lanesborough, Aughnaccliffe, Ballinalee, Drumlish, Keenagh, Legan, Newtownforbes, Abbeyshrule, Ardagh, Ballinamuck and Clondra. For full detail on zonings and settlement provisions please refer to the main Plan document. The Plan also includes development envelopes for 27 Rural Settlement Clusters.

The Vision of the Plan is: 'to set out a framework for the sustainable physical development of the County, ensuring the conservation and protection of the built and natural environment, while providing in an equitable manner for all our people within the County'. As such the Plan provides for an overall strategy for the social, economic, cultural and physical development of the County. In order to achieve this, the Plan aims to:

1. Implement relevant national and regional development policy provisions at a County level;
2. Strengthen and develop the economic, social and cultural life of the county in a way that can be sustained to safeguard the quality of life for future generations;
3. Provide a development framework which defines acceptable forms of development and appropriate locations.

The Plan identifies the following eight Core Strategy Strategic Aims:

- Aim 1: To provide a framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Longford over the plan period.
- Aim 2: To demonstrate that the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional policy objectives set out in the National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and other national guidelines and policies.
- Aim 3: To identify the appropriate quantum, location and phasing of development considered necessary to provide for future population growth over the plan period in accordance with National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.
- Aim 4: To provide alignment and integration between strategic planning and settlement policy and the prioritisation of physical infrastructure investment.
- Aim 5: To secure future growth opportunities within County Longford through optimising the County's economic, social and physical development.

⁶ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all alterations and any September 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations included in Section 5 "Mitigation Measures" in this report; any other further modification considered by the AA process; and any other September 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations.

- Aim 6: To coordinate the development of land identified in this Core Strategy in a manner that supports public transport and existing services and to prioritise sequential development of settlements, including the development of infill and brownfield lands.
- Aim 7: To provide a framework for determining the scale, phasing and location of new development having regard to existing services and planned infrastructural investment over the coming years.
- Aim 8: To provide a framework within which the provision of sustainable infrastructure, amenities, economic investment and development can take place to maximise the use of resources in the plan area.

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant effects to European Sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “conservation objectives”, “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/ or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European Sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European Site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- For SACs, 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; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat⁷ or species⁸ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered however, given the presence of potentially significant hydrological⁹/hydrogeological links, this assessment considers sites beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European Sites are provided in Table 3.1. European Sites and Rivers and Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3.1. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) or Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Northern Ireland documents:

- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [IE0000007] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [IE0000216] Version 6.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SAC [IE0000440] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Fortwilliam Turlough SAC [IE0000448] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Ballinturly Turlough SAC [IE0000588] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lisduff Turlough SAC [IE0000609] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Croan Turlough SAC [IE0000610] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Funshinagh SAC [IE0000611] Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives for Garriskil Bog SAC [IE0000679] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Owel SAC [IE0000688] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Scragh Bog SAC [IE0000692] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Castlesampson Esker SAC [IE0001625] Version 6.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ “Hydrological” includes both surface and groundwater processes, which have been shown to be important in the context of more recent scientific research on active raised bog habitat, an Annex I priority habitat which is within a number of raised bog SAC sites in Longford. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will contribute towards the protection of both surface and groundwater processes – these are identified in Section 5 Mitigation.

- (2019) Conservation Objectives for Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [IE0001626] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC [IE0001810] Version 6.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Forbes Complex SAC [IE0001818] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC [IE0002120] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Lene SAC [IE0002121] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Derragh Bog SAC [IE0002201] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Mount Jessop Bog SAC [IE0002202] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Ballymore Fen SAC [IE0002313] Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives for Carn Park Bog SAC [IE0002336] Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Crosswood Bog SAC [IE0002337] Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC [IE0002339] Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Moneybeg And Clareisland Bogs SAC [IE0002340] Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives for Ardagullion Bog SAC [IE0002341] Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Brown Bog SAC [IE0002346] Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives for Clooneen Bog SAC [IE0002348] Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives for Corbo Bog SAC [IE0002349] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derravaragh SPA [IE0004043] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Glen Lough SPA [IE0004045] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Iron SPA [IE0004046] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Owel SPA [IE0004047] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Oughter SPA [IE0004049] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA [IE0004061] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SPA [IE0004064] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Sheelin SPA [IE0004065] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Middle Shannon Callows SPA [IE0004096] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for River Suck Callows SPA [IE0004097] Version 6.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA [IE0004101] Version 6.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives for Garriskil Bog SPA [IE0004102] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Croan Turlough SPA [IE0004139] Version 6.
- (2012) Conservation Objectives for Donegal Bay SPA [IE0004151] Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA [IE0004058] Version 6.
- (2012) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA [IE0004077] Version 1.
- (2012) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC [IE0002241] Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives for Upper Lough Erne SAC [UK0016614] Version 2.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives for Upper Lough Erne SPA [UK9020071] Version 3.

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the Plan against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

Sites downstream and beyond 15 km are considered by the AA, namely:

- Donegal Bay SPA
- Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA
- Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC
- Lower River Shannon SAC
- Upper Lough Erne SPA
- Upper Lough Erne SAC

With regard to SPAs within, within 15km of and downstream of the County, provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will protect these sites from the full range of potential effects. Other SPAs would not be impacted upon due to distances involved.

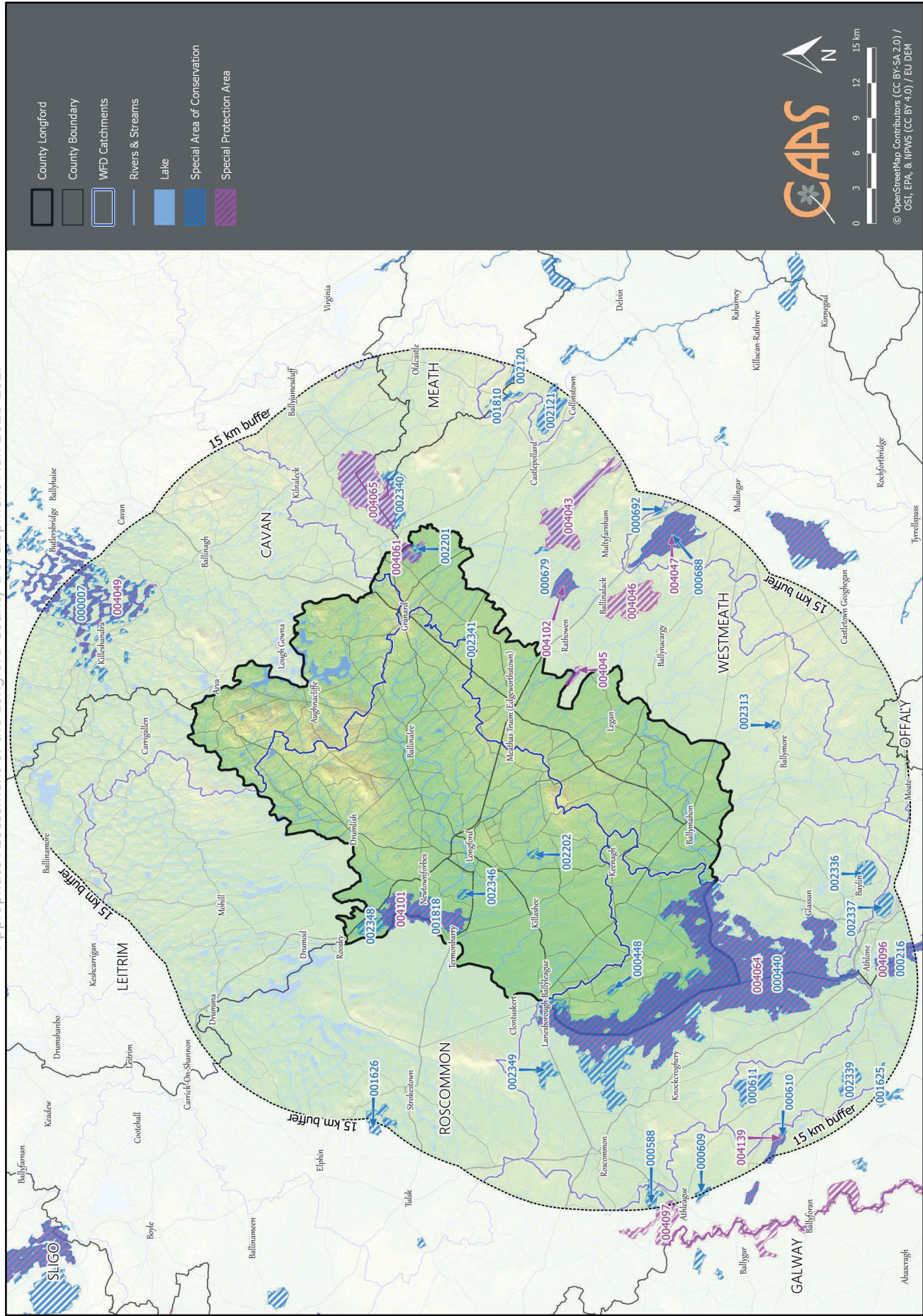


Figure 3.1 Sites and Rivers and Catchments within 15km of County Longford

CAAS for Longford County Council

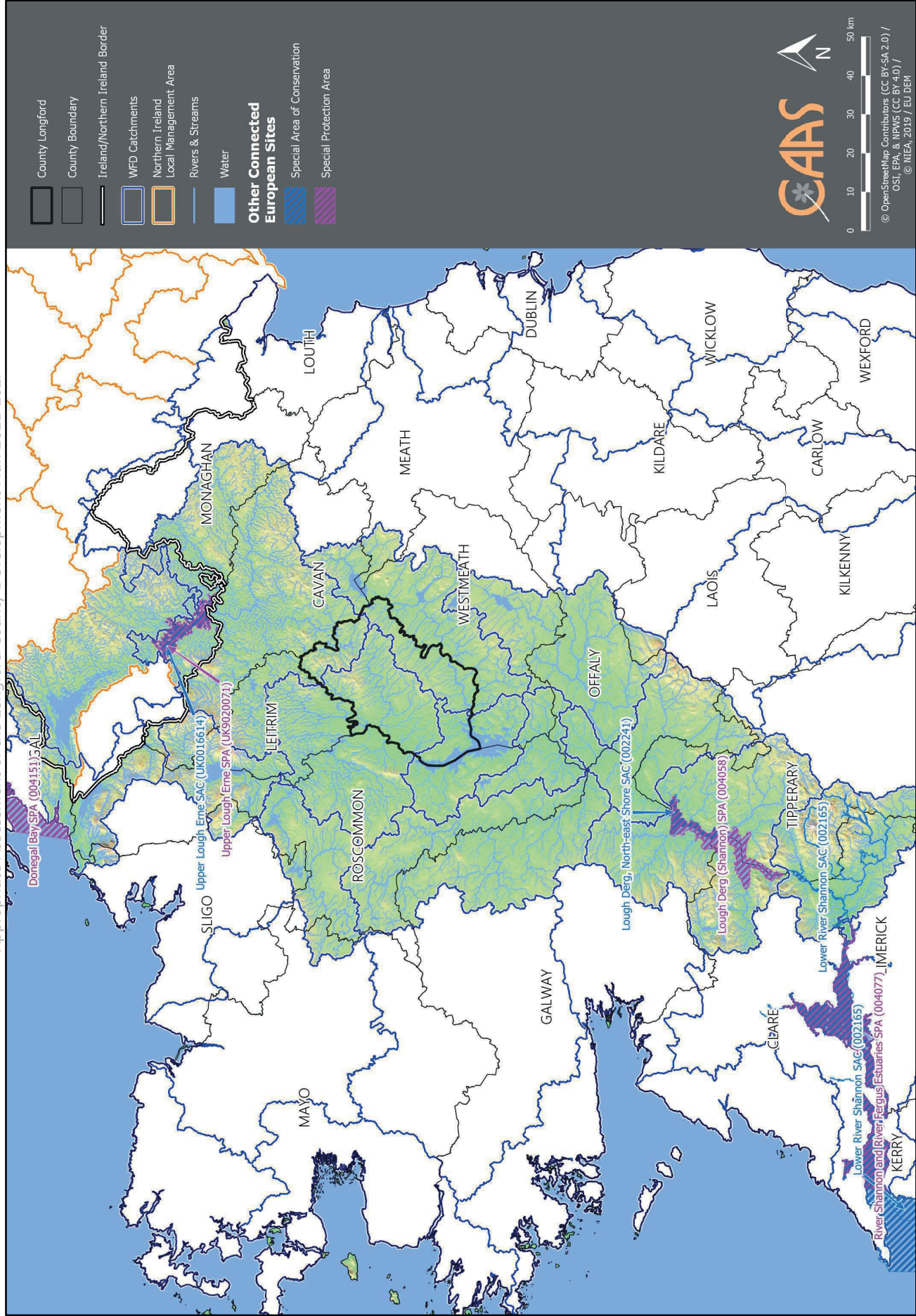


Figure 3.2 Sites beyond 15 km of County Longford with hydrological pathways to the County

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

3.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

The overarching objective of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of County Longford. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites.

3.3.2 Elements of the Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Longford area. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as transport, urbanisation including residential and economic development, streetscape works, community facilities, utilities, natural resource, climate action, tourism and recreation development that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and/habitat fragmentation.

The elements of the Plan with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are generally associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the Plan. The operational phase elements of the Plan are generally consistent with the existing condition of the area; however, these will also need to be carefully considered. All policies and objectives are considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological integrity of each of the European Sites identified. The assessment considers the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified, potential effects are assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European Sites considering information provided above, including Appendix I. Sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- The existence of potential for pathways for significant effects, such as hydrological links, Plan proposals and the site to be screened;
- The distance of the relevant site from the County boundary; and
- The existence of a link between identified threats or vulnerabilities at a site to potential impacts that may arise from the Plan.

Table 3.1 Screening of European Sites

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000440	Lough Ree SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Limestone pavements [8240], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Bog woodland [91D0], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Alkaline fens [7230], Lutra lutra [1355], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000448	Fortwilliam Turlough SAC	Within	Turloughs [3180]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	Within	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002346	Brown Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	Within	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Bog woodland [91D0], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004045	Glen Lough SPA	Within	Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	Within	Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061], Pocharard (Aythya ferina) [A059], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004064	Lough Ree SPA	Within	Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Little Grebe	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes

Appropriate Assessment of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	Within	(Tachybaptus ruficollis) [A004], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067], Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056] Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	1.52	Pocharard (Aythya ferina) [A059], Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002349	Corbo Bog SAC	3.22	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	This site is designated for terrestrial peatland habitats, which are sensitive to direct land use management actions such as cultivation practices and fire management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC and there are no hydrological pathways between the Plan boundary and the European site. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000679	Garriskil Bog SAC	3.89	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	This site is designated for terrestrial peatland habitats, which are sensitive to direct land use management actions such as cultivation practices and fire management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC and there are no hydrological pathways between the Plan boundary and the European site. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004046	Lough Iron SPA	3.91	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004102	Garriskil Bog SPA	3.96	Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002313	Ballymore Fen SAC	4.01	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	This site is designated for terrestrial peatland habitats, which are sensitive to direct land use management actions such as cultivation practices and fire management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC and there are no hydrological pathways between the Plan boundary and the European site. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002340	Moneybeg and Claisland Bogs SAC	4.62	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	This site is designated for terrestrial peatland habitats, which are sensitive to direct land use management actions such as cultivation practices and fire management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC and there are no hydrological pathways between the Plan boundary and the European site. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	6.24	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Pocharard (Aythya ferina) [A059], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	6.56	Bog woodland [91D0], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Lutra lutra [1355]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to	Yes	Yes

Appropriate Assessment of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000611	Lough Funshinagh SAC	7.75	Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidenton</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000688	Lough Owel SAC	8.42	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140], <i>Austrotamobius pallipes</i> [1092], Alkaline fens [7230], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004047	Lough Owel SPA	8.42	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	9.04	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC	10.52	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140], <i>Austrotamobius pallipes</i> [1092]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002121	Lough Lene SAC	11.05	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140], <i>Austrotamobius pallipes</i> [1092]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002339	Ballynamona Bog and Corklip Lough SAC	11.44	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Bog woodland [91D0], Turloughs [3180]	This site is designated for terrestrial peatland habitats, which are sensitive to direct land use management actions such as cultivation practices and fire management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC and there are no hydrological pathways between the Plan boundary and the European site. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002336	Carr Park Bog SAC	11.57	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	This site is designated for terrestrial peatland habitats, which are sensitive to direct land use management actions such as cultivation practices and fire management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC and there are no hydrological pathways between the Plan boundary and the European site. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	11.73	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510], Limestone pavements [8240], <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004036	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	11.73	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>) [A122], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142],	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000588	Ballinturlough SAC	12.54	Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Turloughs [3180]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002337	Crosswood Bog SAC	12.73	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	This site is designated for terrestrial peatland habitats, which are sensitive to direct land use management actions such as cultivation practices and fire management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC and there are no hydrological pathways between the Plan boundary and the European site. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000692	Scragh Bog SAC	13.09	<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> [1393], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Alkaline fens [7230]	This site is designated for terrestrial peatland habitats, which are sensitive to direct land use management actions such as cultivation practices and fire management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC and there are no hydrological pathways between the Plan boundary and the European site. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002120	Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC	13.15	<i>Austrotamobius pallipes</i> [1092], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004139	Lough Croan Turlough SPA	13.16	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000610	Lough Croan Turlough SAC	13.18	Turloughs [3180]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	13.27	<i>Vertigo geyeri</i> [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
001625	Castlesampson Esker SAC	13.47	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Turloughs [3180]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	14.63	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Turloughs [3180]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000609	Lisduff Turlough SAC	14.66		The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	Beyond 15km	Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Beyond 15km	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Beyond 15km	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus idbundus</i>) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002241	Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC	Beyond 15km	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alhion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91EO], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Limestone pavements [8240]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Beyond 15km	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Coastal lagoons [1150], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Reefs [1170], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355], <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106], <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029], <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099], Estuaries [1130], Turslops	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SPA	Beyond 15km	truncatus [1349], vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SAC	Beyond 15km	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is hydrologically connected with the County and as recreation/tourism at this site could increase given proximity to County Longford recreation/tourism areas, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes

3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European Sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European Sites such as the Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy, Longford LECP 2016-2022, Land Use Plans including those in force in County Longford and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities including development plans for the adjoining Counties, Longford Tourism Strategy 2017-2022, Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023, Longford Heritage Plan 2019-2024 and Longford Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.

All projects within the Plan area and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tier projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Plan, it is recognised that the identification of in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level.

Additional information on the relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix II.

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

The effects that could arise from the Plan have been examined in the context of several factors that could potentially affect the integrity of any European Site. On the basis of the findings of this Screening for AA, it is concluded that the Plan:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 38 (no.) European Sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Plan (see Section 4 of this report). An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority is provided at Figure 3.3.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination

under

Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
for the

Emerging Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination has been made by Longford County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 to have significant effects on European sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the likely significant effects on European Sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account (this information will be placed on public display in the Natura Impact Report alongside the emerging Draft Plan). The process of screening for AA began at an early stage in the drafting of the Plan. The screening process assessed whether the emerging Draft Plan had the potential to have significant effects on any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The screening process concluded that an AA of the emerging Draft Plan would be required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated have significant adverse effects on 38 (no.) European sites.

Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as transport, urbanisation including residential and economic development, streetscape works, community facilities, utilities, natural resource, climate action, tourism and recreation development that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and/habitat fragmentation.

Therefore, Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of the Natura Impact Report) is required for the emerging Draft Plan.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have likely significant effect on a European site and therefore an AA is required.

Signatory:



Senior Planner.

Date: 20th August 2020

Figure 3.3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination

Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse impacts on the integrity of the 38 European Sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3.1 for which there is "Potential Pathway for Significant Effects" and/or "Potential for In-Combination Effects"), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European Sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 38 European Sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan. Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 38 European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS and the JNCC websites¹⁰.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts¹¹:

Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.

Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

Extent - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

Duration - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
- Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.

Likelihood – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.

- Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
- Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
- Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

Ecologically Significant Impact - An impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area.

Integrity of a Site - The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been prepared for a number of European Sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes that define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

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

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

¹⁰ Last accessed 19 August 2020 <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-protected-areas>

¹¹ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species that the SAC has been selected.

Generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

Assessment of potential impacts on European Sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for the whole County. Potential effects arising from developments and activities include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution and excessive noise. All 10 sites occurring within or partially within the County have the potential to be impacted.

Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites.

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

The Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2). Potential effects arising from developments and activities include the fragmentation of habitat and or species through, for example, light pollution, habitat loss or removal of stepping stone habitats.

The Plan includes measures to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones, planting of native tree species, management of habitats such as woodlands and minimising inappropriate lighting (for example, CPO12.7, CPO12.10, CPO12.13, CPO12.18 CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO12.27, CPO12.36, CPO12.37, CPO12.38, CPO12.42, CPO12.43, CPO12.49, CPO12.50, CPO12.51, CPO12.52, CPO12.53, CPO12.58 and CPO12.66).

Further to the provisions referred to above, there are provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites.

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

The Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors. Disturbance effects are caused by any activity or development that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of recreation/tourism or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5.

Noise and light will be managed through provisions such as CPO12.75, CPO12.80, CPO12.98, CPO12.99, CPO12.100 and CPO12.101. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for

species. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Plan introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment and trampling. However, the Plan contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Longford (CPO12.1, CPO12.18, CPO12.19, CPO12.30, CPO12.37, CPO12.56, CPO12.58, CPO12.62, A12.6, CPO13.1, CPO13.10 and CPO13.19).

The Plan includes provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (and are detailed further in Section 5). Measures are also included that will help protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities, including those relating to water services infrastructure, protective buffer zones and water quality standards (see below).

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Indicators of conservation value are identified as key ecological resources such as water quality, air quality, habitat quality, population health of ecosystem engineers or 'keystone species' etc. The protection of these resources is a key focus of the Plan including provisions contained within Chapters 12 'Natural Heritage and Environment'. Other chapters such as the Chapter 3 'Climate Change', Chapter 10 'Tourism' and Chapter 13 'Green Infrastructure' also contain provisions for ensuring future developments and forward planning is managed in a sustainable manner.

The Plan contains many robust policies and objectives to ensure the protection of both ground and surface water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependent European Sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European Sites. Plan mitigation relating to water status and the provision of water services includes CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Additionally, the policies provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; such as CPO12.1, CPO12.18 and CPO12.19.

Emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European Sites. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of protecting air quality (for example CPO12.77, CPO12.93, CPO12.111, CPO 3.6, CPO 3.13 and CPO 3.16).

4.3.1.6 Climate change

The Plan includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. CPO 12.14 provides Council policy '*To ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, **emissions (disposal to land, water or air)**, transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects¹².* Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

¹² Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the Plan

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are forest planting on open ground (native trees), artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, invasive non-native species, recreational activities, dispersed habitation, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, flooding and rising precipitations, other point source pollution to surface water.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, forestry, direct land use management, habitat connectivity, flooding, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, grazing in forests or woodland, forestry clearance, mowing or cutting of grassland, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, intensive grazing, trampling, overuse, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, mechanical removal of peat, hunting, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, modifying structures of inland water courses, abandonment or lack of mowing, flooding, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, predation, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, forestry, infrastructure projects, predation, direct land use management, habitat connectivity, flooding, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC, the Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p>
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, grazing in forests or woodland, forestry clearance, mowing or cutting of grassland, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, intensive grazing, trampling, overuse, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, mechanical removal of peat, hunting, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, modifying structures of inland water courses, abandonment or lack of mowing, flooding, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, predation, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, forestry, infrastructure projects, predation, direct land use management, habitat connectivity, flooding, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC, the Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p>
000440	Lough Ree SAC	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are other siltation rate changes, nautical sports, invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, abandonment or lack of mowing, thermal heating of water bodies, leisure fishing, hunting, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, antagonism arising from introduction of species, grazing, fertilisation, dispersed habitation, inundation (natural processes), flooding modifications, wildlife watching, forest and plantation management & use.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, predation, direct land use management, habitat connectivity, flooding, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC, the Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p>

¹³ For qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

¹⁴ Informed by, inter alia, The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019).

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
000448	Fortwilliam Turlough SAC	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are groundwater abstractions for public water supply, wildlife watching, intensive cattle grazing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, groundwater abstractions for agriculture</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, direct land use management and tourism/recreational pressures. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Forestry processes within the country will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are hunting, fertilisation.</p> <p>Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. The SAC is also sensitive to direct land use management actions and drainage/ground water interactions. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are grazing, fertilisation, other human intrusions and disturbances.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, direct land use management and tourism/recreational pressures. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p>
000588	Ballintury Turlough SAC	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are hunting, fertilisation.</p> <p>Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. The SAC is also sensitive to direct land use management actions and drainage/ground water interactions. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are grazing, fertilisation, other human intrusions and disturbances.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, direct land use management and tourism/recreational pressures. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3.</p>
000609	Lisduff Turlough SAC	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are grazing, stock feeding, predator control.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO 12.89, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. The CDP does not introduce any sources for effect in relation to predation risk. However, invasive species include predators such as the American Mink. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000610	Lough Croan Turlough SAC	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are grazing, stock feeding, predator control.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. The CDP does not introduce any sources for effect in relation to predation risk. However, invasive species include predators such as the American Mink. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	<p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. The CDP does not introduce any sources for effect in relation to predation risk. However, invasive species include predators such as the American Mink. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, groundwater abstractions for public water supply, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, abandonment or lack of mowing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, hunting, wildlife watching, leisure fishing, invasive non-native species, non-intensive mowing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, predation, direct land use management, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC, the Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are surface water abstractions for public water supply, removal of hedges and copses or scrub.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Waste water management is provided for in the CDP through policies such as CPO12.88, CPO12.89 and CPO12.90. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are hand cutting of peat, marine and freshwater aquaculture, nautical sports, invasive non-native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, removal of beach materials, grazing, eutrophication (natural), silviculture, forestry, urbanised areas, human habitation, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, discharges, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, fertilisation, leisure fishing, hunting, polderisation, air pollution, air-borne pollutants.</p>
002120	Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC	<p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, agriculture activities not referred to above, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, agriculture activities not referred to above, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing.</p>
002121	Lough Lene SAC	<p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Waste water management is provided for in the CDP through policies such as CPO12.88, CPO12.89 and CPO12.90. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are hand cutting of peat, marine and freshwater aquaculture, nautical sports, invasive non-native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, removal of beach materials, grazing, eutrophication (natural), silviculture, forestry, urbanised areas, human habitation, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, discharges, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, fertilisation, leisure fishing, hunting, polderisation, air pollution, air-borne pollutants.</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
002341	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	<p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, predation, direct land use management, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC. The Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are species composition change (succession), piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, mining and quarrying, forest replanting (native trees), management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, droughts and less precipitations, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, fertilisation, flooding and rising precipitations, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, wildlife watching, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, temperature changes (e.g. Rise of temperature & extremes), intensive grazing, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, eutrophication (natural), problematic native species.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, predation, direct land use management, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC. The Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.</p>
002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC	<p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are drying out, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.</p>
002346	Brown Bog SAC	<p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are drying out, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are mechanical removal of peat, mowing or cutting of grassland, irrigation, non-intensive cattle grazing.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. There are specific measures that focus on the protection of peatland habitats such as CPO12.41, CPO12.42, CPO12.43, CPO12.44, CPO12.45 and CPO12.46. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p>
004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, leisure fishing, hunting, animal breeding, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p>
004045	Glen Lough SPA	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are planting on open ground, fertilisation.</p> <p>Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p>
004046	Lough Iron SPA	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, silviculture, forestry, grazing.</p> <p>Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169.</p>
004047	Lough Owel SPA	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are hunting, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, leisure fishing, fertilisation, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169.</p>
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are hunting, leisure fishing, nautical sports, animal breeding, fertilisation, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	<p>3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, silviculture, forestry, animal breeding, hunting, leisure fishing.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p> <p>3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p>
004064	Lough Ree SPA	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are hunting, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing, grazing, fertilisation, silviculture, forestry, nautical sports.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p> <p>3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p>
004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are animal breeding, leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, fertilisation.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p> <p>3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p>
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	<p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are urbanised areas, human habitation, leisure fishing, fertilisation, grazing, mowing or cutting of grassland, nautical sports, hunting, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, bridge, viaduct.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	<p>CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p> <p>3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are hunting, dispersed habitation, grazing, fertilisation, mowing or cutting of grassland, leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, nautical sports.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p> <p>3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, grazing, hunting, nautical sports.</p>
004101	Ballykenney-Fisherstown Bog SPA	<p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p> <p>3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, grazing, hunting, nautical sports.</p>
004102	Garriskil Bog SPA	<p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p> <p>3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are modifying structures of inland water courses, railway lines, forest planting on open ground, grazing, fire and fire suppression, restructuring agricultural land holding.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM</p> <p>3. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
004139	Lough Croan Turlough SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, grazing.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. The site features are also sensitive to hydrological interactions. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.59, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are marine and freshwater aquaculture, nautical sports, discharges, fertilisation, industrial or commercial areas, shipping lanes, urbanised areas, human habitation.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities. The site features are also sensitive to hydrological interactions. There are no sources for marine interactions in the CDP given the distance from the coast beyond hydrological interactions.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, species composition change (succession), removal of hedges and copses or scrub, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, wildlife watching, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial), forest replanting (native trees), management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, droughts and less precipitations, intensive grazing, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, marshes or pits, invasive non-native species, pliers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, mining and quarrying, flooding and rising precipitations, temperature changes (e.g. Rise of temperature & extremes), non-intensive mixed animal grazing, eutrophication (natural), problematic native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, predation, direct land use management, habitat connectivity, flooding, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO 12.81, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC, the Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, species composition change (succession), removal of hedges and copses or scrub, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, wildlife watching, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial), forest replanting (native trees), management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, droughts and less precipitations, intensive grazing, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, marshes or pits, invasive non-native species, pliers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, mining and quarrying, flooding and rising precipitations, temperature changes (e.g. Rise of temperature & extremes), non-intensive mixed animal grazing, eutrophication (natural), problematic native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, predation, direct land use management, habitat connectivity, flooding, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO 12.81, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC, the Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are paths, tracks, cycling tracks, eutrophication (natural), hand cutting of peat, fertilisation, grazing, marine and freshwater aquaculture, invasive non-native species, nautical sports, silviculture, forestry, urbanised areas, human habitation, discharges, polderisation, removal of beach materials, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, leisure fishing, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, hunting, air pollution, air-borne pollutants.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, forestry, predation, direct land use management, habitat connectivity, flooding, and successional processes as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.39, CPO12.59, CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42,</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects as a result of the Plan ¹⁴
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SPA	<p>CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Hunting is managed on a national level through the provision of licences which are strictly controlled therefore the CDP will not introduce any additional sources in this regard. Cycle tracks are identified as a known threat to the SAC, the Plan identifies a number of policies to ensure ecological considerations are made when progressing any future green infrastructure projects such as CPO13.1, CPO13.9, CPO13.10, CPO13.11, CPO13.19 and A13.1. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>Airborne pollutants will be managed through the climate change and air pollution policies such as CPO 3.1, CPO 3.2, CPO 3.3, CPO 3.4, CPO 3.5, CPO 3.6, CPO 3.7, CPO 3.8, CPO 3.9, CPO 3.10, CPO 3.11, CPO 3.12, CPO 3.13, CPO 3.14, CPO 3.15, CPO 3.16, CPO 3.17, CPO 3.18, CPO12.77, CPO12.93, CPO12.111, CPO 3.6, CPO 3.13 and CPO 3.16.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> <p>The known threats to this site are disturbance effects, shoreline works, fishing, habitat alterations, water quality issues, and invasive species.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.19, CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO 12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of recreation/tourism or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Noise and light will be managed through provisions such as CPO12.75, CPO12.80, CPO12.98, CPO12.99, CPO12.100 and CPO12.101. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are both on-site and off-site activities can potentially affect SAC/ASSI features. The list below is not exhaustive; but deals with the most likely factors that are either affecting upper lough Erne, or could affect it in the future. Although natural eutrophic lakes with magnopotamion or hydrocharition-type vegetation, old sessile oak woods with flex and blechnum in the British Isles, alluvial forests with alnus glutinosa and fraxinus excelsior and other are the qualifying SAC features, factors affecting ASSI features are also considered.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, groundwater interaction, direct land use management, species composition, flood regime, and habitat condition. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as CPO12.1, CPO12.5, CPO12.7, CPO12.8, CPO12.9, CPO12.10, CPO12.11, CPO12.13, CPO12.15, CPO12.17, CPO12.19, CPO12.26, CPO 12.28, CPO12.42 and CPO12.43. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include CPO12.28, CPO12.30, CPO12.31, CPO12.32, CPO12.33, CPO12.34, CPO12.57, CPO12.58, CPO12.60, CPO12.80, CPO 12.81, CPO12.82, CPO 12.83, CPO 12.84, CPO 12.85, CPO 12.86, CPO 12.87, CPO12.88, CPO12.89, CPO12.90, CPO12.91, CPO12.112, A12.3, CPO 3.14, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO 9.21, DMS16.92 and DMS16.206 DM Guideline FRM 3. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of CPO12.70, CPO12.71, CPO12.72 and CPO12.73. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; CPO12.61, CPO12.65, CPO12.67, CPO9.21, CPO9.22, A9.5 and DMS16.169. Flood related effects will be managed through policies such as DMS16.201 DM Guideline FRM 3. The plan has extensive policies related to tourism control measures such as CPO 3.15, CPO 9.14, CPO 10.2, CPO 10.3, CPO 10.5, CPO 10.7, CPO10.8, CPO10.11, CPO10.12, CPO10.13, CPO10.14, CPO10.15, CPO10.26, CPO10.27, CPO10.28, CPO10.29, CPO10.42, CPO10.43, CPO10.44, CPO10.49, CPO10.51, CPO10.52, CPO10.53, CPO10.66, A10.1, A10.3, A10.4 and A10.5. Agricultural pressures will be managed through policies such as CPO 9.5, CPO 9.11, CPO 9.13, CPO 9.16, CPO12.75, CPO12.105 and A9.4; which focus on the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European Sites as identified above.

The Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. The mitigation measures also consider submissions made during the SEA Scoping process and the public consultation process for the Plan.

These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European Sites are identified in Table 5.1 below.

All mitigation measures apply to all developments and European sites, as relevant, to be determined at project level, when the nature, location, size, layout and operational processes associated with individual and combinations of projects are known.

Table 5.1 Measures most relevant to the protection of European Sites

List of Plan Provisions, including ¹⁵	
All	<p>CPO 4.63 United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 no. Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.</p>
All	<p>CPO 4.64 Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management Cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management, including compliance with EU Directives – including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p>
All	<p>CPO 4.65 Information to be considered at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc.); • Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; • Entries to the Record of Monuments; • Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; • Architectural Conservation Areas; and • Landscape/amenity designations.
All	<p>CPO 5.15 Undertake the following Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure being promoted by the Council, but excluding those national road schemes which are advanced following TII guidelines and policy: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report) and opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options; • Potentially feasible corridors within which infrastructure could be accommodated will be identified and these corridors assessed. The selection of the preferred route corridor will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists; and • In addition to the constraints identified above, site-specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate corridors. <p>Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially feasible routes within the preferred corridor will be identified and assessed. The selection of preferred routes will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists, taking into account project level information and potential mitigation measures that are readily achievable; • In addition to the constraints identified above, site specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate routes; and • In addition to environmental considerations, the refinement of route corridors and the refinement of route lines is likely to be informed by other considerations.
All	<p>DMS16.70 Construction Environmental Management Plan All development proposals of five or more residential units shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with planning application documentation. Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP).</p>
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p>Designated Sites - County Policy Objectives CPO12.5 Protect and conserve the conservation value of Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan. CPO12.X Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects). Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place. CPO12.X Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted. Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place. CPO12.6 Ensure that all development proposals relating to European Sites will comply with the DoECLG publication 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities'. CPO12.7 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives to comply with the Habitats Directive. CPO12.8 Permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where an appropriate level of assessment can clearly demonstrate that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site. CPO12.9 Consult and have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site, or a site proposed for such designation. CPO12.10 Identify and provide appropriate buffer zones between Designated Sites and local biodiversity features and areas zoned for development. CPO12.11 Undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) subject to available resources. CPO12.12 Prepare Strategic Habitat Management Plans for European Sites in the County in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders.</p>

¹⁵ Reference numbering for additional mitigation added as new Material Alterations likely to change following adoption. Final numbering will be captured in the AA Conclusion Statement prepared following adoption.

Topic	List of Plan Provisions, including ¹⁵
	<p>CPO12.13 Require an ecological appraisal, in addition to an Appropriate Assessment, for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites, or a proposed European Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.</p> <p>CPO12.14 Ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to significant cumulative, direct , indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air) , transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects¹⁶.</p> <p>12.5.3 European Sites and Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>A plan or project will only be authorised after the Council has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and subsequent Appropriate Assessment where necessary that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European Site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) or The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of Natura 2000 or The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. <p>Following a finding that a proposed development will adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, planning permission may only be granted in exceptional cases, in the absence of any alternatives, for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) subject to the strict requirements of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Non-Designated Sites – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.15 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of natural heritage, biodiversity and environmental value outside designated sites and to require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.16 Co-operate with statutory and other relevant agencies to identify and protect a representative sample of the County's wildlife habitats, of local or regional importance, not otherwise protected by legislation.</p> <p>CPO12.17 Protect Ramsar sites under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as Waterfowl Habitat).</p> <p>CPO12.18 Enhance and sustain landscapes and features within the County in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> safeguard, sustain and improve the quality and character of landscapes which are important and valued or, promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes or, promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism development. <p>CPO12.19 Protect and enhance important landscape features and their setting including rivers, streams, canals, lakes and associated wetlands such as reedbeds and swamps; ponds; springs; bogs; fens; trees; woodlands and scrub; hedgerows and other field boundary types such as stone walls and ditches. These are important because they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> form part of a network of habitats, corridors and 'stepping stones' essential for wildlife to flourish, thus providing a high-quality natural environment for all, and/or protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and are essential as part of the integrated approach to the management of water resources, necessary to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as set out in the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy). <p>Amend Section 12.11 with the additional text: Under Section 9 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000, a statutory responsibility is outlined to 'promote the conservation of biological diversity'. The primary mechanism for achieving this is the National Biodiversity Plan, of which a key concept is that local authorities (and other agencies) will share responsibility for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Council will work collaboratively to meet the actions and objectives identified in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.</p> <p>Wetlands, Turloughs, Watercourses and Fens - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the Longford County Wetlands Fields Survey 2017 and 2019 and subsequent versions thereof.</p> <p>CPO12.26 Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites surveyed in 2019 listed and mapped in Appendix xx.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Protect and conserve wetlands from infilling, fragmentation, degradation and resist development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the County..</p> <p>CPO12.28 Ensure that development proposals or activities that may impact on sensitive water habitats, in particular turloughs and wetlands, shall not be permitted without the introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Proposals to drain or otherwise interfere with the sources of turloughs will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO12.29 Implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such applications for permission would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Inland Lakes, Waterways and Broadzones – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.30 Preserve, protect and enhance the Counties inland lakes and waterways for their amenity and recreational resource amenity, including the Royal Canal, the Rivers Shannon, Inny and Camlin and Lough Ree, Lough Gowna as well as the County's other rivers and lakes.</p> <p>CPO12.31 In order to build on amenity potential, the Council will support the development and upgrading of the Inland Waterways and their associated facilities in accordance with relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and bodies including Waterways Ireland. An inter-regional approach shall also be taken in association with Leitrim, Roscommon, Westmeath and Offaly to develop the North Shannon Tourism area.</p> <p>CPO12.32 Protect Lough Ree from unsustainable, large-scale and high volume abstraction of water resources for use in areas external to County Longford.</p> <p>CPO12.33 Ensure all abstractions of water from Lough Ree will be subject to assessment for compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO12.34 Provide additional accesses to lake shores, river and canal banks, through the acquisition of land for public rights of way, parking and lay-by facilities, where appropriate.</p> <p>In areas adjacent to inland waterways, lakes, canals and rivers where planning permission is sought, conditions may be attached requiring the retention or creation of public access to the waterway in order to facilitate the creation or expansion of walking/ cycling routes.</p>

¹⁶ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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	<p>CPO12.35 Require that land adjacent to lakeshores and river and canal banks in the County be protected and reserved for public access provision.</p> <p>CPO12.36 Protect the broadzones of the lakes, rivers, canals and deciduous woodlands from inappropriate development (see Appendix 10), i.e. development which adversely affects high amenity and landscape quality in relation to their setting, such as the environs of Newcastle House and Woods, particularly adjoining the River Inny Bridge.</p> <p>CPO12.37 Protect, enhance and preserve the built and natural heritage of the Royal Canal and its associated structures including the maintenance of the broadzone protection area at 100m either side of the Canal. This shall include a visual assessment zone of 500m from each bank in which all development proposals are assessed for their impact on the natural setting of the canal and its views and prospects. If a proposed development is deemed to have a detrimental negative impact on the integrity of the Royal Canal, then it shall not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO12.38 Restrict development in the broad zones of the major rivers and lakes of the County, as illustrated in Appendix 12, to extensions of existing dwellings, which shall be sensitively designed in terms of the individual site and materials.</p> <p>CPO12.39 Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</p> <p>CPO12.40 Promote and encourage ongoing works to improve the navigability of the Royal Canal, and to investigate the provision of mooring points in appropriate locations along the Canal and on the islands within the major lakes of the County</p> <p>CPO12.41 Protect the historical, cultural and scenic importance of the Islands on the lakes and rivers within the County from inappropriate development, whether on the Islands themselves, or at locations that interferes with their integrity and setting.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.42 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.43 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.44 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.45 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p>CPO10.XX Continue to work closely with Bord na Móna, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, NPWS, Coillte, Just Transition related groups and neighboring counties to realise and develop the potential of the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park and Lough Ree Biosphere Nature Reserve. In this consideration shall be given to Bord na Mona's integrated land use-strategy and be mutually inclusive of any of Bord na Mona's future uses of their land banks.</p> <p>CPO12.XX Support the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and restoration works which will be both a positive conservation measure and help to reduce carbon loss in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.XX Designated and non-designated peatlands may be subject to the requirements of the planning code, Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA screening and EIA where applicable) and the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Planning permission will be required where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications will need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.46 Work with partners and stakeholders to progress the development of the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park and Biosphere.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.47 Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy the National Biodiversity Plan and the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024.</p> <p>CPO12.48 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites.</p> <p>CPO12.49 Improve the biodiversity and ecological value of the County through the promotion of the planting of native and heritage / traditional varieties and grass-cutting schemes amended to encourage local wildflower growth.</p> <p>CPO12.50 Require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Assess proposed large-scale developments, particularly on greenfield sites and in environmentally sensitive areas, in terms of their impact on the biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Screen all projects and plans arising from this plan for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. All such projects and plans will also be required to comply with statutory Environmental Impact Assessment requirements where relevant.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Require mitigating measures in certain cases where it is evident that biodiversity is likely to be affected. These measures may, in association with other specified requirements, include establishment of wildlife areas/corridors/parks, tree planting, wildflower meadows/marshes and other areas. With regard to residential development, in certain cases, these measures may be carried out in conjunction with the provision of open space and/or play areas.</p> <p>CPO12.54 Facilitate increased awareness of the County's biodiversity and natural heritage through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in cooperation with statutory and other partners.</p> <p>CPO12.55 Investigate and encourage the establishment of wildlife areas and corridors, particularly in the context of educational, recreational and amenity facilities.</p> <p>CPO12.56 Enhance the County's biodiversity and natural heritage, including its landscape, by promoting appropriate recreational and amenity schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.57 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values.</p> <p>CPO12.58 Conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>CPO12.59 Maintain a biodiversity zone of not less than 10 metres from the top of the bank of all watercourses in the county, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Council, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities.</p> <p>(Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments).</p> <p>CPO12.60 Any development that is visible from any of our protected areas or waterways shall be substantially screened with multiple lines of native tree and hedge planting on all sides.</p> <p>CPO 12.XX Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EiA) for any proposed development which may have a significant impact on rare, threatened and or protected species and non-designated habitats of biodiversity value.</p>

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	<p>Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.61 Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources, the preparation and adoption of an Indicative Forestry Strategy for the County, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County’s biodiversity, natural resources and landscape and developing tourism product.</p> <p>CPO12.62 Preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the County, by promoting the protection of trees, groups of trees and ancient woodlands, of significant amenity value, especially native and broadleaf species.</p> <p>CPO12.63 Undertake a survey of trees and woodlands within the County in order to identify individual trees and or, groups and stands of trees of value worthy of protection, including those in Demense landscapes.</p> <p>CPO12.64 Protect trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and seek to designate additional Tree Preservation Orders, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.65 Protect the following important stands of trees identified in Appendix X from inappropriate development and unmanaged tree felling not part of an overall plan to ensure their sustainability;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avenue at Smithfield, Legan 2. Woods at Carrigliass, Castleforbes and Cashel. The perimeter deciduous woodland of Newcastle Woods but not the interior areas of commercial forestry. 3. Portanure Pine Woods 4. Derrycassan Woods 5. Culinagore Wood 6. Rathcline Wood 7. Trees along Regional Road R393 at Knockahaw 8. Woodlands at Erne Head, Woodville and Golaroe 9. Lime trees at Mosstown, Keenagh 10. Trees at Rathisallagh 11. Wood at Farragh, Killoe <p>The Council reserve the right, through the appropriate process, to add to this list of protected trees over the period of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.66 Discourage the felling of mature trees and hedgerow, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows to facilitate development and seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.</p> <p>CPO12.67 Protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest within the County, other than areas of commercial forestry. Proposals for development in these areas should seek to interact with the landscape character of the forested areas and its limits, recognising the importance of working with the forest to achieve sustainable development proposals, and enhancing and building on aspects of the forested areas that increase biodiversity and the natural habitat.</p> <p>CPO12.68 Encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands and community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.69 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works, or other works, seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.</p> <p>CPO12.70 Investigate the potential of completing a review of the Hedgerow Survey 2006.</p> <p>Invasive Species - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.71 Promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out of its functions in association with relevant authorities.</p> <p>CPO12.72 Develop and implement a programme of public awareness on the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.</p> <p>CPO12.73 Require landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.</p> <p>CPO12.74 Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species.</p> <p>If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011)</p> <p>Tourism Related Objectives</p> <p>CPO10.12 ‘Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant detrimental impacts, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.’</p> <p>CPO10.13 ‘Consider applications for tourism development in line with the planning criteria as set down in this plan (See Chapter 15: Development Management Standards), and which will also be subject to high standards of design and materials particularly given their sensitive locations.’</p> <p>CPO10.14 ‘Support and promote the use of the ‘Ecotourism Principles of Tourism Development’ in all proposed tourism activities in the County.’</p> <p>CPO10.15 ‘Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.’</p> <p>CPO10.XX Support the development and expansion of tourism/recreation facilities including forest-based tourism accommodation at appropriate locations while ensuring minimum impact on the natural environment, biodiversity and public recreation</p> <p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Prevention of Pollution - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.75 Pursue the preparation, establishment and implementation of/compliance with the following (and any future updates):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region. • National Hazardous Waste Plan. • EU and National legislation on the prevention of Air and Noise Pollution. <p>CPO12.76 Encourage and promote environmental awareness and environmentally friendly practices in all aspects of life, particularly in industry, agriculture and all other commercial and leisure activities.</p> <p>CPO12.77 Reduce the impacts of existing pollutant activities through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation of a reduction in the pollutant activity to a non-polluting level or a revision of operating times to reduce the impact of the activity on adjacent land uses. • Relocation to a more appropriate location where adjacent land uses are more compatible.
Soil	

Topic	List of Plan Provisions, including ¹⁵
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imposition of conditions restricting emissions/activity • Use of enforcement action against unauthorised developments/uses. <p>CPO12.78 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p> <p>CPO12.79 Encourage energy efficient design solutions, such as optimising solar gain and geothermal or air source heating, in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase environmental quality.</p> <p>CPO12.80 Assess any application for planning permission for new development, extension to existing development, or intensification or change of use, in terms of its potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Where such development would have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, planning permission will not be forthcoming, prior to the proposal and introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>Landfills</p> <p>CPO 5.118 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>Geological Sites – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.19 Contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 12.5.</p> <p>CPO12.20 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Geological Audit (2015) and facilitate a review of the Geological Audit.</p> <p>CPO12.21 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.</p> <p>CPO12.22 Contribute towards the appropriate protection of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of the Plan from inappropriate development.</p> <p>CPO12.23 Encourage and promote, where appropriate, public access to geological and geomorphological sites and avoid inappropriate development through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, subject to environmental and habitats assessment.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.42 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.43 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.44 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.45 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p>Soil Protection – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.104 Recognise and protect fertile agricultural soils in the County as an important non-renewable natural resource and protect soils identified as agriculturally important in the Landscape Assessment through the prevention of inappropriate use in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO12.105 Identify areas of poorer soil in the County and respect their limitations, particularly in terms of their assimilative properties to prevent pollution</p> <p>CPO12.106 Prevent pollution in areas of poor soils through the implementation of relevant EPA and Department of Agriculture guidance and regulations in the percolation and/or spreading of domestic and agricultural effluent to land.</p> <p>CPO12.107 Investigate the potential uses of cutaway bogs in the County for re-naturing and amenity and particularly consider the development of sustainable and renewable energy projects.</p> <p>CPO12.108 Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p> <p>CPO12.109 Require that the EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites.</p> <p>CPO12.110 Ensure all undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment. All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p> <p>CPO12.111 Require that the treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>CPO12.112 Require that prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will carry out a full contaminated land risk assessment to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the proposed land uses will be compatible with the protection of health and safety (including the durability of structures and services) - during both construction and occupation; and • How any contaminated soil or water encountered will be appropriately dealt with. <p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p>
Water	<p>Water Quality and Groundwater Protection Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 12.81 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources in conformity with the EU Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, and any subsequent plan and the Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO12.82 Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan</p> <p>Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>CPO 12.83 Collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of protecting existing and potential water resources and achieving 'good status' in all water bodies in accordance with the requirements and guidance of relevant EU Directives and Regulations, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>CPO 12.84 Ensure licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).</p> <p>CPO 12.85 Discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p>

Topic	List of Plan Provisions, including ⁵
	<p>CPO 12.86 Ensure implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010), which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ("the Nitrates Directive"), dangerous substances in water, and protection of groundwater.</p> <p>CPO 12.87 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the National River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.88 Protect ground and surface water resources from pollution by ensuring the appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability, the recognition of ground water resources and abstraction points and any identified major catchment areas of surface water bodies capable of use as a potable water resource and ensuring that such sources, their zones of contribution, and areas of aquifer vulnerability are protected.</p> <p>Development of a potentially pollutant nature in these areas and any future areas identified shall be prohibited.</p> <p>CPO12.89 Seek to control and manage any potential point and/or diffuse sources of pollution with a view towards improving and maintaining 'good' water quality. Such activities include, but are not restricted to, wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines, contaminated land, agricultural activities, wastewater from unsewered properties, forestry activities and the use and discharge of dangerous substances.</p> <p>CPO12.90 Consider development proposals that involve the physical modification of water bodies, including abstraction of water, having regard to the potential effect on habitats and plant and animal species, with particular consideration given to European Sites and specific actions proposed where negative impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>CPO12.91 Incorporate water protection measures into initial site selection and design and produce a Water Protection Plan for all planning applications.</p> <p>Water Protection Plans should aim to prevent contamination of storm water, minimise soiled and waste waters, install proper containment for material storage, install appropriate treatment and disposal arrangement for soiled and waste waters and take account of legal requirements for discharges to ground and surface waters.</p> <p>CPO12.92 Support, where possible, the development and implementation of a Groundwater Protection Scheme in tandem with the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).</p> <p>Surface Water Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.89 Support in conjunction with Irish Water the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>CPO 5.90 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>CPO 5.91 Require surface water storage measures to be provided in new developments where it is considered that the surface water run-off levels exceed permissible discharge rates. Storm water run-off design should be carried out in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) standards such as The SuDS Manual (CIRIA, 2015), "Dublin Corporation Stormwater Management Policy Technical Guidelines" and "Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works" incorporating "Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, Volume 2, New Developments" or any future updates.</p> <p>CPO 5.92 Ensure that in public and private developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>CPO 5.93 Maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in the county and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems including integrated constructed wetlands and to promote and support the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas.</p> <p>CPO 5.94 Prohibit the discharge of surface water run-off and rainwater into foul sewer systems.</p> <p>Flood Risk Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.95 Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.</p> <p>CPO 5.96 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO 5.97 Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding versions). This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines, the risk of flooding within the flood risk areas indicated in the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report, including fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding, and any other flood risk areas that may be identified during the period of the plan or in relation to a planning application. • Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Justification Test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, (or any superseding document) and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts. • Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted. • Where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or European sites downstream, such measures will undergo environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate. <p>The Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding. Future amendments to the plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM's Flood Risk Management Plans and as recommended in the SFRA for the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.98 Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in DMS 16.204. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded).</p> <p>In Flood Zone C, (Please also refer to Development Management Standard, DMS 16.204, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required and the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date CFRAM Programme climate scenario mapping should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council. Flood Zone maps should not be used to suggest that any areas are free from flood risk as they do not include groundwater or artificial drainage system flood risk. Applications for development on land identified as Benefiting Land (under Arterial Drainage Schemes /Drainage Districts) may be prone to flooding, and as such site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas. The Council will ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas...</p> <p>CPO 5.99 Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks.</p>

Topic	List of Plan Provisions, including ¹
	<p>The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) and available information from the CFRAM Studies shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>CPO 5.100 Require all applications in areas prone to flooding to be subject to the Justification Test set out in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. Compensatory flood storage provision or the provision of flood defences will not override the need for completion of the justification test.</p> <p>CPO 5.101 Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.102 Actively work with the CFRAM Programmes and catchment-based Flood Planning Groups, including where catchments go beyond the Council's administrative boundary, in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk - including those relating to storage and conveyance.</p> <p>CPO 5.103 Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Longford County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO 5.104 Ensure that the reasonable requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures in the county.</p> <p>CPO 5.105 Protect water bodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>CPO 5.106 Recognise the important role of peatland and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidance.</p> <p>CPO 5.107 Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO 5.108 Facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk areas designated as 'Constrained Land Use' on Settlement Plan zoning maps. Future development on these lands is limited to minor development where plan-making Justification Tests have not been undertaken and the Constrained Land Use applies. SFRA datasets will be made available to the lower-tier forward planning and Development Management and associated SFRA/FRA processes in the Council. These processes may lead to the identification of areas where the Constrained Land Use Zoning provisions contained within this Plan may apply. In this regard, prospective applicants for developments in areas that have been previously developed and are at elevated levels of flood risk are encouraged to consult with the Planning Department at the earliest opportunity. Appendix II of the SFRA that accompanies the Plan includes mapping at a County level of historic (page 2) and predictive (page 3) flood risk indicators.</p> <p>CPO 5.109 Ensure that applications to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following - floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events. (Please Refer to CPO 5.108 and Development Management Standard DMS 16.205).</p>
<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<p>Air Quality - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.93 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>CPO12.94 Support the collation of air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring data in support of a regional air quality and greenhouse gas emission inventory.</p> <p>CPO12.95 Seek to ensure in tandem with the EPA, that all developments are operated in a manner that does not contribute to deterioration in air quality.</p> <p>CPO12.96 Promote alternative and sustainable transport methods in order to maintain good air quality and support the introduction of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the county and will seek to replace its fleet with EVs where feasible.</p> <p>CPO12.97 Promote the retention of trees, in-particular broad leaf-species, hedgerows and other vegetation where possible, and encourage afforestation and tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering.</p>
	<p>Noise and Light Pollution County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.98 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these regulations.</p> <p>CPO12.99 Support the Implementation of the Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any revision made thereto)</p> <p>CPO12.100 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels, including the use of noise / vibration attenuation measures as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.101 Require the submission of a Noise Impact Assessment for all developments likely to introduce noise generating uses in proximity to noise sensitive uses.</p> <p>CPO12.102 Control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>CPO12.103 Require the use of energy efficient public lighting in all new development proposals. (b) New / Replacement LED luminaries with warmer colours (i.e. CCT values at or below 2700K) be specified for future installations to avoid environmental impacts associated with blue-rich LED light.</p> <p>CPO 12.XX Adopt bye-laws prohibiting or restricting jet-skiing, water skiing and any other noise generating activities during the lifetime of this Plan</p>

Topic	List of Plan Provisions, including ¹⁵
<p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>CPO 3.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions); • National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions); • Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the EMRA RSES; • Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and • Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. <p>CPO 3.2 Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation having regard to the measures detailed in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 (these have been informed by available guidance on Climate Action and Mitigation, including that from the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 3.3 Support the implementation and adoption of the Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and promote the County as a key driver of the transition to a low carbon economy within the Region.</p> <p>CPO 3.4 Contribute towards climate mitigation and adaptation, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage).</p> <p>CPO 3.5 Promote the benefits to quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>CPO 3.6 Provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated future development which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the County Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 3.7 Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors</p> <p>CPO 3.8 Support the delivery of sustainable development projects under the European Green Deal and the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>CPO 3.9 Support collaboration between local authorities, the Midlands Regional Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 3.10 Work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and relevant stakeholders to deliver a number of sustainable energy communities throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 3.11 Consider the use of heat mapping to support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted.</p> <p>CPO 3.12 Carry out a feasibility assessment for district heating and any subsequent Local Area Plans or other statutory planning documents shall identify local waste heat sources, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 3.13 Seek to ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.</p> <p>CPO 3.14 Maintain existing green infrastructure and encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of open space amenities; • Sustainable management of water; • Protection and management of biodiversity; • Protection of cultural heritage; and • Protection of protected landscape sensitivities. </p> <p>CPO 3.15 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>CPO 3.16 Complete a detailed local survey and audit of greenhouse gas emissions for the County in order to effectively target and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a targeted approach at the County level and support the development of a Regional Inventory of GHG Emissions.</p> <p>CPO 3.17 Seek the integration of positive climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in all planning applications.</p> <p>CPO 3.18 Provide training on climate mitigation measures to include the agricultural, construction, industry and transport sector.</p> <p>CPO10.2 Ensure all tourism developments shall integrate climate change adaptation, the enhancement of nature and biodiversity measures and the protection of the natural environment and the County's heritage into their activities, plans and proposals.</p> <p>CPO13.XX Ensure the protection, enhancement and maintenance of Green Infrastructure in the Development Management Process. Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) for all development proposals on lands zoned Recreation / Amenity / Green Space, to ensure that the potential impacts on protected species and habitats can be assessed.</p> <p>CPO13.XX Proposals for greenway/blueway development should contribute towards the protection or enhancement of existing green infrastructure and have regard to the "Connecting with nature for health and wellbeing" EPA Research Report 2020.</p> <p>Also see measures under CEMP requirement, other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions from the Plan.</p>	<p>Material Assets</p> <p>Wastewater - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.80 Liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan in the provision, upgrading or extension of wastewater collection and treatment systems in the County to serve existing and planned future populations and enterprise in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 5.81 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</p> <p>CPO 5.82 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.</p> <p>CPO 5.83 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate future growth in the County.</p>

Topic	List of Plan Provisions, including ¹
	<p>CPO 5.84 Have regard to the capacity of the Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon wastewater treatment plants (and any other plants within the County of limited capacity to accommodate the core strategy and settlement hierarchy), with any further growth in these settlements contingent on the upgrading of these treatment plants, or the submission of appropriate temporary engineering solutions for individual developments which suitably address wastewater treatment and disposal to the satisfaction of the Council and Irish Water and in accordance with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.85 Resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems.</p> <p>CPO 5.86 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>CPO 5.87 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended.</p> <p>- EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) and EPA Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater (EPA 2011), as may be amended.</p> <p>Promote changeover from septic tanks to public collection networks in all cases where this is feasible.</p> <p>CPO 5.88 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County.</p> <p>Waste Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.110 Support the implementation of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.111 Continue to facilitate and promote the provision of civic amenity sites, including 'bring centres' for the purposes of providing a collection point for the recycling of domestic waste, subject to siting, location, compatibility with adjacent land uses and other relevant development management criteria.</p> <p>CPO 5.112 Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</p> <p>CPO 5.113 Promote and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>CPO 5.114 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>CPO 5.115 Promote and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure/technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, with the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p> <p>CPO 5.116 Require, where necessary, Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plans as part of applications for development in accordance with "Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects" (DoEHLG, 2006). Such plans should be submitted for developments above the stated thresholds within these guidelines and as required by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>CPO 5.117 Control development within its powers through the planning process in order to prevent and/or limit the impact of potential air, water and soil pollution.</p> <p>CPO 5.118 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p>

Section 6 Conclusion

Implementation of the Plan¹⁷ to be adopted has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of any European Sites, if unmitigated.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan, are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no significant effects as a result of the implementation of the Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on the integrity of any European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹⁸. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

The AA process is ongoing and will inform and be concluded at adoption of the Plan.

¹⁷ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all alterations and any September 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations included in Section 5 "Mitigation Measures" in this report; any other further modification considered by the AA process; and any other September 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations.

¹⁸ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Appendix I Background information on European Sites

List of European Sites considered by the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000440	Lough Ree SAC	Within	Limestone pavements [8240], Old sessile oak woods with hlex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Alkaline fens [7230], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Bog woodland [91D0], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Lutra lutra [1355]	B02, H06.03, A03.03, G01.01, F03.01, E01.03, J02.11.02, F02.03, A04, I01, H01.08, H02.06, J02.04, G02.09, L08, D03.01.02, K03.05, A08, G01.02	Forest and Plantation management & use, Thermal heating of water bodies, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Nautical sports, Hunting, Dispersed habitation, Other siltation rate changes, Leisure fishing, Grazing, Invasive non-native species, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, Flooding modifications, Wildlife watching, Inundation (natural processes), Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, Antagonism arising from introduction of species, Fertilisation, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
000448	Fortwilliam Turlough SAC	Within	Turloughs [3180]	H02.06, A04.01.01, J02.07.01, G02.09, J02.07.02	Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, Intensive cattle grazing, Groundwater abstractions for agriculture, Wildlife watching, Groundwater abstractions for public water supply
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	Within	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]	J02.15, G02.09, A03.02, A04.03, I01, A03.03, H02.06, F02.03, F03.01, J02.07.02	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Wildlife watching, non-intensive mowing, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Invasive non-native species, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, Leisure fishing, Hunting, Groundwater abstractions for public water supply
002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	J02.15, X	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, No threats or pressures
002346	Brown Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	J02.15, X, K01.03	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, No threats or pressures, Drying out
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	Within	Bog woodland [91D0], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	C01.03.02, A03, A04.02.01, A09	Mechanical removal of peat, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Non intensive cattle grazing, Irrigation
004045	Glen Lough SPA	Within	Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038]	B01, A08, X	Forest planting on open ground, Fertilisation, No threats or pressures
004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	Within	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061], Pochar (Aythya ferina) [A059]	X, A05.01, F03.01, A08, B, F02.03	No threats or pressures, Animal breeding, Hunting, Fertilisation, Sylviculture, forestry, Leisure fishing
004064	Lough Ree SPA	Within	Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061], Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficolis) [A004], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193]	I01, G01.02, B, F03.01, A08, A04, F02.03, G01.01	Invasive non-native species, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Sylviculture, forestry, Hunting, Fertilisation, Grazing, Leisure fishing, Nautical sports
004101	Ballykenry-Fisherstown Bog SPA	Within	Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	A04, F02.03, F03.01, G01.01, B	Grazing, Leisure fishing, Hunting, Nautical sports, Sylviculture, forestry
004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	1.52	Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061], Pochar (Aythya ferina) [A059], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	A08, F02.03, B, A05.01	Fertilisation, Leisure fishing, Sylviculture, forestry, Animal breeding
002349	Corbo Bog SAC	3.22	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	C01.03.02, J02.15, X	Mechanical removal of peat, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, No threats or pressures
000679	Garriskill Bog SAC	3.89	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	I01, I02, A04.02.01, C01.03.02, J01.01, J02.15, A04, B, A08	Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, non-intensive cattle grazing, Mechanical removal of peat, Burning down, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
004046	Lough Iron SPA	3.91	Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125]	D01.04, J01, A10, A04, B01, J02.05.02	Railway lines, TGV, Fire and fire suppression, restructuring agricultural land holding, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Modifying structures of inland water courses
004102	Garriskill Bog SPA	3.96	Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	A03.02, A04.02.05, A04.03, A08, H01.03, I02	Non intensive mowing, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Fertilisation, Other point source pollution to surface water, Problematic native species
002313	Ballymore Fen SAC	4.01	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	J02.15, G02.10, I01, J01.01, B02.02, E03.01, F03.01, C01.03.02	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other sport or leisure complexes, Invasive non-native species, Burning down, Forestry clearance, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Hunting, Mechanical removal of peat
002340	Moneybeg and Clareisland Bogs SAC	4.62	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	A08, B, A05.01, F03.01, F02.03	Fertilisation, Sylviculture, forestry, Animal breeding, Hunting, Leisure fishing
004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	6.24	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Pochar (Aythya ferina) [A059], Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061]		

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	6.56	Bog woodland [91D0], Lutra lutra [1355], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]	B01.02, A10.01, B01.01, J02.01.03, H01.04, E01.03, M01.03, H01.03, I01, G01, H01.05	Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Forest planting on open ground (native trees), Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, marshes or pits, Diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, Dispersed habitation, Flooding and rising precipitations, Other point source pollution to surface water, Invasive non-native species, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities
000611	Lough Funshinagh SAC	7.75	Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodion rubri p.p. and Bidetion p.p. vegetation [3270]	A08, D01.01, A05.02, F03.02.04	Fertilisation, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Stock feeding, Predator control
000688	Lough Owel SAC	8.42	Alkaline fens [7230], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Austroptamobius pallipes [1092], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	H01.05, D04, D03.01.02, X, G01, J02.01, J02.06.02, G02.10, F03.01	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Airports, flightpaths, Piers or recreational harbours or recreational piers, no threats or pressures, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Surface water abstractions for public water supply, Other sport or leisure complexes, Hunting
004047	Lough Owel SPA	8.42	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056]	F03.01, F02.03, J02, B, A08	Hunting, Leisure fishing, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Sylviculture, forestry, Fertilisation
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	9.04	Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038]	F02.03, A08, F03.01, G01.01, A05.01, B	Leisure fishing, Fertilisation, Hunting, Nautical sports, Animal breeding, Sylviculture, forestry
001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC	10.52	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140], Austroptamobius pallipes [1092]	A11, G01, A04.03, E03.03, A08, J02.01, F03.02.03	Agriculture activities not referred to above, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Disposal of inert materials, Fertilisation, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Trapping, poisoning, poaching
002121	Lough Lene SAC	11.05	Austroptamobius pallipes [1092], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	H01.08, A04.03, A11, A08, D03.01.02, X	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Fertilisation, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, No threats or pressures
002339	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC	11.44	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland [91D0], Turboughs [3180], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	F03.01, J02.05, J02.01, I01, A04, A10.01	Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Invasive non-native species, Grazing, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub
002336	Carn Park Bog SAC	11.57	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	I01, D01.01, J02.05, J02.01, I03, B02.02, C01.03.02	Invasive non-native species, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Introduced genetic material, GMO, Forestry clearance, Mechanical removal of peat
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	11.73	Lutra lutra [1355], Limestone pavements [8240], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinietum caeruleae) [6410], Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	B02.02, A03, A10.01, A03.03, A08, C01.03.02, A07, B06, J02.05, D01.01, A04.01, J02.04.01, J02.01, G01, K03.04, J02.11, G05.01, J02.05.02	Forestry clearance, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Fertilisation, Mechanical removal of peat, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, Grazing in forests or woodland, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Intensive grazing, Flooding, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Predation, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of mixed debris, Trampling, overuse, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Non intensive mixed animal grazing, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Hunting
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	11.73	Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Comcrake (Crex crex) [A122], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179]	D01.05, A04.03, F03.01, G01.01, A03, D01.01, A08, G01.02, F02.03, E01, A04	Bridge, viaduct, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Hunting, Nautical sports, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Fertilisation, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, Leisure fishing, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Grazing
000588	Ballinlurry Turbough SAC	12.54	Turboughs [3180]	F03.01, A08, X	Hunting, Fertilisation, No threats or pressures
002337	Crosswood Bog SAC	12.73	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	J02.05, E03.01, J02.01, A05.02, I03, J01, I01, B02.02, C01.03.02, D01.01	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Stock feeding, introduced genetic material, GMO, Fire and fire suppression, Invasive non-native species, Forestry clearance, Mechanical removal of peat, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
000692	Scragh Bog SAC	13.09	Drepanocladus vernicosus [1393], Alkaline fens [7230], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	A11, A08, I01, H01.08, D01.01	Agriculture activities not referred to above, Fertilisation, Invasive non-native species, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
002120	Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC	13.15	Austroptamobius pallipes [1092], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	A10.01, J02.06.02	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Surface water abstractions for public water supply
004139	Lough Croan Turbough SPA	13.16	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	A04, A08	Grazing, Fertilisation
000610	Lough Croan Turbough SAC	13.18	Turboughs [3180]	A05.02, F03.02.04, A04	Stock feeding, Predator control, Grazing
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	13.27	Vertigo geyeri [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	A04.03, J01, A02, A04.02.01	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Fire and fire suppression, Modification of cultivation practices, Non intensive cattle grazing
001625	Castlesampon	13.47	Turboughs [3180], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	A10.01, C01.01, A04, C01.03.01	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Sand and gravel extraction, Grazing, Hand cutting of peat
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	14.63	Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]	A04, A08, G01.01, E01.03, B, A03, F02.03, F03.01	Grazing, Fertilisation, Nautical sports, Dispersed habitation, Sylviculture, forestry, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Leisure fishing, Hunting
000609	Lisduff Turbough SAC	14.66	Turboughs [3180]	A08, A04, G05	Fertilisation, Grazing, Other human intrusions and disturbances

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Beyond 15km	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Coastal lagoons [1150], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Reefs [1170], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Lutra lutra [1355], Seimo saiar [1106], Margaritifera margaritifera [1029], Petromyzon marinus [1095], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Lampetra fluviatilis [1099], Estuaries [1130], Turlops truncatus [1349], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Lampetra planeri [1096], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]	C01.03.01, F01, G01.01, I01, D01.01, C01.01.02, A04, K02.03, B, E01, J02.10, J02.01.02, E03, J02.12.01, A08, F02.03, F03.01, J02.01.01, H04	Hand cutting of peat, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Nautical sports, Invasive non-native species, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Removal of beach materials, Grazing, Eutrophication (natural), Sylviculture, forestry, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Discharges, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Fertilisation, Leisure fishing, Hunting, Polderisation, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	Beyond 15km	Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer) [A003] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065] Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	F01, A08, D01.02, A04, E01.01, G01.01, G01.02	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fertilisation, Roads, motorways, Grazing, Continuous urbanisation, Nautical sports, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Beyond 15km	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061] Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	G01.01, F03.01, F02.03, A08	Nautical sports, Hunting, Leisure fishing, Fertilisation
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Beyond 15km	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050] Teal (Anas crecca) [A052] Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054] Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056] Scaup (Aythya marila) [A062] Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Greenshank (Tringa nebularia) [A164] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	F01, G01.01, E03, A08, E02, D03.02, E01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Nautical sports, Discharges, Fertilisation, Industrial or commercial areas, Shipping lanes, Urbanised areas, human habitation
002241	Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC	Beyond 15km	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Limestone pavements [8240]	A08, K02.01, A10.01, J02, G02.09, G01, H01, B02.01.01, J02.10, M01.02, A04.01, J02.01.03, I01, D03.01.02, H01.08, C01, M01.03, M01.01, A04.02.05, K02.03, I02, D01.01	Fertilisation, Species composition change (succession), Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Wildlife watching, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Forest replanting (native trees), Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Droughts and less precipitations, Intensive grazing, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, marshes or pits, Invasive non-native species, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Mining and quarrying, Flooding and rising precipitations, Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes), Non intensive mixed animal grazing, Eutrophication (natural), Problematic native species, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SPA	Beyond 15km	Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038]	N/A	Disturbance effects, shoreline works, fishing, habitat alterations, water quality issues, and invasive species.
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SAC	Beyond 15km	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Lutra lutra [1355], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	N/A	Both on-site and off-site activities can potentially affect SAC/ASSI features. The list below is not exhaustive, but deals with the most likely factors that are either affecting Upper Lough Erne, or could affect it in the future. Although Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation, Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles, Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) and Otter Lutra lutra are the qualifying SAC features, factors affecting ASSI features are also considered.

List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Active raised bogs [7110]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Alkaline fens [7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	Inappropriate grazing levels; invasive species; and clearance for agriculture or felling for timber.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
White-clawed Grayfish (Austroptamobius pallipes) [1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species; disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Bog woodland [91D0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Slender Green Feather Moss (<i>Drepanocladus verticosus</i>) [1393]	Pollution, land use, climate change and invasive species.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Limestone pavements [8240]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alpeceurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Other (Lutra lutra) [1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalizing or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Mollinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) [6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodium rubri p.p. and Bidenton p.p. vegetation [3270]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Turloughs [3180]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013]	Loss of riverside and canal-side habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.

List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Special Conservation Interests	Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests
<p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</p> <p>Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p> <p>Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</p> <p>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</p> <p>Pin-tail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</p> <p>Showeler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</p> <p>Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062]</p> <p>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p>	<p>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p> <p>Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]</p> <p>Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004]</p> <p>Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]</p> <p>Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]</p> <p>Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]</p> <p>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p>
<p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</p> <p>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</p> <p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus idibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <p>Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]</p> <p>Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059]</p> <p>Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061]</p>	<p>Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised, and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km.</p> <p>Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling.</p> <p>Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities.</p> <p>Availability of nesting/roosting habitat.</p> <p>Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.</p>
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

Legislation, Plan, etc. European Level	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out and environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>EU Integrated Pollution Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. 	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility, and public participation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Plant Protection Directive (2009/127/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. <p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry Sustainable management of fish stocks Reducing invasive alien species Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</p>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complementary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and 	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) EU Air Framework Directive)</p> <p>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</p>	<p>at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAPE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</p>	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(4) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to its enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. 	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It identifies three key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</p>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Ball Road Map (2007)</p>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Ball Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<p>The Ball Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. 	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner To target additional POPs Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</p>	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019</p>	<p>The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Level Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. • The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. 	<p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]</p>	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	<p>In preparation</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	<p>achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European Communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management, planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. 	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrates and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources 	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. 	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<p>commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice, Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. <p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</p>	<p>These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a Plan; Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. 	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing on and offshore wind, Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, Growing sustainable transport; and Building out robust and efficient networks. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives. 	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Policy Framework Decarbonising Electricity Generation Decarbonising the Built Environment Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. 	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; "Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to update the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>All Island Grid Study 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system. 	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security. A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with</p>

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National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies; and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	<p>Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. 	<p>The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: "Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective <i>obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.</i>	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan framework for environmental protection and management.
<p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</p>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 	<p>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</p> <p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i> 	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</p>	<p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport. 	<p>Others lower level aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades. 	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and To the extent within the Authority remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. The underpinning Strategic Goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</p>	<p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	<p>Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAS Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. • To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. • To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. • To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. • To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Broadband Plan (2012)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. 	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. • Sets groundwater quality standards. • Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of ground water. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. 	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. Key strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six strategic objectives as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Waste water. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Food Harvest 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</p>	<p>Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment</p>	<p>not applicable</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise.</p>

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<p>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</p> <p>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Rural Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas 	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. 	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afforestation and Creation of Woodland NeighbourWood Scheme Forest Roads Reconstitution Scheme Woodland Improvement Scheme Native Woodland Conservation Scheme Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions Producer Groups Innovative Forest Technology Forest Genetic Reproductive Material Forest Management Plans 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>River Basin Management Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. 	<p>Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</p>	<p>This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.</p>	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. 	<p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</p>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. 	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</p>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DITAS) 2017- 2030</p>	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</p>	<p>Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.</p>	<p>Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. 	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</p>	<p>The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.</p>	<p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Context • Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination • Enhancing the Visitor Experience • Research in the Irish Tourism Sector • Supporting Local Communities in Tourism • Wider Government Policy • International Context • Co-ordination Structures 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</p>	<p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)</p>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive. 2009/28/EC. On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DITAS) 2017- 2030</p>	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraaffinic fuels targets 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DITAS, 2014)</p>	<p>Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.</p>	<p>The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present. • There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025. <p>The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</p>	<p>The overarching aim of the Plan is to: "Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations".</p>	<p>Four objectives of the Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. • Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. • Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. • Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Tourism Development and Innovation – A strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</p>	<p>This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Regional/ County/Local Level</p>			
<p>Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy;</p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</p>	<p>The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.</p>	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus; Light Rail; Heavy Rail; Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; Integrated Service Plan, and Integration and Accessibility. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Longford Tourism Strategy 2017-2022</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out the overall Vision for tourism in County Longford over the relevant period. The primary goal of the Longford Tourism Strategy is to achieve positive outcomes in a set of identified actions over the year life of this strategy.</p>	<p>The Vision will be achieved through the fulfilment of the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing tourism infrastructure Delivery of visitor centric experiences Development of a Longford Tourism Brand Generating greater awareness of Longford as a tourism destination 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Shannon, Mighty River of Ireland, A Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon 2020 – 2030</p>	<p>The objective of this plan is to reposition the River Shannon as a key destination in Ireland identifying visitor experiences based on the region's natural and cultural assets.</p>	<p>Longford is identified as part of 'Discovery Zone 2; Mid Shannon' in the Shannon Tourism Masterplan. This area stretches from Clondra in the north to Portumna in the south of the region. The area is described as an elemental zone where lakes, rivers and canals meander through wetlands, peatlands and lowland fanns, creating the distinctive 'soft' landscapes of the region. Lough Ree is described as the beating heart of Mid Shannon, a wonderful mosaic of open waters, hidden bays, monastic islands and wooded shorelines, renowned for angling, cruising, sailing and kayaking.</p> <p>Specifically, for Longford and the Mid Shannon zone the Shannon Tourism Masterplan recommends Priority Project D22.3 'Wet'n'Wild Peatlands of Mid Shannon. This involves developing an integrated Discovery Zone focused on peatlands, environmental and industrial heritage, recreational opportunities such as walking, hiking, cycling, guided tours and outdoor classrooms to demonstrate nature, biodiversity and the impact of climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</p>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest To describe the site and its management 		<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Groundwater Protection Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. 	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Longford LECP 2016-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Land Use Plans (those in force in County Longford and in other adjoining planning authorities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhance amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
County Longford Heritage Plan 2019-2024 (Incorporating Longford Biodiversity Action Plan)	<p>Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore heritage, biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.</p>	<p>Plan’s objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement key Strategic Actions over the lifetime of the Heritage Plan to achieve greater awareness and protection of all aspects of the heritage of County Longford To develop knowledge, appreciation and access to Longford’s heritage through research and innovation. Promote the protection and best practice in heritage management within the county Promote heritage education and awareness. Support organisations and communities in promoting sustainable enjoyment of Longford’s countryside, waterways and heritage Implement the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
County Longford Landscape Character Assessment	<p>Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	<p>These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023</p>	<p>Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.</p>	<p>The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with all other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Longford County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p>	<p>Respond to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have. Attempt to climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>	<p>The Plans' objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that climate action awareness and adaptation responses are embedded within governance and management structures in Longford County Council. Incorporate climate action awareness and responses throughout Council policy. Ensure that structures are in place to secure continuity of service and business operations as part of adaptation mechanisms. Ensure/increase the resilience of infrastructural assets and inform investment decisions. Maintain the integrity of public infrastructure against negative climate change impacts and increase the design resilience of planned developments into the future. Promote a combined climate action response to infrastructure provision. Integrate climate action considerations into land use planning policy and influence positive behaviour. Manage the risk of flooding through a variety of responses and to mitigate the risk and impact of flooding. Provide for enhancement of natural environment to work positively towards climate action, to promote effective bio-diversity management and enhance protection of natural habitats and landscapes and to protect heritage and cultural infrastructure. Support climate action initiatives in line with Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) actions. Build capacity and resilience within communities. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with all other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Hidden Heartlands brands</p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with all other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</p>	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with all other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

