

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR THE

DRAFT KILLALOE-BALLINA TOWN ENHANCEMENT AND MOBILITY PLAN 2021

for: Clare County Council

Áras Contae an Chláir
New Road, Ennis
County Clare



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List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPW	Office of Public Works
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPA	Register of Protected Areas
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SI No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment 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 so that they come 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.

Protected Structure

Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning and Development Act and 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 that 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 that have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months' notice to the former Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (now 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 can be 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 Background

1.1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021 (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan').

1.2 SEA Definition

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 that 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.

1.3 SEA Directive and its transposition into Irish Law

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 tourism.

The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans

and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21st July 2004. The Regulations have been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

1.4 Implications for the Plan

The SEA Directive [Article 3 (2)] requires, subject to certain exceptions, that SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- (a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended, or
- (b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment¹ pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument No. (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended. Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, requires, subject to certain exceptions, that

¹ Also referred to as an Appropriate Assessment

SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- (a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or
- (b) which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site.

The Plan for Killaloe-Ballina is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site; however, development in these towns would have the potential to affect the integrity of European Sites². Consequently, it is being determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake Stage 2 AA of the Plan, aligned with AA requirements under: European Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument No. 477 of 2011), as amended.

Taking the above into account and in order to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into the Plan, so that the Plan can usefully inform future decision-making, it has been determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake an SEA of the Plan, aligned with SEA requirements under: Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers of 27 June 2001 on the Assessment of the

Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment; and European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended.

SEA Determinations, taking into account the above requirements, from both Councils, are reproduced at Appendix I.

This SEA Environmental Report provides the findings of the SEA and should be read in conjunction with the Plan. This report is being placed on public display and will be altered in order to take account of changes that are made to the original draft Plan on foot of submissions following public display. The Councils are taking into account the findings of this report and other related SEA output during their consideration of the Plan and in advance of it being finalised. On finalisation of the Plan, an SEA Statement is prepared that summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

² Factors related to such development that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions related to mobility management and transport, public realm, heritage, tourism and green/blue infrastructure that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments - these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational developments.

Section 2 The draft Plan

2.1 Summary

The draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021 will be non-statutory and will not form public policy. The Plan will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

The draft Plan outlines a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements within Killaloe (town in County Clare) and Ballina (town in County Tipperary), providing a clear vision for Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements in the context of the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge crossing.

2.2 Overall Objective and Vision Statement

The main objective of the Plan is to establish a holistic, joined, and well-coordinated approach towards future development of Killaloe and Ballina. Accordingly, the Plan pictures future of the towns as the following:

“Killaloe and Ballina are towns of sustainable, inclusive environment and vibrant economy which enjoy a highly valued riverfront location and townscape that not only inspires identity and unity, but also encourages a diverse range of activities and recreation Safe, accessible, and visually attractive public realm improvements will improve the quality of life for residents, visitors, and workers The Shannon Crossing and Bypass will change the face of both towns by linking two national tourism brands of the Hidden Heartlands and the Wild Atlantic Way In this way, the riverfront will be further opened up as a key amenity that both enhances public access and fosters new investment”. Underpinning this vision is the desire to ultimately develop an evidence based long term strategy that will inform the future development of these twin towns.

The vision statement is framed to embark on a transformational journey to create a single cohesive settlement highlighting the assets of Killaloe Ballina and providing an inclusive

environment which brings vibrancy to the area.

This can be achieved by improvements to connectivity, public realm, and amenities as well as the historic fabric of the area and the tourism experience.

2.3 Themes and Goals

A set of goals within thematic areas that help to frame the values and vision of the area has been developed. These thematic areas are:

1. Mobility Management and Transport
2. Public Realm
3. Heritage
4. Tourism
5. Green and Blue Infrastructure

To determine how the Plan will meet these goals, a set of detailed objectives are identified, which are outlined in short to medium and long term timeframes.

2.4 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The draft Plan exists separate to the hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, transport, land use development, infrastructure, public realm, tourism and environment protection and management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction until 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 Southern Region, the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) and North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied) and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans, set out (or will set out) objectives relating development of the area, that have been (or

are being) subject to environmental assessment.

Implementation of the Plan shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, RSES and these lower-tier Development Plans, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been (or are being) integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.

In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part.

Section 3 SEA Methodology

3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

The preparation of the draft Plan, SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) have taken place concurrently and the findings of the SEA and AA have informed the draft Plan.

The process is currently at a stage where the findings of the SEA so far will be placed on public display in this SEA Environmental Report alongside the draft Plan as part of the public consultations. An AA document will also accompany the draft Plan on public display.

Submissions made on the draft Plan and associated SEA and AA documents will be taken into account and updates made to the documents where relevant. When the Plan is finalised, the SEA and AA documents will be finalised.

Final documents will include an SEA Statement, which will include information on how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan, and an AA Conclusion Statement.

3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) is being undertaken alongside preparation of the Plan. Requirements for AA are provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The emerging 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.

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 addressed 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 Scoping

3.3.1 Introduction

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 relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive³.

3.3.2 Scoping Notices

Relevant environmental authorities⁴ identified under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Councils 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 Councils.

3.3.3 Scoping Submissions

Submissions from the following environmental authorities were made during the SEA Scoping process:

- a) Environmental Protection Agency; and
- b) Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

These submissions were taken into account during preparation of the SEA and informed the content of the SEA.

3.4 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

³ 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.

⁴ Including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the then Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

requirement, alternatives for the Plan are examined in Section 7.

3.5 Environmental Report

In this SEA Environmental Report, the likely environmental effects of the Plan are predicted and their significance evaluated.

The Environmental Report provides the Councils, stakeholders and the public with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of implementing the Plan.

Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by development of Killaloe-Ballina are identified in Section 9 - these have been integrated into the Plan.

This Environmental Report will be updated in order to take account of any changes made to the original draft Plan that is being placed on public display.

This Environmental Report contains the information specified in Schedule 2 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004) as amended (see Table 3.1).

3.6 The SEA Statement

On finalisation of the Plan by the Councils, an SEA Statement will be 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.

3.7 Difficulties Encountered

No significant difficulties were encountered in undertaking the assessment.

There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the study area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term “unassigned status” applies in respect of these waterbodies. Measures have been integrated into the Plan that could contribute towards the maintenance and improvement of status of all water bodies within the zone of influence.

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, 8 and Appendix II
(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
(C) 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 Sites	Section 4
(E) List 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 II
(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 and 8
(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 identified in this section:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;
- Population and Human Health;
- Material Assets;
- Water;
- Air and Climatic Factors;
- Landscape;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Soil; and
- The interrelationship between the above factors.

Information which is relevant to planning and project development and associated environmental assessments and administrative consent of projects is identified (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).

4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

The EPA's *"Ireland's Environment - An Integrated 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

Many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which were adopted by world leaders in 2015 at a United Nations Summit and came into force in 2016, are relevant to the Plan, including:

- 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 the Plan

The likely evolution of the environment in the absence of a Plan would resemble the environmental effects that are described for Alternative 1 "Alternative 1: Do not prepare a Plan to inform future decision making" under Section 7.

4.5 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

4.5.1 Overview

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna which 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.

Key ecological sensitivities across the Plan area include those relating to:

- Rare species and habitats protected in the **Lower River Shannon SAC**, within the southern/central parts of the Plan area, **Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC**, in vicinity of the north-east parts of Killaloe, and **Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA**, adjacent to the northern parts of the Plan area;
- Aquatic and riverine ecology associated with lakes, rivers, their tributaries and riparian buffer zones, including those associated with the River Shannon and Lough Derg within and adjacent to the Plan area; and
- Mature trees, priority hedgerows and woodland areas of local biodiversity value.

Ecological designations include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)⁵ and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)⁶;
- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)⁷;
- Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas⁸;
- Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979)⁹; and
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)¹⁰.

⁵ Please refer to Section 4.5.2 for more details.

⁶ Please refer to Section 4.5.2 for more details.

⁷ Please refer to Section 4.5.3 for more details.

⁸ For more details refer to Sections 4.5.5 and 4.8.7.

⁹ Wildfowl Sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68 sanctuaries in the State. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. **Parts of Lough Derg adjacent to the north of the Plan area are designated as a Wildfowl Sanctuary.**

¹⁰ TPOs are a planning mechanism whereby individual trees or groups of trees can be identified as important and protected by a TPO. **There are a number of Tree Preservation Orders designated within the Plan area.**

4.5.2 European Sites

European sites occur along the waterways within and adjacent to the Plan area. These European Sites comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation¹¹ (SACs); and
- Special Protection Areas¹² (SPAs).

The SEA uses the same zone of influence cited in the AA; a 15 km buffer around the Plan area. European sites within this zone mapped on Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2, include:

- Clare Glen SAC (Site Code: 000930)¹³;
- Silvermine Mountains SAC (Site Code: 000939)¹⁴;
- Glenomra Wood SAC (Site Code: 001013)¹⁵;
- Keeper Hill SAC (Site Code: 001197)¹⁶;
- Glenstal Wood SAC (Site Code: 001432)¹⁷;
- Lower River Shannon SAC (Site Code: 002165)¹⁸;
- Silvermine Mountains West SAC (Site Code: 002258)¹⁹;
- Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC (Site Code: 002312)²⁰;
- Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (Site Code: 004058)²¹;
- Slievefelim to Silvermine Mountains SPA (Site Code: 004165)²²; and
- Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (Site Code: 004168)²³.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

¹³ Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands; and Killarney fern.

¹⁴ Sensitive features include: wet heath; and species-rich nardus grassland.

¹⁵ Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands.

¹⁶ Sensitive features include: wet heath; and blanket bogs.

¹⁷ Sensitive features include: Killarney fern.

¹⁸ Sensitive features include: sandbanks; estuaries; tidal mudflats and sandflats; coastal lagoons; large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; perennial vegetation of stony banks; vegetated sea cliffs; salicornia mud; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; floating river vegetation; molinia meadows; alluvial forests; freshwater pearl mussel; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; Atlantic salmon; bottle-nosed dolphin; and otter.

¹⁹ Sensitive features include: wet heath; dry heath; and calaminarian grassland.

²⁰ Sensitive features include: wet heath; dry heath; and blanket bogs.

²¹ Sensitive features include: cormorant; tufted duck; goldeneye; common tern; wetland and waterbirds.

²² Sensitive features include: hen harrier.

²³ Sensitive features include: hen harrier; and merlin.

SACs designated within and adjacent to the Plan area, include the Lower River Shannon SAC, within the southern/central parts of the Plan area, the Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC, in vicinity of the north-eastern parts of Killaloe, and Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA, adjacent to the northern parts of the Plan area.

One European site, the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA, is connected to the Plan area via hydrological links but beyond the 15 km buffer – see Figure 4.3²⁴.

For more detail on European sites please refer to the AA document that accompanies the Plan and this SEA Environmental Report.

4.5.3 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 no NHAs within the Plan area. Lough Derg pNH²⁵ is located within/ partially within the Plan area (mapped on Figure 4.4). All NHAs and pNHAs designated within a wider 15 km zone are mapped on Figure 4.5 and listed on Table 4.1 below.

²⁴ Sensitive features include: cormorant; whooper swan; light-bellied brent goose; shelduck; wigeon; teal; pintail; shoveler; scaup; ringed plover; golden plover; grey plover; lapwing; knot; dunlin; black-tailed godwit; bar-tailed godwit curlew; redshank; greenshank; black-headed gull; wetland and waterbirds.

²⁵ Sensitive features include: freshwater lakes; carboniferous limestone; cladium fen; alkaline fens, common reed; great fen-sedge; yew; juniper; wood-sorrel; semi-natural deciduous woodland, callow grasslands; improved grassland; marsh pea; great crested grebe; tufted duck; lamprey; white-clawed crayfish; breeding and wintering birds.

Table 4.1 NHAs and pNHAs within 15km

Designation	Site Name	Site Code
NHA	Doon Lough	000337
	Loughanilloon	001020
	Gortacullin Bog	002401
	Bleanbeg Bog	002450
pNHA	Lough Derg	000011
	Cloonlara House	000028
	Castleconnell (Domestic Dwelling, Occupied)	000433
	Clare Glen	000930
	Derrygareen Heath	000931
	Silvermine Mountains	000939
	Glenomra Wood	001013
	Lough O'Grady	001019
	Keeper Hill	001197
	Glenstal Wood	001432
	Cloonamirran Wood	001686

4.5.4 Land Cover Mapping

CORINE²⁶ land cover mapping for the Plan area is shown on Figure 4.6. The most dominant land cover types in the Plan area are build-up urban areas, which are surrounded by agricultural lands.

Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas likely to contain Annex I habitats within/adjacent to the Plan area include:

- Pastures;
- Land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation;
- Water courses; and
- Water bodies.

4.5.5 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). Such designations within/adjacent to the Plan area include:

²⁶ 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.

- **Nutrient Sensitive Areas**, including Surface Water and Groundwater in Nutrient Sensitive Areas²⁷ - see Figure 4.14;
- **WFD Drinking Water Surface and Ground Water Bodies**²⁸ - see Figure 4.15; and
- **Bathing Water Areas**, including surface waters and groundwater in bathing areas – see Figure 4.16.

4.5.6 Survey of Trees

A 'Survey of Trees in Towns and Villages of County Clare' (completed in 2015) highlighted the amenity value of trees and hedgerows. The study surveyed and recorded the trees in settlements of County Clare, including Killaloe. Trees were categorised and assessed according to their quality and value, as following:

- Category A: Trees of High Quality;
- Category B: Trees of Moderate Quality;
- Category C: Trees of Low Quality; and
- Category U: Trees Unsuitable for Retention.

The results of the survey found that: 19 trees were of 'High Quality' (including those located at Tobermurragh, Bane Field Tennis Courts and in the grounds of St. Flannan's Cathedral); 18 trees were of 'Moderate Quality'; 26 of 'Low Quality'; and 4 trees were 'Unsuitable for Retention'. The survey recommended for additional planting of native trees within residential and tourism areas.

4.5.7 Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies many Irish habitats 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;

²⁷ Water bodies that intersect with areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and and transposing Regulations.

²⁸ Various water bodies are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 278/2007).

- 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.

Ireland's Article 12 Birds Directive Reports and the 6th National Report under the Convention of Biological Diversity identify similar issues.

Various measures relating to the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services have been integrated into the Plan.

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.

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.

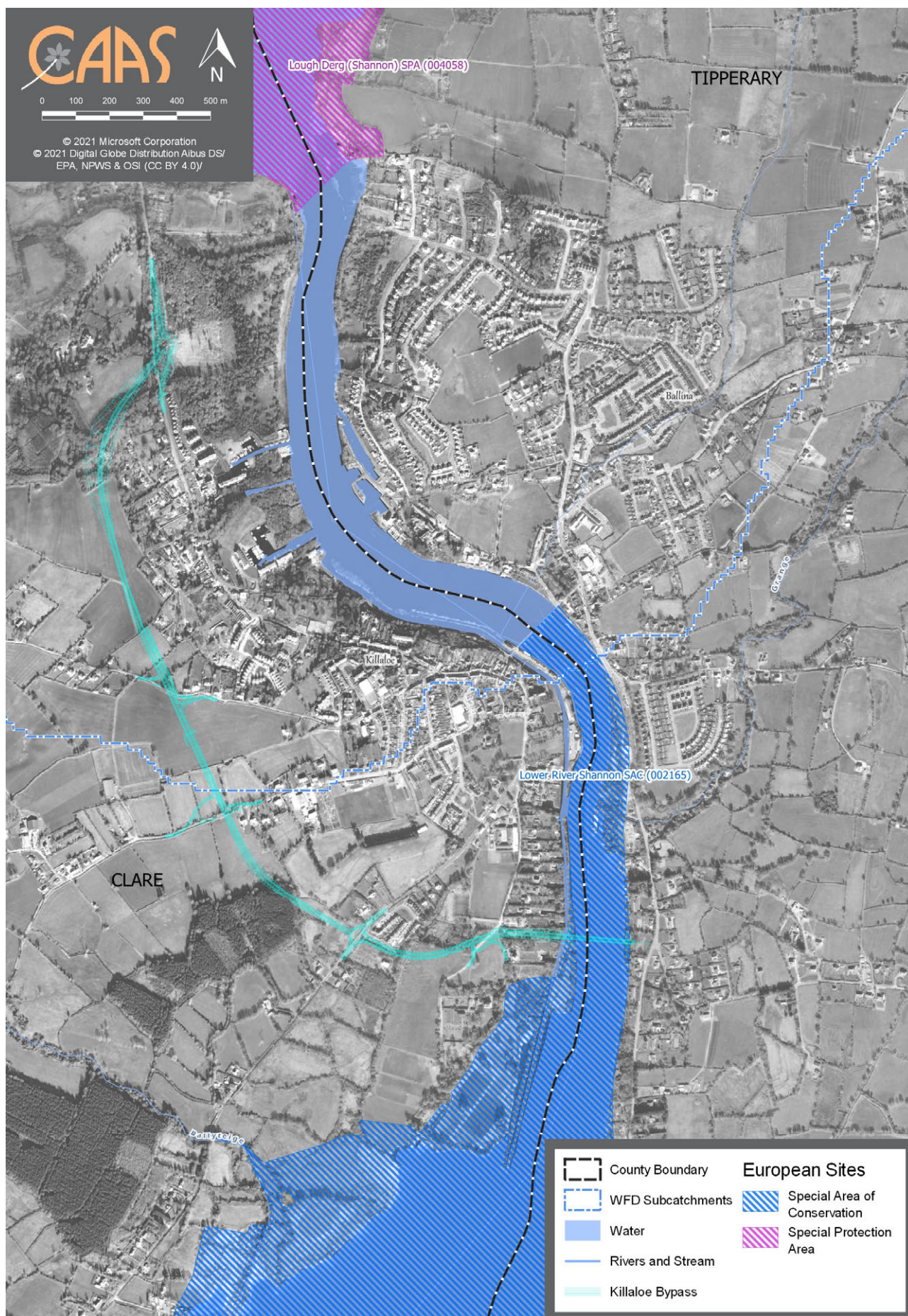


Figure 4.1 European sites within and adjacent to the Plan area

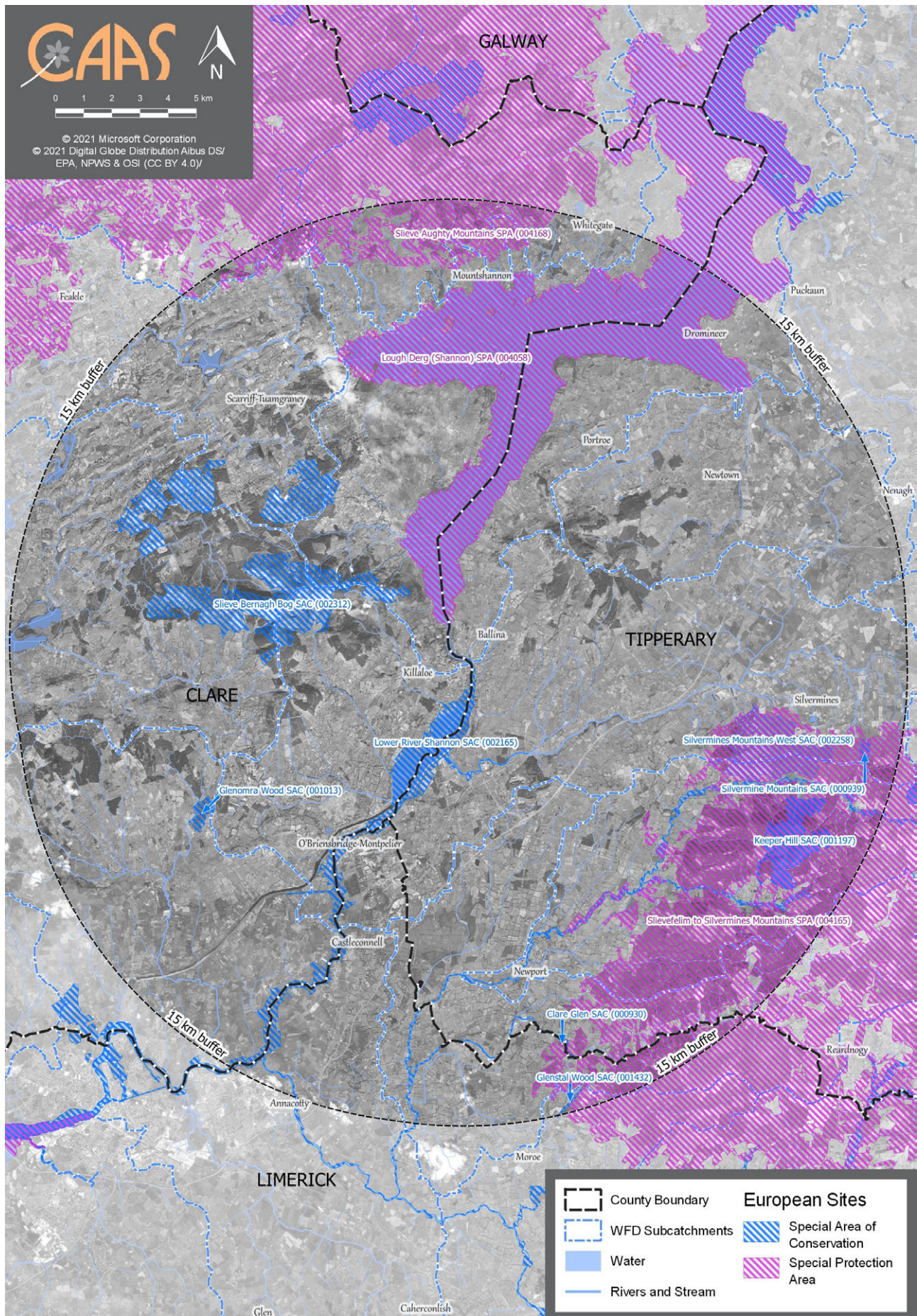


Figure 4.2 European sites within and within 15 km of the Plan area

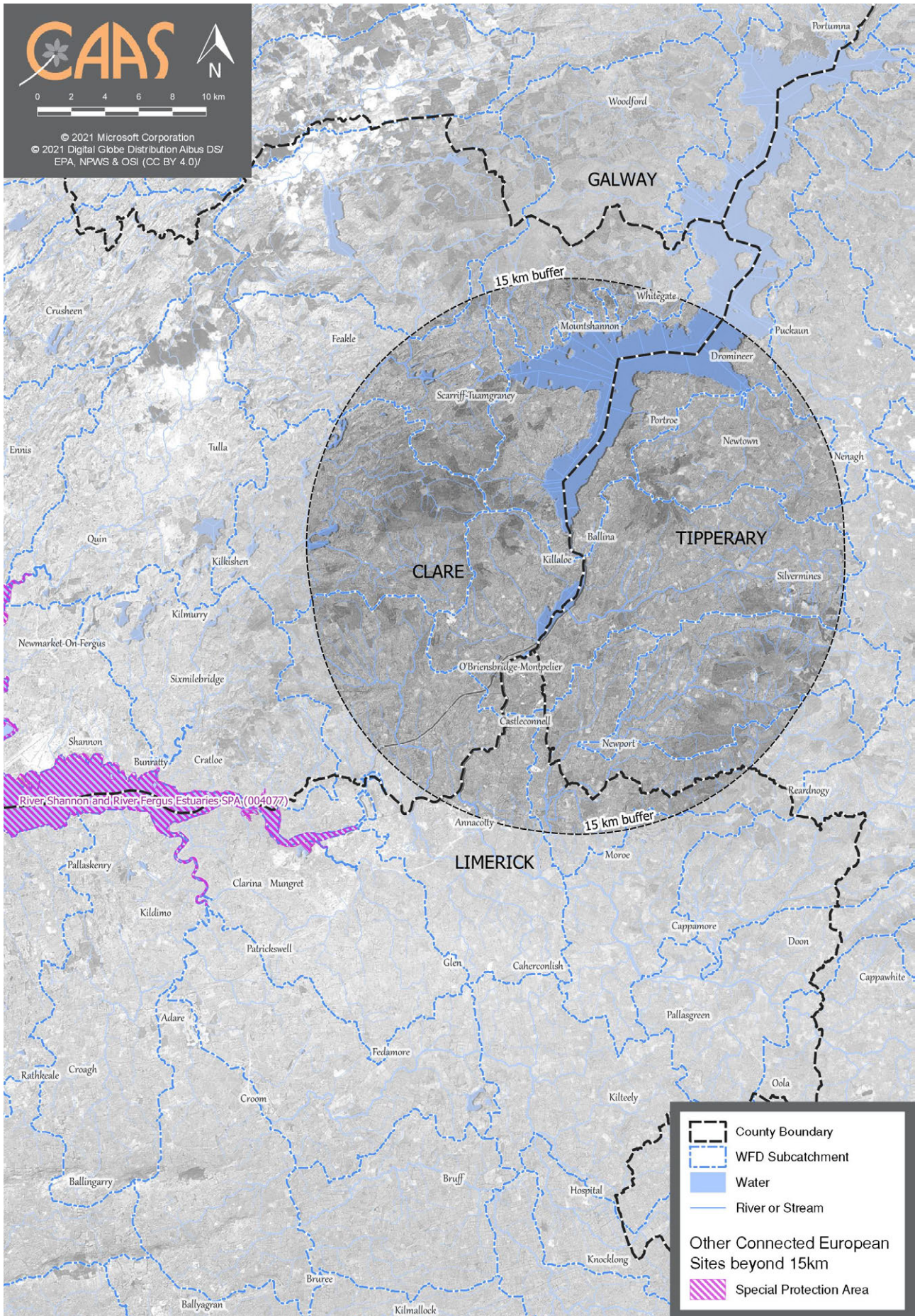


Figure 4.3 Other connected European sites beyond 15 km of the Plan area

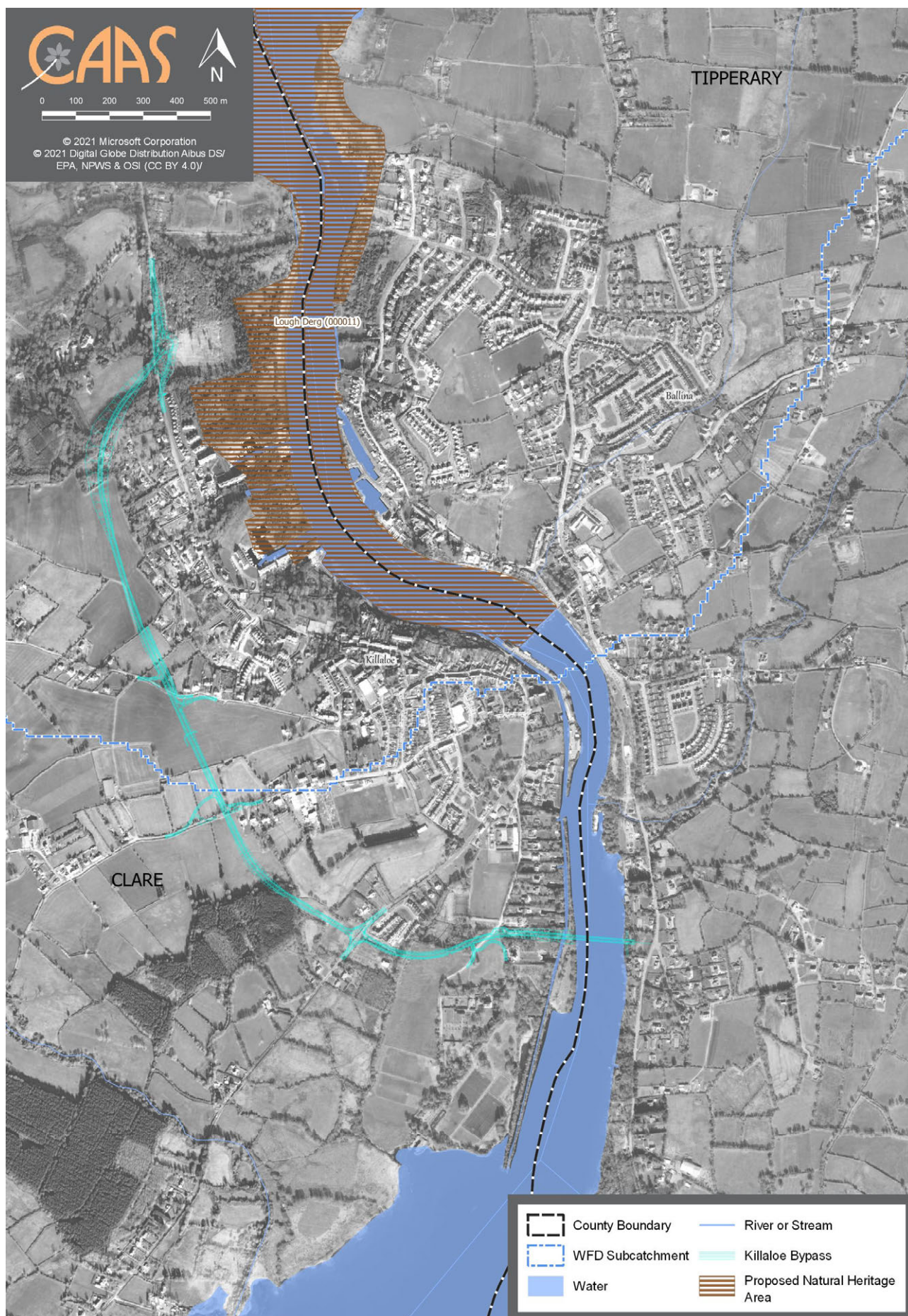


Figure 4.4 pNHAs within the Plan area

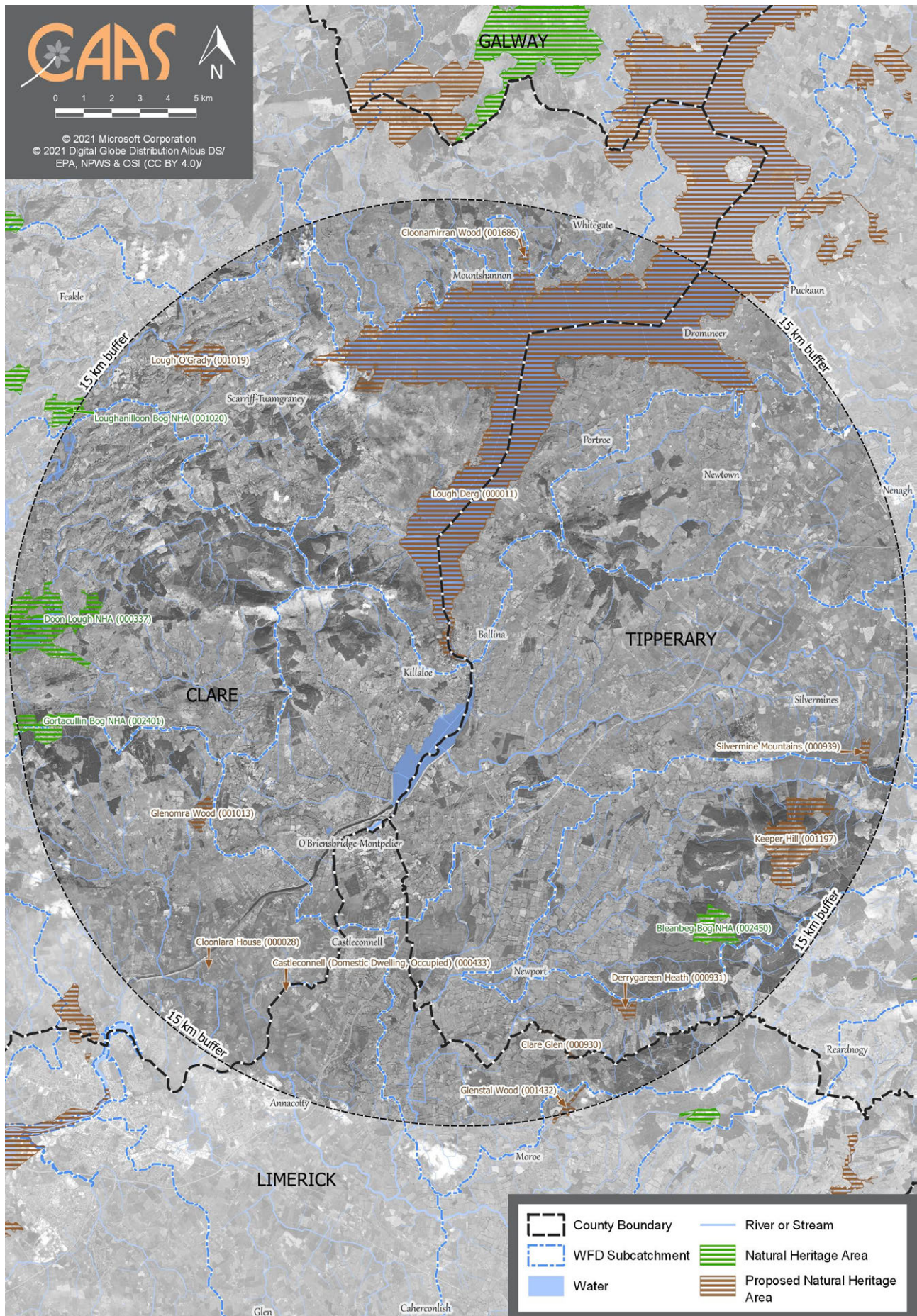


Figure 4.5 NHAs and pNHAs within 15 km buffer of the Plan area and beyond

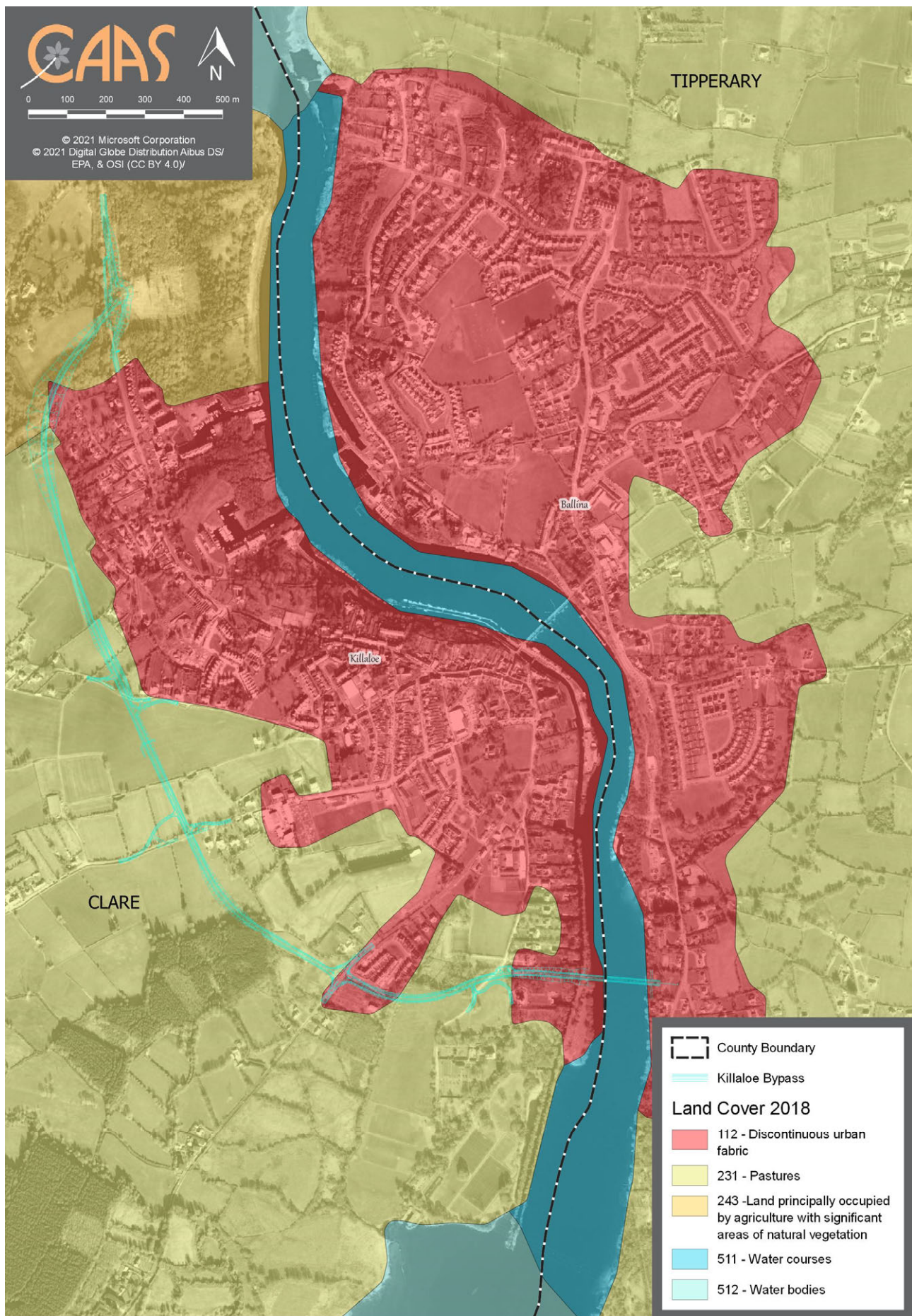


Figure 4.6 CORINE Land Cover Mapping 2018

4.6 Population and Human Health

4.6.1 Population

Using the Census data, the population of the Plan area in 2016 was identified as being of: 1,484 persons in the settlement of Killaloe; and 2,632 persons in the settlement of Ballina. Killaloe and Ballina are identified by the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 as offering employment opportunities and services in strategically located areas and providing social opportunities, employment and infrastructure to a network of communities.

The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) identifies Killaloe as a 'Small Town' within the settlement hierarchy, which offers services and facilities to their own populations and surrounding rural areas. The North Tipperary County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied) identifies Ballina as a 'Service Town' within the settlement hierarchy: a robust settlement that has a capacity to accommodate new residential growth, employment and enterprise and other appropriate uses.

Population has the potential to interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Contribution towards increase in demand for wastewater treatment;
- Contribution towards 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.

4.6.2 Human Health

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.

4.6.3 Existing Problems

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 Plan area with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country²⁹.

Also refer to the other sections of this report referred to above with respect interactions with other environmental components.

4.7 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. However,

²⁹ Mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

there is currently an EU Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil that includes a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive that proposes common principles for protecting soils across the EU.

Information sources relevant to the environmental component of soil which may be used in lower tier planning and environmental assessments includes:

- Soil types (2006) published by Teagasc, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), Forest Service and EPA;
- Sites of Geological Interest which have been published for some counties and provisional information on same for other counties (both available from GSI);
- Other datasets published by and available from GSI as relevant; and
- Datasets on contaminated soils which may be kept by planning authorities (these occur most often in urban areas).

Typical brown earths³⁰ make up most of the soils across and surrounding the Plan (see Figure 4.7). Other soils identified across the Plan area include:

- **Surface water gleys**³¹ (adjacent to the south in Killaloe and Ballina);
- **Alluvial soils**³² (along the main waterways); and
- **Urban and man-made soils** (in the central parts of the Plan area).

4.7.1 County 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. County Tipperary and County Clare Geological Sites Audits were completed in 2019 and 2005, respectively.³³ There are no County Geological Sites within the Plan area; the closest geological site - Kilmastulla Meltwater Channels County Geological Site (Site Code: TY040) - is located approx. 2 km south of Ballina. This site comprises a series of deep channels that were formed by meltwater erosion.

³⁰ Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

³¹ Surface water gleys are wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

³² These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

³³ Details are available from Geological Survey Ireland (www.gis.ie).

4.7.2 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 areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at sites within the Plan area, especially where land uses occurred in the past in the absence of environmental protection legislation. Such contamination has the potential to affect water quality, biodiversity and flora and fauna and human health. Requirements have been identified in the relevant Development Plans that address potential contamination issues.

4.7.3 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.

Public Supply Source Protection Areas comprise are managed by Irish Water to supply Public Water Supply Schemes across Ireland. Source Protection Areas provide protection by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution of the source.

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. 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 supply.

There is a Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Area (Drombane) to the north of the Plan area in County Tipperary, as shown on Figure 4.8.

4.7.4 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 GSI have identified the Plan area as having low levels of landslide susceptibility with some areas of moderately low and moderately high, as shown on Figure 4.9.

The Plan area includes a location with a historic landslide event (shown on Figure 4.9): Fort Henry Embankment Birdhill (1948) north of the Plan area.

4.7.5 Existing Problems

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

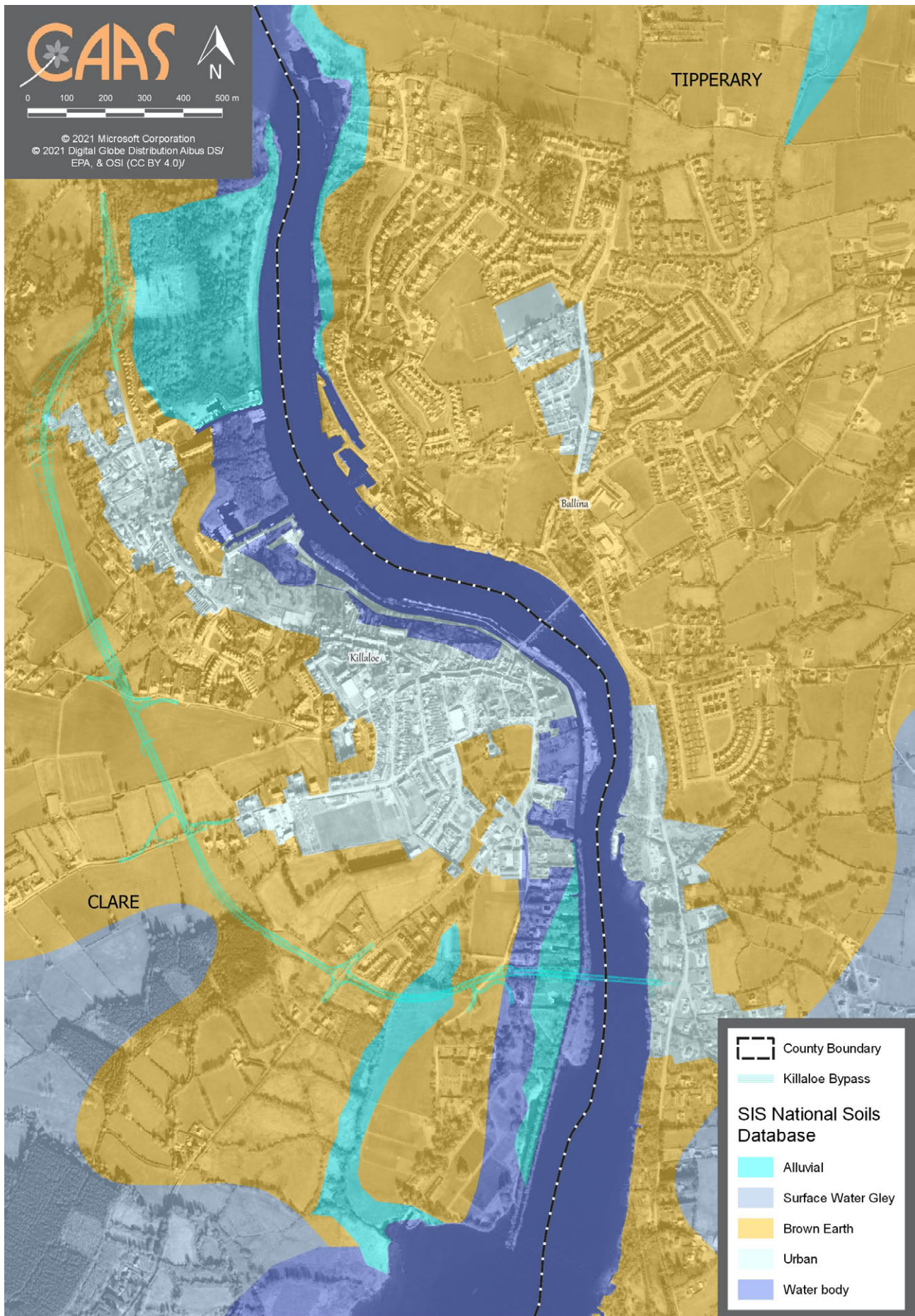


Figure 4.7 Soils

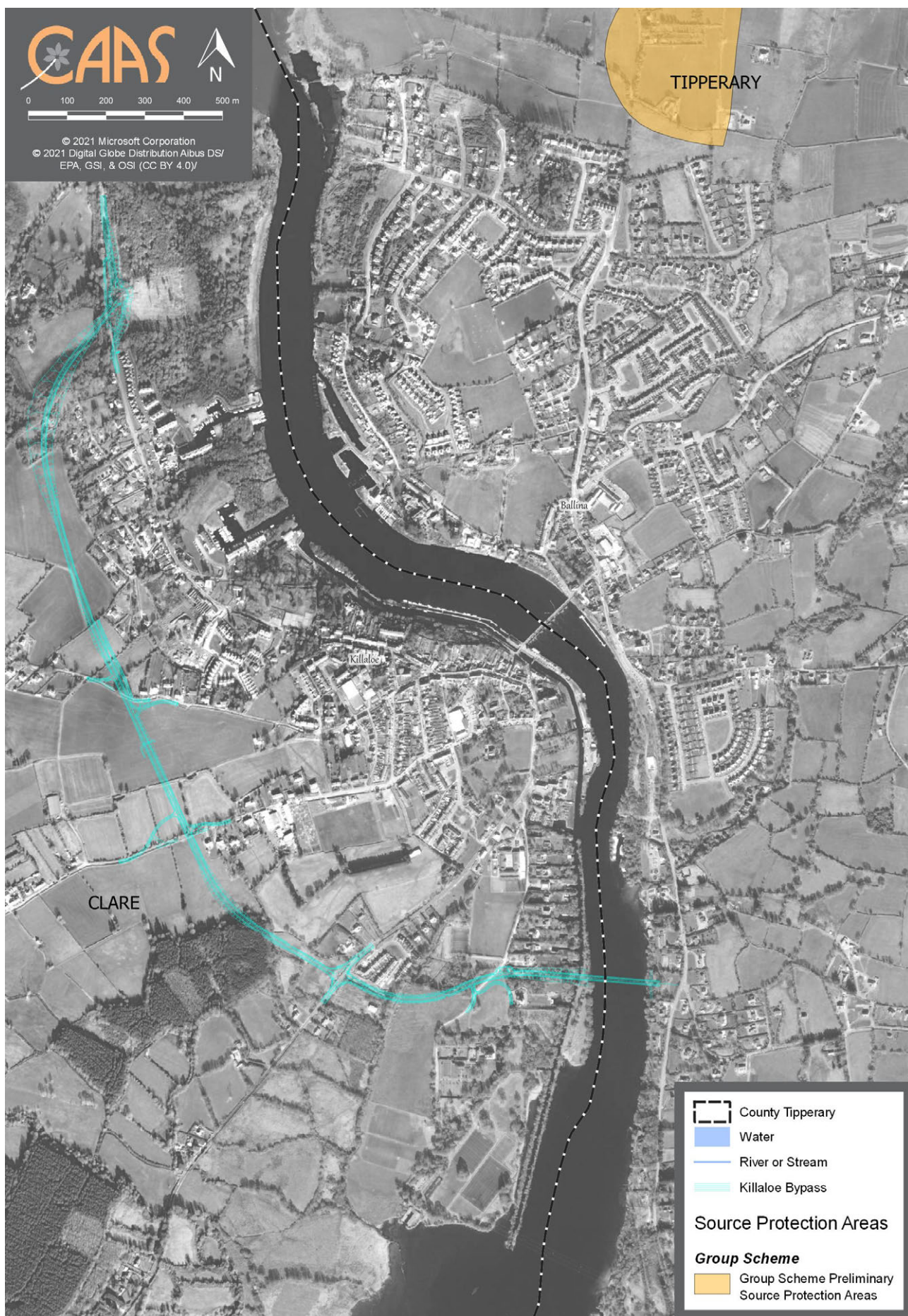


Figure 4.8 Source Protection Areas

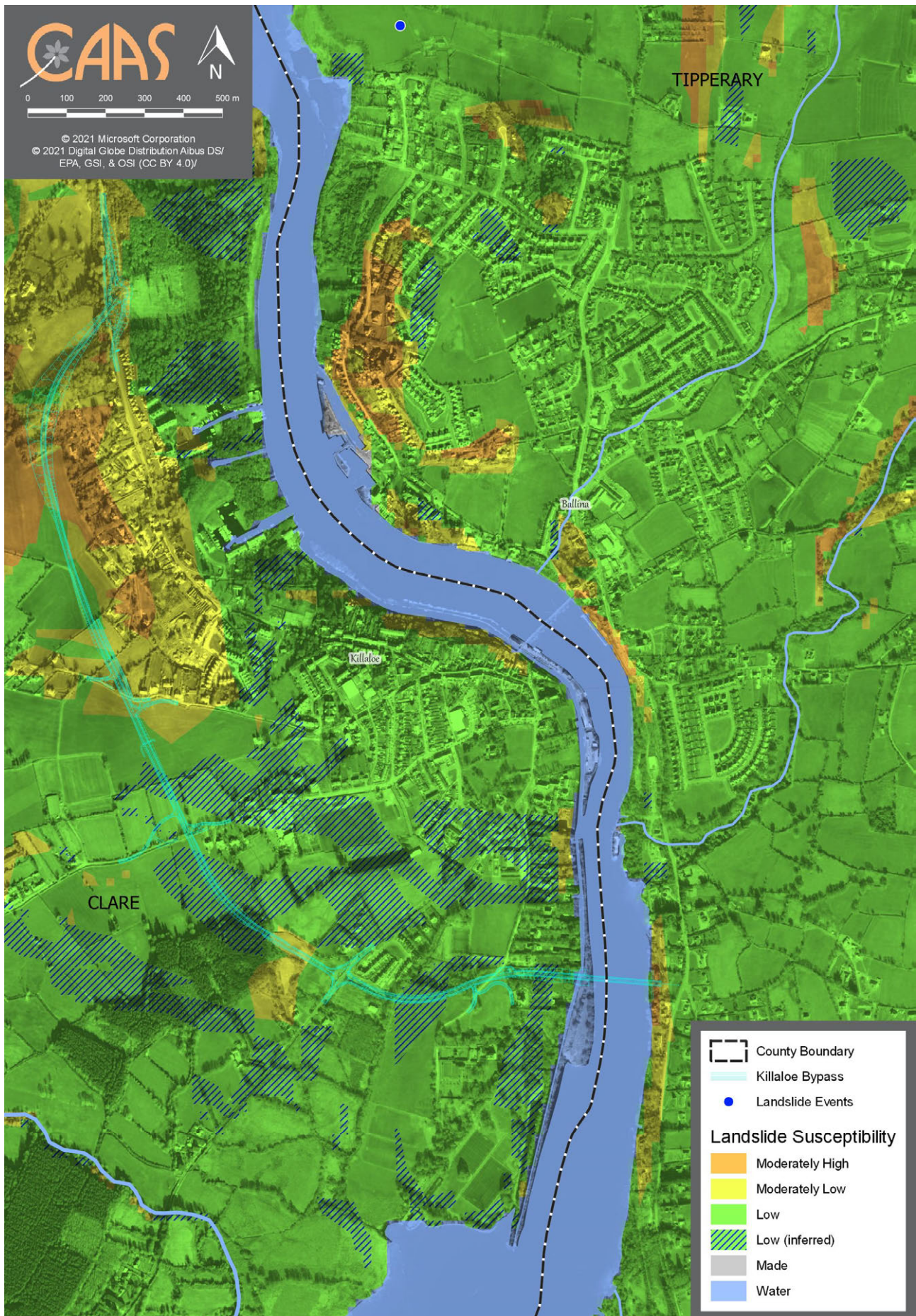


Figure 4.9 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events

4.8 Water

4.8.1 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 (RBMP).

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.

4.8.2 Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence of the Plan beyond the Plan area, 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 the Plan area.

4.8.3 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.

The surface water from the Plan area drains into the Lower Shannon³⁴ catchment. The main waterbodies in the Plan area are the River Shannon and Lough Derg.

4.8.4 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 and lakes, within and surrounding the Plan area is shown on Figure 4.10. There are

³⁴ This catchment comprises Lough Derg and its catchment. The catchment is characterised by flat limestone plains, a small proportion of which are karstified to the east of Lough Derg, and the uplands of the Devil's Bit Hills in the southeast, the Slieve Aughty Mountains in the west and the Slieve Bearnagh and Arra Mountains in the south, between which the Shannon escapes to the south from Lough Derg.

also a number of *unassigned*³⁵ rivers and lakes within and surrounding the Plan area.

The WFD status of the surface waters of sections³⁶ of rivers and lakes in the Plan area are classified as *good* and *moderate*, including: Lough Derg (on the River Shannon) with *good status* within the south of the Plan area/it is also classified as 'HMWB' (heavily-modified waterbody) and *moderate status* within the north of the Plan area.

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.³⁷ 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 the Plan area are identified on Table 4.2. There are various types of pressures identified, including:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Other pressures** include impacts from activities such as water abstractions, **invasive species** and historically polluted sites. These activities each impact a relatively small number of water bodies so they have been grouped together.

Table 4.2 WFD River and Transitional Waterbodies Status³⁸

Waterbody Name (EPA Identification Code) ³⁹	Water body Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018)
Derg TN	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological/ anthropogenic, invasive species, urban wastewater and agricultural sources.
Shannon (Lower)_050	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological/ anthropogenic and urban wastewater sources.
Derg HMWB	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Grange (Tipperary)_010	River	Unassigned. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological/ anthropogenic sources.
Shannon (Lower)_040	River	Unassigned. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological/ anthropogenic sources.

³⁵ There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. Overall status is currently not assigned and the term "*unassigned status*" applies in respect of these waterbodies.

³⁶ As per EPA classification system (gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/).

³⁷ EPA (2019): Report on Water Quality in Ireland 2013-2018

³⁸ Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> and <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>.

³⁹ The number at the end of each river water body name indicates where the water body is located along the main river channel. For example, the water body at the source is coded '_010', the next water body downstream is coded '_020' and the final water body before the river becomes transitional is '_180'.

4.8.5 Groundwater

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

Groundwater quality is an important resource for potable water and a sustaining resource for ecology. Geological conditions within and surrounding the Plan area mean that much of it is vulnerable to contamination.

4.8.6 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 Plan area are mapped on Figure 4.12 and generally classified as being of:

- **High, moderate and low vulnerability**, in the west and south of the Plan area; and
- **Extreme vulnerability and extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)** mainly in the north-east of the Plan area.

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** - mainly in the centre and south of the Plan area; and
- **Locally important aquifer bedrock which is generally moderately productive** - in most of the Plan area.

4.8.7 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 Plan area include:

- **Nutrient Sensitive Areas Lakes and Estuaries**, including Lough Derg on the River Shannon in the of the Plan area - see Figure 4.14;
- **Surface Water and Groundwater in Nutrient Sensitive Areas**, including surface water associated with Lough Derg on the River Shannon and groundwater beneath the entire Plan area - see Figure 4.14;
- **WFD Drinking Water Surface Water Bodies**, including Lough Derg (TN). Groundwater beneath the entire Plan area is also included – see Figure 4.15; and
- **Bathing Water Areas**, including surface waters and groundwater in bathing areas - see Figure 4.16.

4.8.8 Bathing Waters

Bathing locations identified as 'Bathing Waters' under the Bathing Water Regulations 2008, as amended, are mapped on Figure 4.16.

For bathing waters, Mandatory and Guide Values are set out for bathing waters in the

2006 EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Regulations. Mandatory Values are values that must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. Compliance with Guide Values exceeds guidance with Mandatory Values and can be regarded as quality objectives which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

Bathing waters are now classified into four quality categories; 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient', or 'poor' with a minimum target of 'sufficient' required to be achieved for all bathing waters.

Surface waters and groundwaters in Bathing Locations are identified along the west of the Plan area.

The most recent available data from the EPA for 2020⁴⁰ shows that designated bathing waters within the Plan area is classified as *excellent*⁴¹ at Ballycuggeran (Killaloe).

The Blue Flag award is given to beaches and marinas that have excellent water quality and maintain other standards including effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment and safety standards. Ballycuggeran (Killaloe) was awarded with the Blue Flag in 2021.

4.8.9 Flooding

Certain areas across the Plan area are at risk from pluvial⁴² and fluvial⁴³ flooding. Historical flooding is documented at a number of locations, including along the Lough Derg on the River Shannon within the centre of the Plan area.

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment (CFRAM) flood risk mapping for the Plan area is shown on Figure 4.17⁴⁴, indicating areas likely to be at most risk of flooding.

Predictive flood risk mapping is available from the Office of Public Works (OPW) for rivers across the Plan area.

Killaloe was identified by the OPW in 2012 as requiring detailed assessment of flood risk (Areas for Further Assessment).

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) as required by the 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (OPW and DEHLG, 2009) is relevant to project planning and development and associated environmental assessment and administrative consent of projects.

4.8.10 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.

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

⁴⁰ EPA Report (2021) on *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland for the year 2020*

⁴¹ The highest, cleanest class.

⁴² Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

⁴³ Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

⁴⁴ This mapping shows the likelihood of flooding from a number of sources, defined as the percentage probability of a flood occurring 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.

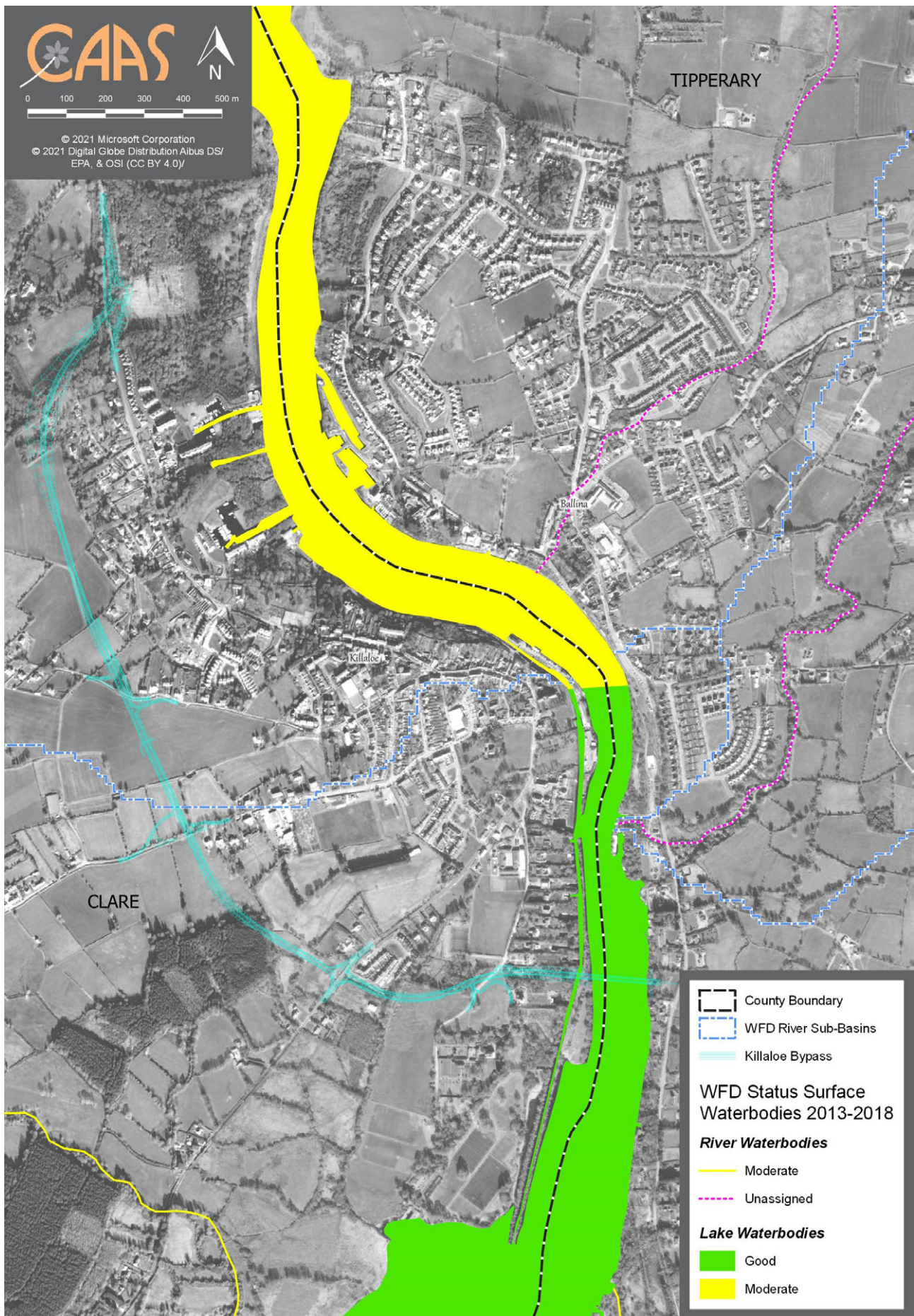


Figure 4.10 WFD Surface Waterbodies Status (2013-2018)



Figure 4.11 WFD Groundwater Status (2013-2018)

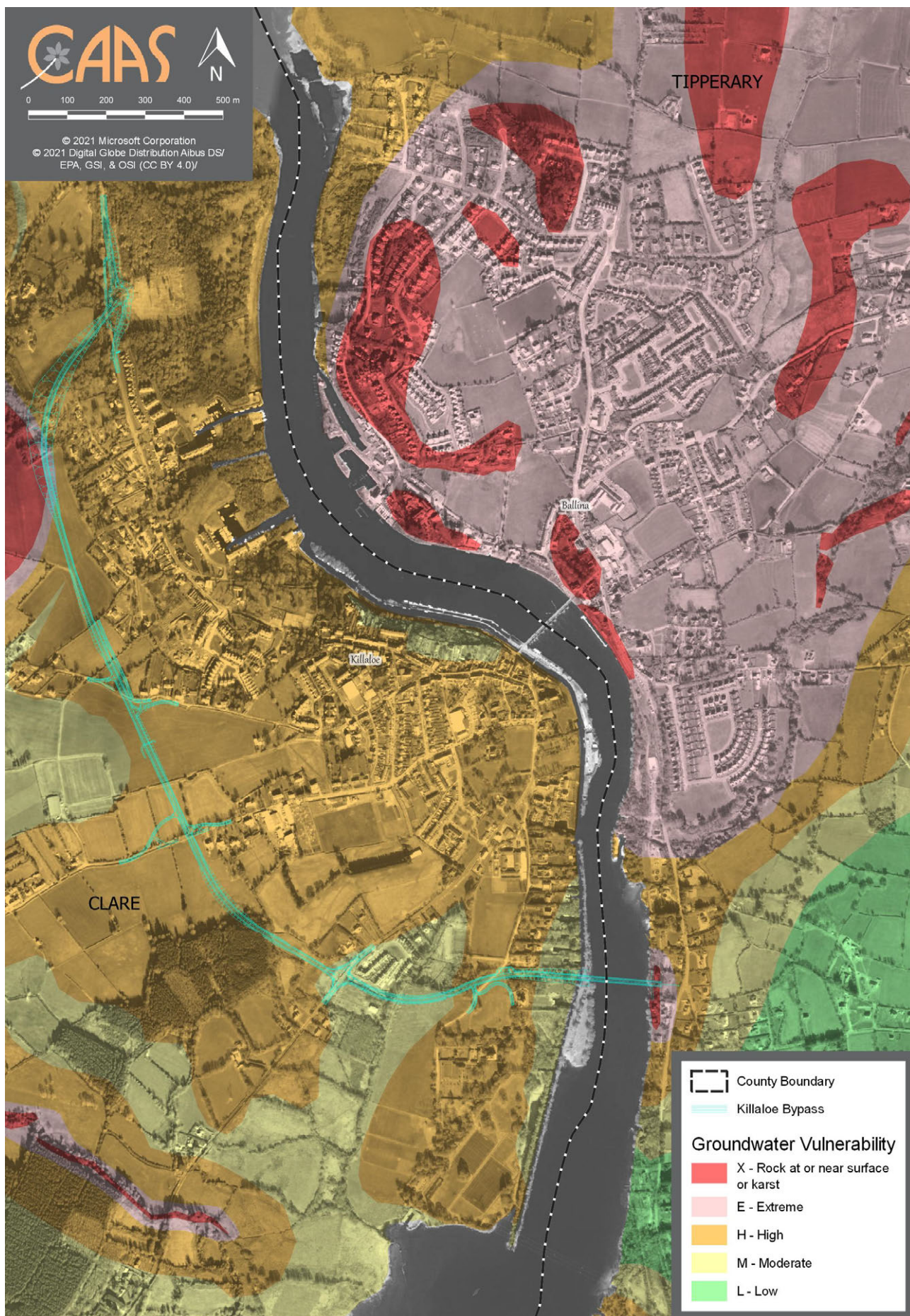


Figure 4.12 Groundwater Vulnerability



Figure 4.13 Groundwater Productivity

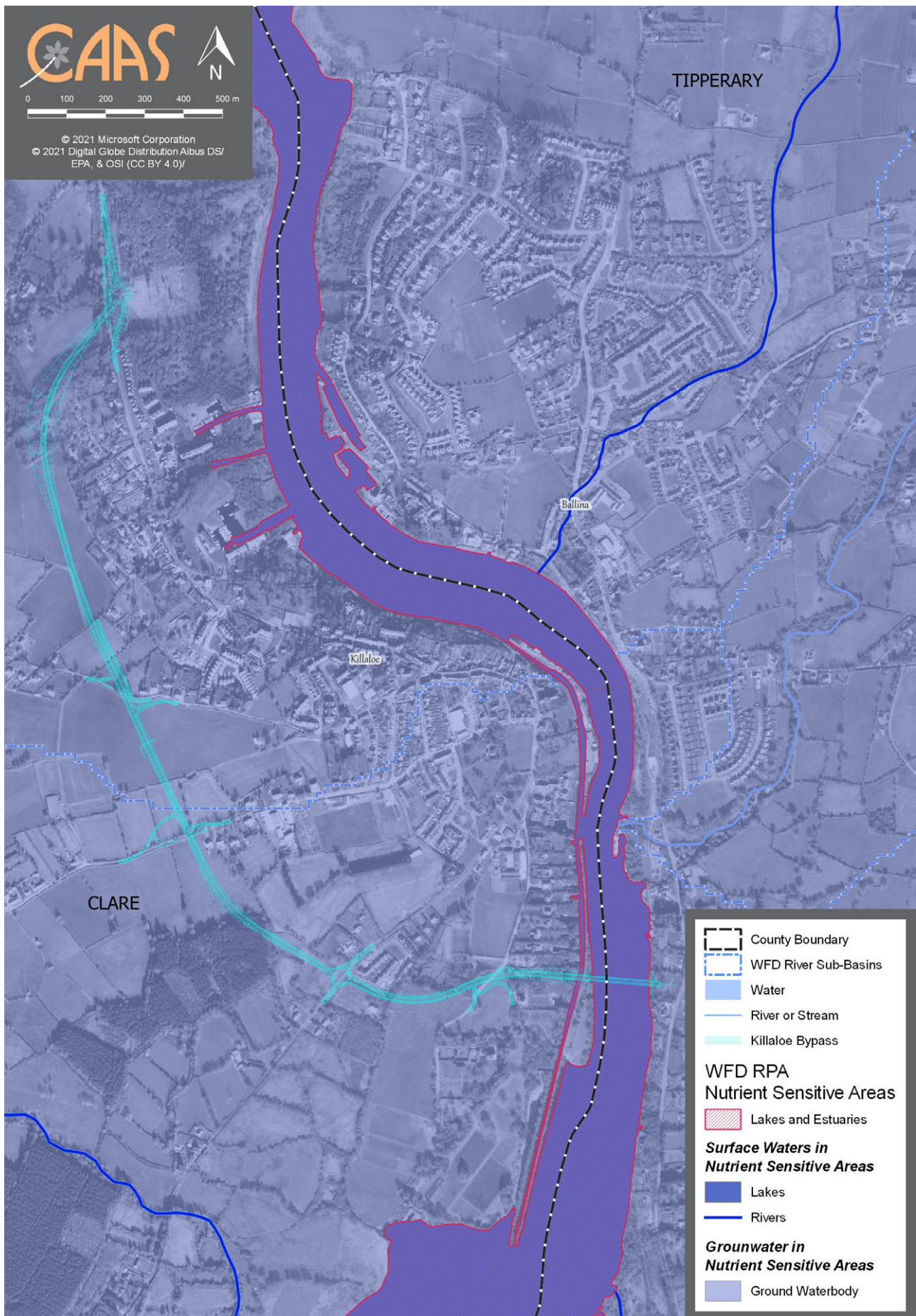


Figure 4.14 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas

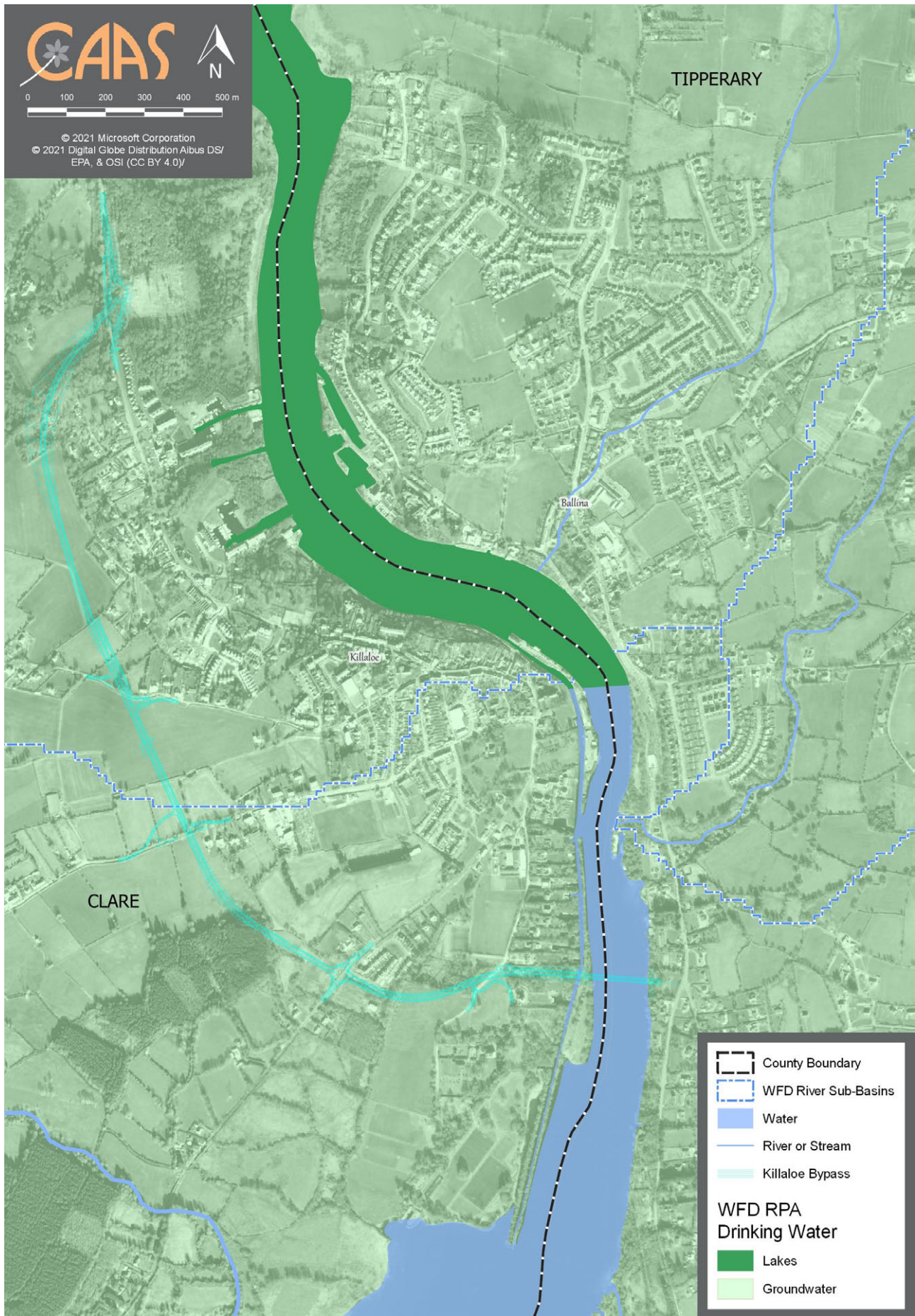


Figure 4.15 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water

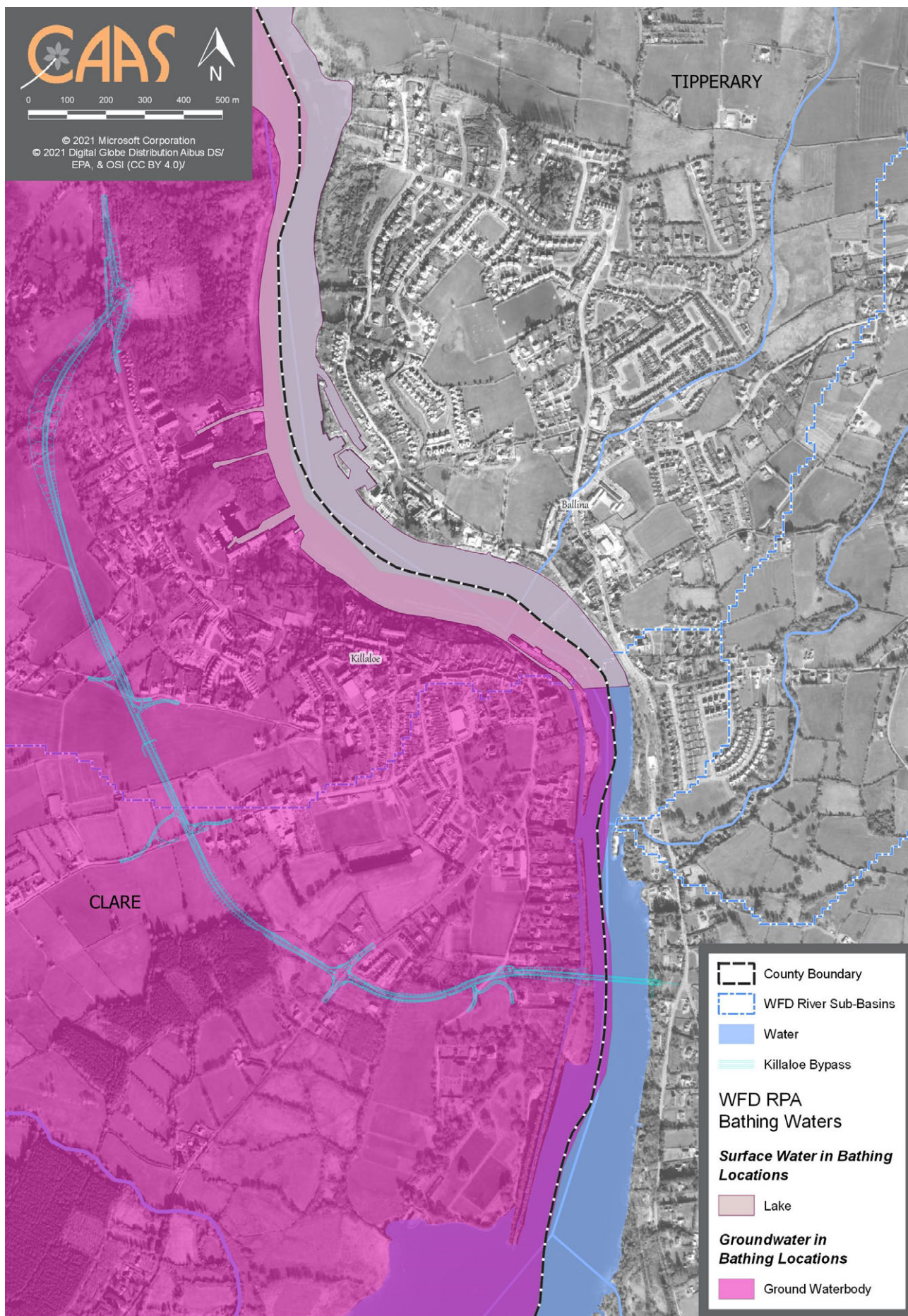


Figure 4.16 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Bathing Waters

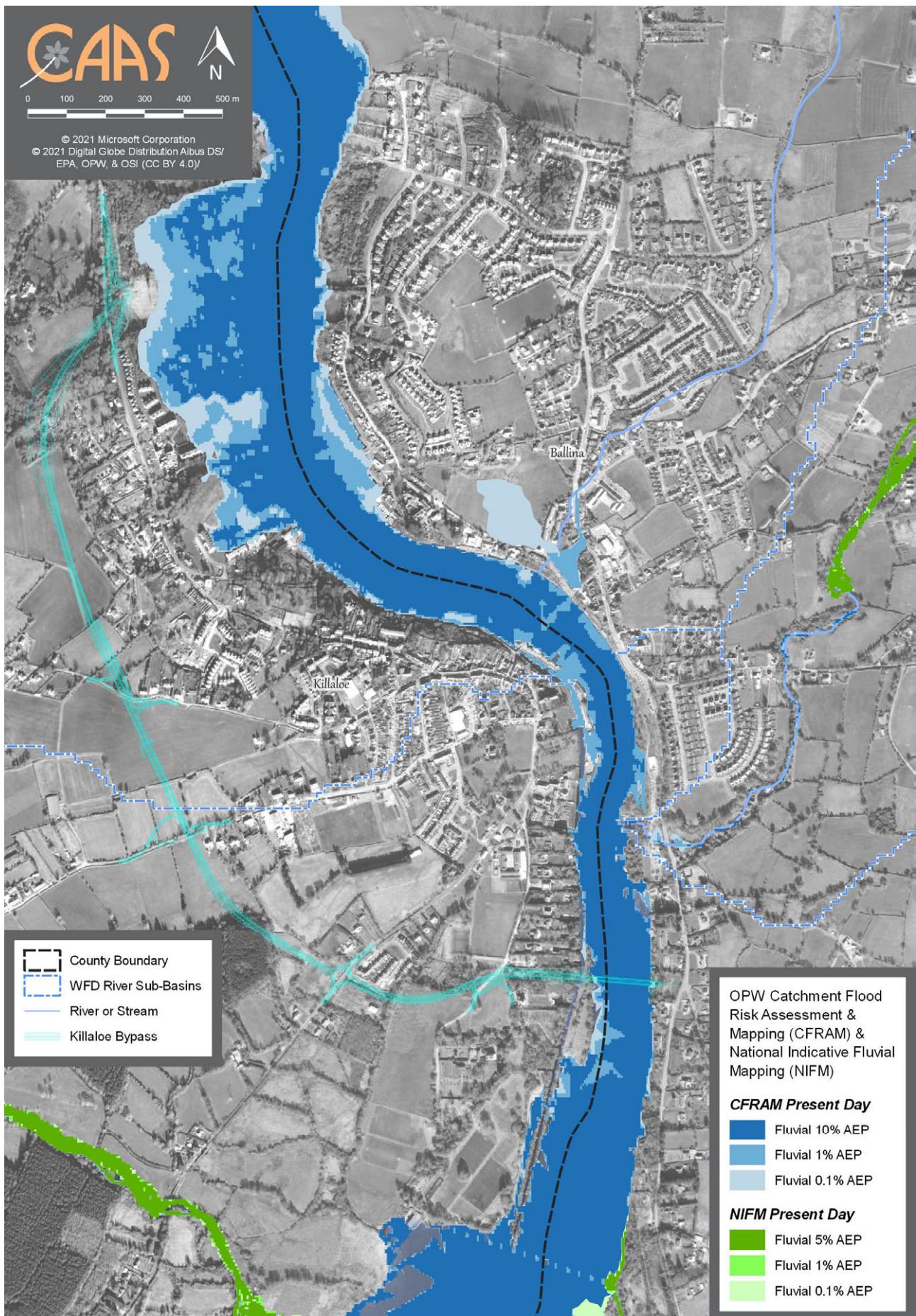


Figure 4.17 Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Mapping and National Indicative Fluvial Mapping

4.9 Air and Climatic Factors

4.9.1 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 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 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 ETS⁴⁵ 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.

⁴⁵ 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.

- Emissions from the Manufacturing Combustion⁴⁶ 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, which was published in 2018. This is evident in the With Additional Measures scenario which assumes full implementation of the programmes, policies and measures included in the 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

⁴⁶ Manufacturing Combustion; includes combustion of fuels in Industry and Construction, both in ETS and non-ETS

a result of an increase in animal numbers particularly for the dairy herd. The implementation of additional energy efficiency measures included in the National Development Plan will see a significant reduction in emissions in the residential, commercial/public services and manufacturing sectors over the projected period.

The National Climate Action Plan 2019 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 Action 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 Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation.

Climate mitigation describes action to reduce the likelihood of climate change occurring or reduce the impact if it does occur. This can include reducing the causes of climate change (e.g. emissions of greenhouse gases) as well as reducing future risks associated with climate change.

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 are included in the Action 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 2020 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.

Climate adaptation is a change in natural or human systems in response to the impacts of climate change. These changes moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities and can be in response to actual or expected impacts.

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 Tipperary County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 seeks to:

- Ensure a proper understanding of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change;
- Advance the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner;
- Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies; and
- integrated into all operations and functions of the local authority.

Similarly, the Clare County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 sets out the high-level vision on how the County intends to transition to a low carbon climate resilient future by adapting a wide range of actions across the different Directorates to adapt to the challenges of climate change. The Strategy will be dynamic and flexible to respond quickly to the threats and opportunities that will face the local authority in the coming years.

Various provisions relating to climatic factors have been integrated into the draft Plan. Such measures include those relating to (for more detail refer to Section 9):

- Sustainable mobility and access;
- A highly accessible experience for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Enhancing connectivity of the towns by transition of the bridge to pedestrian and cycle link; and
- Various local mobility and public realm improvements.

Interactions with climatic factors are also present with other environmental components including water/flooding (see Section 4.8).

4.9.2 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.

Problem pollutants identified by the EPA include particulate matter from burning of solid fuel and nitrogen dioxide from transport emissions in urban areas. Indications that

Ireland will exceed EU limit values for nitrogen dioxide in the near future.

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 current⁴⁷ air quality at all monitoring stations in Counties Clare and Tipperary is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

4.9.3 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. 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 EU policy on noise reduction from source. The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:

- 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.

In compliance with the Directive and transposing Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006), Noise Action Plans have been prepared for each local authority area within the country. The Action Plans include noise mapping and are required to include measures to manage noise issues and effects, including noise reduction if necessary.

⁴⁷ 15/06/2021 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)

4.9.4 Existing Problems

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2020 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. It is noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included.

4.10 Material Assets

4.10.1 Water Services

4.10.1.1 Wastewater

The EPA's 2020 report *'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2019'* identified that:

- Wastewater treatment at 19 large urban areas did not meet European standards;
- Raw sewage is released into the environment from 35 urban areas;
- Wastewater from 48 areas is the sole threat to waters at risk of pollution;
- Wastewater contributed to poor quality bathing waters at three beaches in 2019;
- Discharges from 13 areas must improve to protect freshwater pearl mussels;
- Seven 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 that must be addressed. There are no Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) located within the Plan area currently listed as priority areas.

The Plan area is served by the Ballina WWTP (serving both settlements - Ballina and Killaloe). Irish Water has provided information on wastewater treatment capacity, constraints and projects planned for Ballina WWTP, to improve the existing network. This information indicates where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth ("headroom") in terms of population

equivalent⁴⁸ (PE) in areas serviced by the public wastewater treatment plant. Currently, there is no spare treatment capacity available in the Ballina WWTP⁴⁹.

The most recent Irish Water compliance reports for the wastewater treatment plant serving the area to which the Plan area, provides information on the environmental performance and wastewater discharge licence compliance for the Ballina WWTP⁵⁰:

- **Ballina WWTP (licence no. D0189-01)** - The WWTP is compliant with the Emission Limit Values set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence. The WWTP has a constructed capacity of 4500 (PE), a Collected Load (peak week) of 5243 PE. There is a proposed project to increase the plant's capacity to 8,000 PE upon completion of works by 2024⁵¹.

Clare and Tipperary County Councils will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Investment Plan to support and facilitate the delivery the upgrade of the Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant.

4.10.1.2 Water Supply

Drinking water supply in the Plan area is provided by and private/public water supply schemes.

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 most recent EPA Remedial Action List (Q1 of 2021) does not identify any sources within the Plan area.

⁴⁸ WWTPs 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.

⁴⁹ Wastewater Treatment Capacity for Tipperary County Council (Irish Water, 2020)

⁵⁰ Irish Water (2019) *Annual Environmental Reports (AERs)*

⁵¹ Wastewater Treatment Capacity (Irish Water 2020).

4.10.2 Public Assets and Infrastructure

Killaloe is identified as “Small Town”, of fundamental importance offering services and facilities including employment and tourism, to residents and to surrounding rural area. Ballina is identified as a “Service Town”, robust settlement that have a capacity to accommodate new residential growth, employment and enterprise and other appropriate uses.

The Plan area is served by regional and strategic roads, including a crossing of the River Shannon.

Two bus routes operate within the Plan area: ‘Bus 323’ (Drummin Village - Newport Tipperary), stopping at Ballina Church, operates seven services per day Monday to Friday and three services per day on Sunday; and ‘Bus 345’ (Limerick – Scariff), stopping at St. Anne’s College, operates two services per day Sunday to Thursday.

A new Shannon river crossing, Killaloe by-pass and upgrade of the R494 was approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012 to alleviate traffic in the Plan area.

Public assets and infrastructure that have the potential to be impacted upon by new development, if unmitigated, include resources such as public open spaces, parks and recreational areas; public buildings and services; utility infrastructure (electricity, gas, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.). These resources are generally located within the immediate outskirts of urban/suburban areas.

4.10.3 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 the Plan area are shown on Figure 4.18. 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.

4.10.4 Waste Management

Waste management across the Plan area is guided by the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021. The Southern Region comprises: Limerick City and County Council; Tipperary County Council; Wexford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kilkenny County Council; Waterford City and County Council; Cork City Council; Cork County Council; Kerry County Council; and Clare County Council. The Plan provides a framework for the prevention and management of waste in a sustainable manner.

4.10.5 Existing Problems

The provision of infrastructure and supporting services for development, particularly water and wastewater services, is essential – plans are in place to ensure that any new development is accompanied by adequate and appropriate infrastructure.

2018 saw long dry spells, which Met Éireann compared to 1976 when similar drought conditions were experienced across the country. The prolonged hot weather during the summer caused a huge increase in water usage across the country. As demand for water rose to critical levels, Irish Water’s supplies were put under severe stress as more water was being used than could be produced.

Irish Water is currently preparing a National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) to address issues with the supply and demand for drinking water in Ireland over the short, medium and long term.

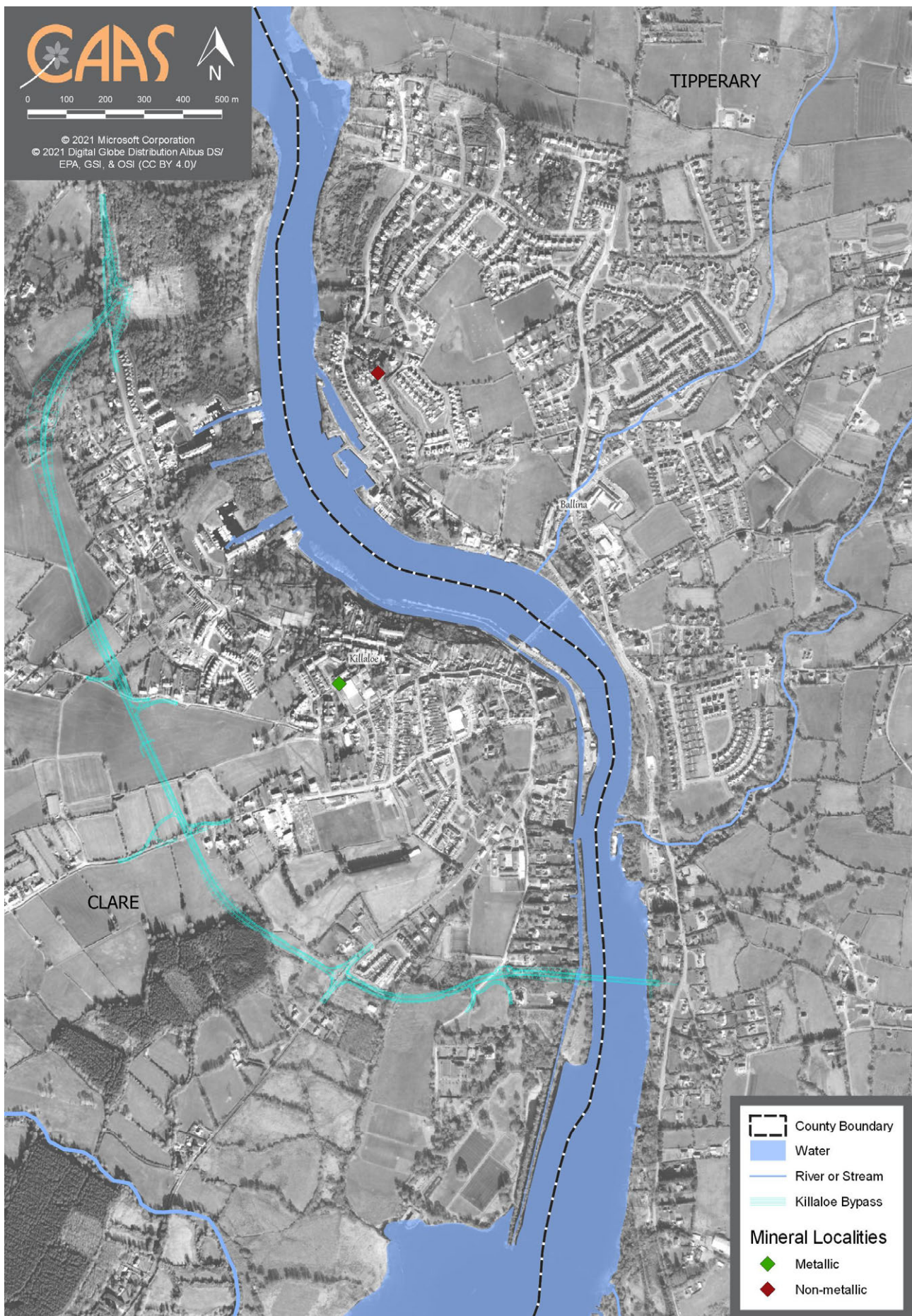


Figure 4.18 Mineral Localities

4.11 Cultural Heritage

4.11.1 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.

The European Convention on Protection of the Archaeological Heritage known as the Valletta Convention of 1992. This was ratified by Ireland in 1997 and requires that appropriate consideration be given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process.

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.

A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)⁵² is a manual containing a numbered list of all certain and possible monuments. An Urban Archaeology Survey was completed in 1995 and contained reports on historic towns dating to before 1700 A.D. with a view to delineating zones of archaeological potential (SMR Zones of Notification). The SMR formed the basis for issuing the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) - the statutory list of recorded monuments established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.

The Plan area comprises a number of archaeological monuments, including entries to the SMR and RMP. Figure 4.19 shows the spatial distribution of recorded monuments and associated SMR and RMP Zones of Notification within and surrounding the Plan area.

The Zone of Notification in Killaloe and Ballina encompasses a number of historically important features in the river and aligns with the County boundary line in the centre of the River Shannon and the zone extends south of St. Flannan's Cathedral.

⁵² The RMP was issued for each county between 1995 and 1998 in a similar format to the existing SMR. However, the RMP differs from the earlier lists in that, as defined in the Act, only monuments with known locations or places where there are believed to be monuments are included. The large archive and supporting database are managed by the National Monuments Service and the records are continually updated and supplemented as additional monuments are discovered. (<https://data.gov.ie/dataset/national-monuments-service-archaeological-survey-of-ireland>).

There are 18 National Monuments and four scheduled monuments located within the Plan area, including two National Monuments in State Care (shown on Figure 4.19): St. Flannan's Church, (a Romanesque cathedral, built in the 1180s); and St. Molua's Church (originally constructed in the 9th and 10th century on Friars Island and later dismantled and reconstructed at the present site).

Clusters of archaeological heritage are found within the towns' core, with higher concentrations of monuments occurring in Killaloe. Archaeological sites of the particular importance include: Brian Borus Fort (located 2 km north of Killaloe); St Lua's Oratory; and Killaloe Bridge (18th century bridge joining Killaloe and Ballina).

The towns of Ballina and Killaloe were at the forefront of industrial developments during the period of the industrial revolution and retain the enduring legacy of the development of the canal and rail systems in Ireland - this infrastructure occupies central prominent sites in both towns.

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 and lakes within and surrounding the Plan area, 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.

4.11.2 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 curtilage⁵³ 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 (iii).

Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of architectural heritage are concentrated within the towns' core, as shown on Figure 4.20. Notable structures include: Killaloe Bridge; Church of Our Lady and Saint Lua; Ferns Hollow; Killaloe Courthouse; and Parochial House.

There are 22 Protected Structures within the Plan area. These include examples of

⁵³ 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 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.

churches, shops and houses. Entries to the RPS within the Plan area and beyond are shown on Figure 4.20.

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.

Killaloe ACA is designated within the Plan area (shown on Figure 4.20) and covers the old historic centre of the town, including Killaloe Bridge, extending south from the canal walls to Royal Parade, John St., Main St., The Green, Chapel St., Thomas St., New St., parts of Courthouse Road and Carrig's Lane. Killaloe ACA is designated in order to maintain the integrity and character of this historic town.

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. Figure 4.20 shows entries to NIAH within the Plan area.

4.11.3 Existing Problems

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

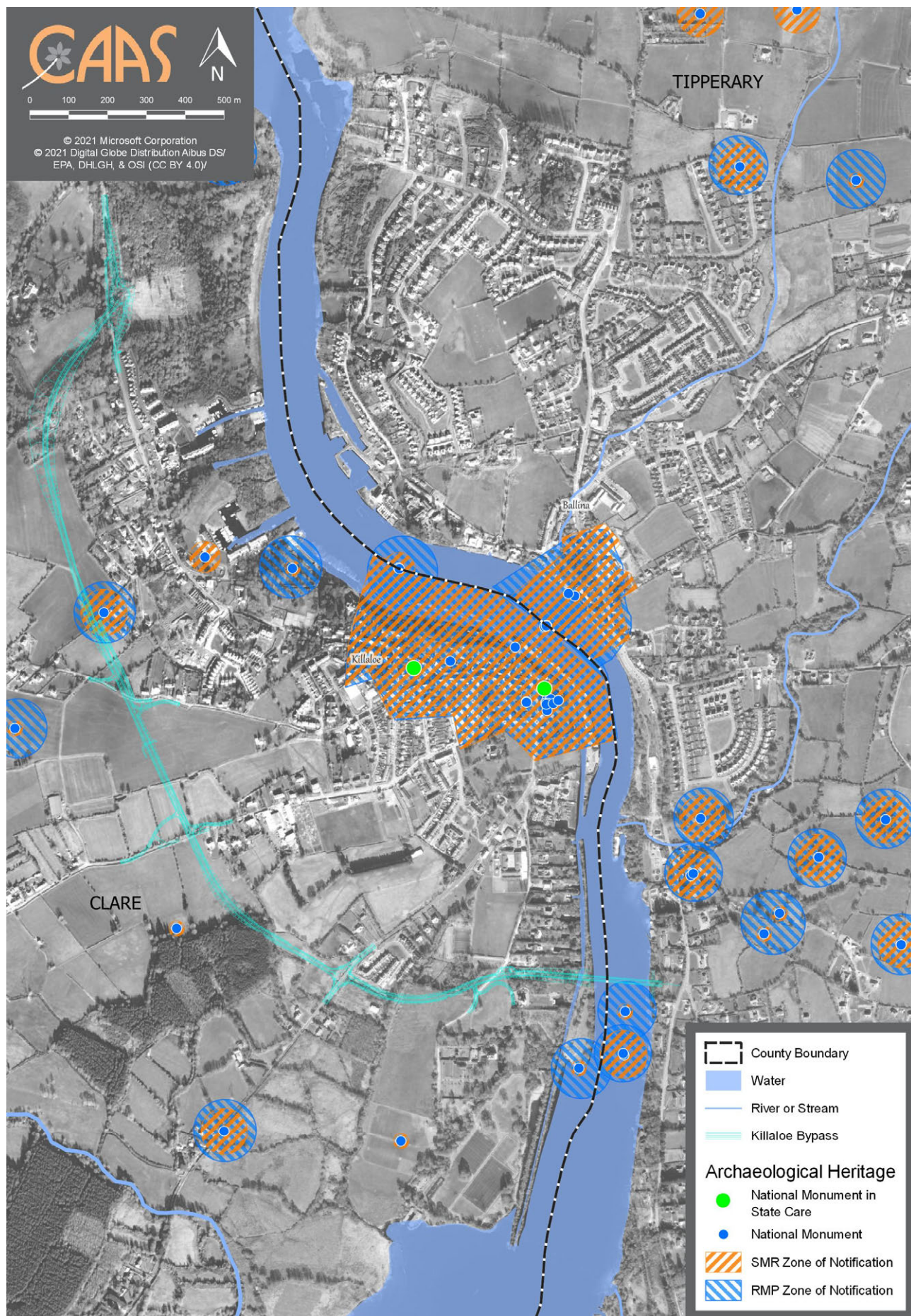


Figure 4.19 Archaeological Heritage

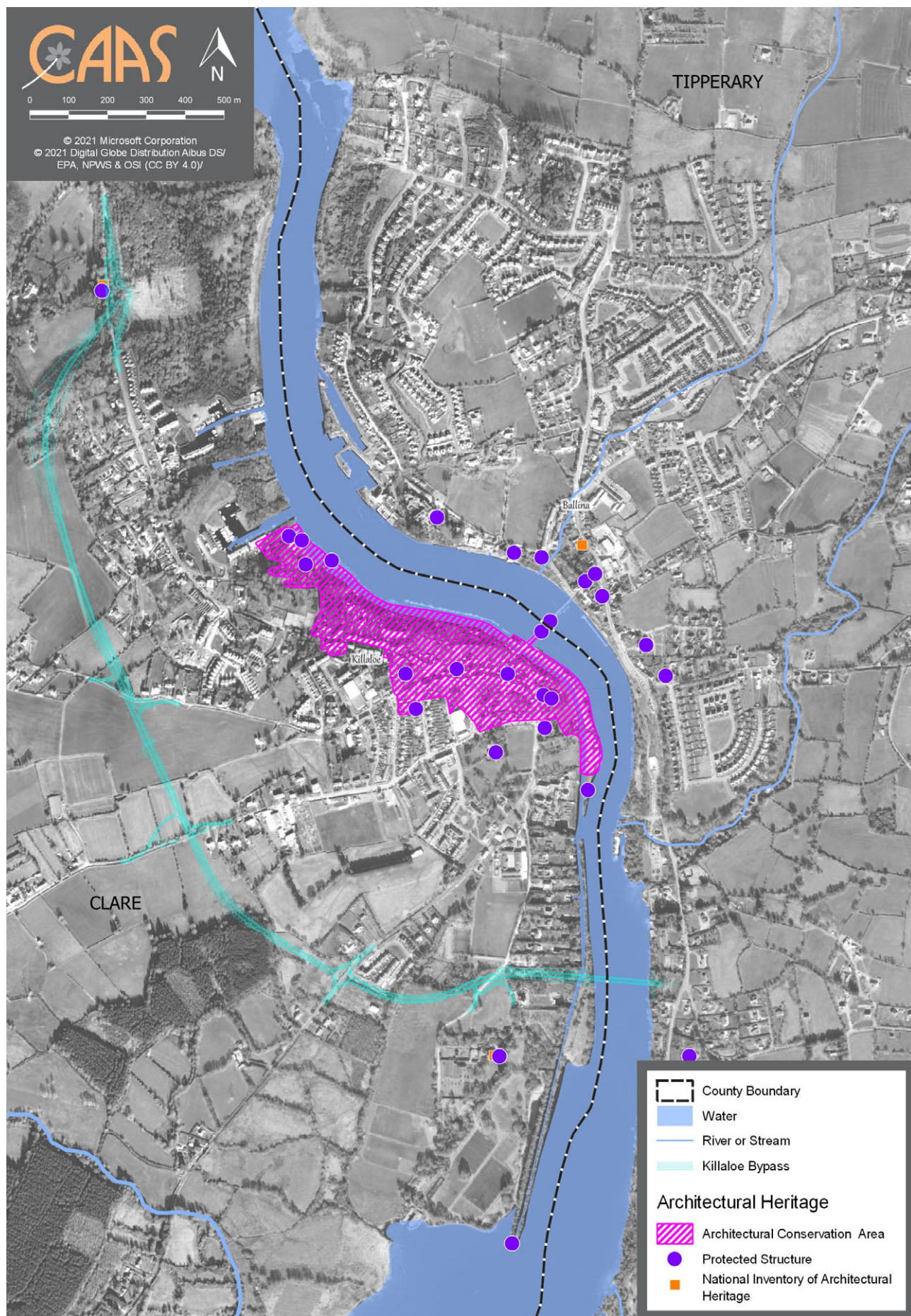


Figure 4.20 Architectural Heritage

4.12 Landscape

4.12.1 Introduction

The towns of Killaloe and Ballina are located on the southern end of Lough Derg, along the border shared between Counties Clare and Tipperary. The River Shannon runs through the centre of the two towns, which are joined by the historic bridge. The area is rich in heritage and public amenities associated with Lough Derg and the River Shannon.

4.12.2 Landscape Character Assessment

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 Landscape Character Assessment for County Tipperary identifies 23 Landscape Character Areas⁵⁴. The Plan area is identified as being situated within the 'Arra Mountains – Lower Lough Derg Landscape Character Areas'. This area is described as a lakeland enclosure that is a mixture of upland/lowland and lake areas. The area is identified as being of transitional vulnerability.

The Landscape Character Assessment for County Clare identifies 21 Landscape Character Areas⁵⁵. The Plan area is identified as being situated in the 'Lough Derg Basin Landscape Character Area', as shown on Figure 4.20. This area is described as highly scenic, with recognised ecological value, including lough shores enclosed by semi-natural deciduous woodland.

The landscape designations provided for by the Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans, are considered when assessing planning applications. These designations include Scenic Views and Routes and Primary and Secondary Amenity Areas.

Views and Vistas identified within the Plan area (mapped on Figure 4.21) include those along the River Shannon (including the hills to the north as seen when approaching the bridge on the Ballina side). There are also a number of landmarks within the Plan area, with linear views from the river bank such as Our Lady and St. Lua and St. Flannan's Cathedral. In addition, there are contrasting and emerging views along the Main Street in Killaloe when walking towards the Bridge and from the short link from Main Street in Ballina to the river-bank, these views contrast with the emerging view of the St. Flannan's Cathedral.

4.12.3 Existing Environmental Problems

The legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.

⁵⁴ Landscape Character Assessment for Tipperary (2016)

⁵⁵ Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied)

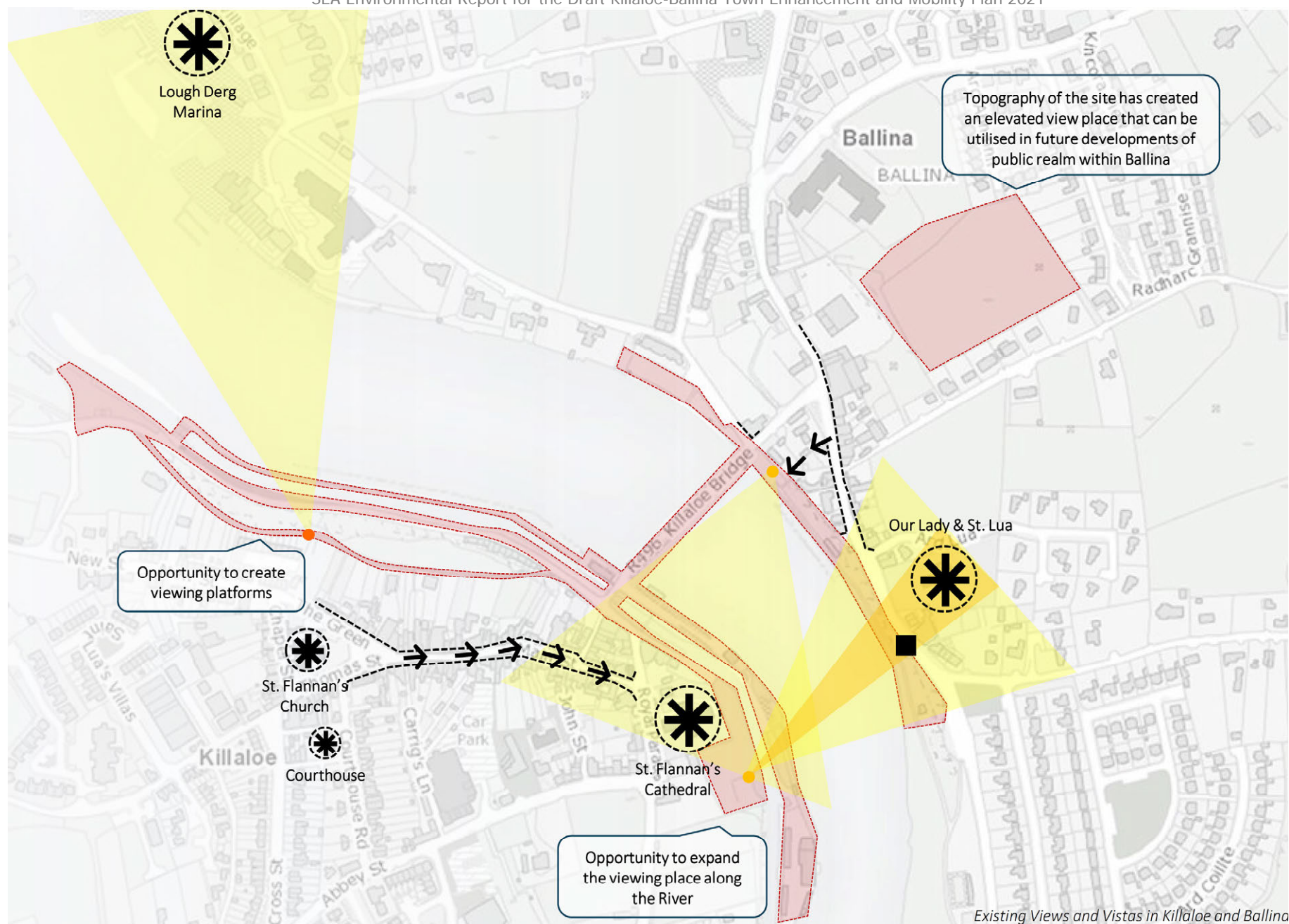


Figure 4.21 Existing Views and Vistas in Killaloe and Ballina (from draft Plan)

CAAS for Clare and Tipperary County Councils

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 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.

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

All SEOs, indicators and targets are provided on Table 5.1 overleaf. The measures have been identified having regard to the SEAs for the adopted Southern RSES and the SEAs for the existing and emerging, new draft Development Plans. Having a degree of consistency with these SEAs can help to avoid duplication and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

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

Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives, 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 natural capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in 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, the Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021 and the Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023, and any superseding versions of same
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of ecosystem services and green infrastructure in proposals for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of ecosystem services and green infrastructure ecosystem services and green infrastructure in proposals for development and 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, the Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021 and the Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023, and any superseding versions of same
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening for EIAs and AAs, and subsequent assessment as relevant, for proposals for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake, as relevant, EIA and AA for new proposals for development
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality Compliance of planning permissions with measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Development Plan measures at Section 9 of this SEA Environmental Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below Compliance of planning permissions with measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Development Plan measures at Section 9 of this SEA Environmental Report
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 citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for the in-force Development Plans 	<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 the in-force Development Plans By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the in-force Development Plans within Killaloe-Ballina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the in-force Development Plans within Killaloe-Ballina
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of specific green infrastructure mapping in development proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of specific green infrastructure mapping in development proposals
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 sites 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 (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of settlements
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission

SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021

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 growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate 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 River Basin Management Plan 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 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, 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, towns and grids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure 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 people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
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 Contribution towards maintenance of and improvement in air quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter

SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
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 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 Development Plan measures relating to climate mitigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Development Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	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 these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development 	<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
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the provisions for the 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 that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape designations, resulting from development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape designations, resulting from development

Section 6 Description of Alternatives

As per the requirements of the SEA Directive, reasonable alternatives are considered, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan.

Alternative 1: Do not prepare a Plan to inform future decision making

Under this Alternative, guidance on the balanced development of Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements in the context of the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge crossing would be limited to the City/County-wide provisions of the Development Plan in force at the time. Applications for development would be made on an ad-hoc basis and without the benefit of a sustainable mobility led, planned and co-ordinated approach.

Alternative 2A and 2B: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making

Under this Alternative, the Plan would be available in addition to the City/County-wide provisions of the Development Plan, providing more detailed and specific guidance on the balanced development of Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements in the context of the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge crossing. Applications for new development would be able to consider a clear vision with advice on issues including Mobility Management and Transport; Public Realm; Heritage; Tourism; Green and Blue Infrastructure.

Under Alternative 2 there are two separate alternatives as identified below.

Projects under both alternatives would continue to be required to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of documents that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Alternative 2A: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and do not undertake SEA and AA

This alternative involves not undertaking SEA and AA, on the basis that the Plan: will be non-statutory; will not form public policy; and will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

Alternative 2B: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and undertake SEA and AA

This alternative involves undertaking SEA and AA on the Plan, even though the Plan: will be non-statutory; will not form public policy; and will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the environmental effects⁵⁶ of implementing the alternatives that are detailed under Section 6. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve, conflict with or have a neutral interaction with environmental components.

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 evaluation of alternatives.

Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁵⁷

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 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 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 sites 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 growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate 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 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, 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, towns and grids

⁵⁶ These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

⁵⁷ 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 gases Integrate sustainable design solutions into 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	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the provisions for the identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

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 City level – sustainable development and compact growth within Killaloe-Ballina. 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 helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green and blue 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. 	<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.

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
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 the existing population and planned growth by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water and helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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 helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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 (if such unknown lands exist).
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of surface and ground water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology – and associated interactions with ecological and human receptors. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to the existing population and planned growth by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. 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.
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 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 mobility and access; A highly accessible experience for pedestrians and cyclists; Enhancing connectivity of the towns by transition of the bridge to pedestrian and cycle link; and Various local mobility and public realm improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development 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 City and County by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the two towns 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.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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 Consideration of Individual Alternatives

Projects under all alternatives would continue to be required to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of documents that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Alternative 1: Do not prepare a Plan to inform future decision making

Under this Alternative, guidance on the balanced development of Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements in the context of the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge crossing would be limited to the City/County-wide provisions of the Development Plan in force at the time. Applications for development would be made on an ad-hoc basis and without the benefit of a sustainable mobility led, planned and co-ordinated approach.

Planning Assessment:

- There would be less clarity for the public and developers.
- Planning applications would be less likely to be granted permission without delays or challenges due to limited coordinated guidance and advice.
- Individual developments would be less likely to be coherent and complementary across the two towns.
- There is greater potential for the aspirations of the County Development Plans, NPF and RSES not to be fulfilled.

Environmental Assessment:

- Objectives for the sustainable development (encompassing environmental protection and management) would be more likely to take a longer amount of time to achieve.
- Linkages, mobility and environmental infrastructure would not be set out at a strategic level for the towns and would be developed in a piecemeal fashion.
- Increased potential for delays in accommodating demand for development within the town could drive demand towards less well-connected, less well-served and more environmentally sensitive areas elsewhere in the wider region.
- Not having the Plan in place prevents the consideration of mobility issues and environmental impacts at the earliest and most strategic stage and may reduce the degree to which mitigating provisions would be contributed towards.

Alternative 2A and 2B: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making

Under this Alternative, the Plan would be available in addition to the City/County-wide provisions of the Development Plan, providing more detailed and specific guidance on the balanced development of Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements in the context of the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge crossing. Applications for new development would be able to consider a clear vision with advice on issues including Mobility Management and Transport; Public Realm; Heritage; Tourism; Green and Blue Infrastructure.

Planning Assessment:

- There would be more clarity for the public and developers.
- Planning applications would be more likely to be granted permission without delays or challenges.
- Individual developments would be more likely to be coherent and complementary across the two towns.
- There is greater potential for the aspirations and objectives of the County Development Plans, NPF and RSES not to be fulfilled.

Environmental Assessment:

- Objectives for the sustainable development (encompassing environmental protection and management) would be more likely to take a shorter amount of time to achieve.
- Linkages, mobility and environmental infrastructure would be set out strategically for the towns and could be developed wholly and in good time, taking into account the wider context, including development of the Killaloe Bypass, Shannon River Crossing and R494 Improvement.
- Accommodating demand for development in the urban core and on brownfield land would reduce future increases in demand at less well-connected, less well-served and more environmentally sensitive areas elsewhere in the wider region.

Under Alternative 2 there are two separate alternatives as identified below.

Alternative 2A: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and do not undertake SEA and AA

This alternative involves not undertaking SEA and AA, on the basis that the Plan: will be non-statutory; will not form public policy; and will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

Not undertaking SEA and AA would result in a Plan into which less environmental considerations are integrated. Such a Plan would not contribute to environmental protection and management to the same degree as a Plan under Alternative 2B. Not undertaking SEA and AA could result in projects being included in the Plan that would be challenging to achieve in compliance with environmental requirements.

Alternative 2B: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and undertake SEA and AA

This alternative involves undertaking SEA and AA on the Plan, even though the Plan: will be non-statutory; will not form public policy; and will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

Undertaking SEA and AA would result in a Plan into which more environmental considerations are integrated. Such a Plan would contribute to environmental protection and management to a greater degree than a Plan under Alternative 2A. Undertaking SEA and AA would help to ensure that projects being included in the Plan can be realistically achieved, subject to further assessment, in compliance with environmental requirements.

Table 7.3 provides a comparative assessment of alternatives taking into account the assessment above and the effects common to all alternatives described under Section 7.3.1.

Table 7.3 Assessment⁵⁸ of Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

(selected alternative in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated by complying with other measures included within the Plan		
	to the Greatest degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative 1: Do not prepare a Plan to inform future decision making			BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L
Alternative 2A: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and do not undertake SEA and AA		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
Alternative 2B: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and undertake SEA and AA	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L			BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

⁵⁸ 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:

- 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.
- 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, including those which have been reproduced in the Plan.

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.

Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁵⁹

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 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 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 sites 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 growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate 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 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, 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, towns 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

⁵⁹ See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
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 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	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the provisions for the identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

8.2 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are one of the types of effects that 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 8.3 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.

In considering the relationship with legislation and other plans and programmes it is important to note that the draft Plan exists separate to the hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, transport, land use development, infrastructure, public realm, tourism and environment protection and management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction until 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Southern Region, the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) and North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied) and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans, set out (or will set out) objectives relating development of the area, that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment.

Implementation of the Plan shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, RSEs and these lower-tier Development Plans, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been (or are being) integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes. Where they exist, the SEA recognises the existence of other environmental assessments with a view to avoid duplication of assessment, in compliance with the SEA Directive.

In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part.

Effects that may arise as a result of development within the towns of Killaloe and Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework, 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 that are identified under Table 8.2.

Cumulative effects that have been considered include those resulting in-combination with:

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, and North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016, as varied, and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans);
- Clare and Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plans;
- 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, 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 Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development, Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Adaptation Framework 2018 and the Councils' Climate Adaptation Strategies 2019-2024);
- Water services and waste management plans (e.g. Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan and Southern Regional Waste Management Plan); and
- Other environmental protection and management plans (e.g. the 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 contributing towards:
 - Sustainable mobility and access;
 - A highly accessible experience for pedestrians and cyclists;
 - Enhancing connectivity of the towns by transition of the bridge to pedestrian and cycle link; and
 - Various local mobility and public realm improvements.
- 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 and associated journeys;
- 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 new development – construction and operation (loadings, flows and abstractions);
- Potential cumulative effects (enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to green and blue infrastructure;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands; 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. 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.

8.3 Overall Assessment

The Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the draft Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans

Table 8.2 provides a detailed overall assessment of the environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation, including that which has been integrated into the Plan.

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 Findings – Environmental Effects

Environmental Component	Environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Southern RSES and the existing and emerging Development Plans			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green and blue 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. 	<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). 	BFF
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 the existing population and planned growth by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water and helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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. 	PHH
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 helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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 (if such unknown lands exist). 	<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. 	S
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of surface and ground water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology – and associated interactions with ecological and human receptors. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any increased loadings or changes in flow as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan and various provisions of integrated into the Plan from the relevant Development Plans. 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 relevant Development Plans. 	W

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Environmental Component	Environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Southern RSES and the existing City Development Plan and new Draft City and County Development Plan			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to the existing population and planned growth by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. 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. 	<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. 	MA
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 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 mobility and access; A highly accessible experience for pedestrians and cyclists; Enhancing connectivity of the towns by transition of the bridge to pedestrian and cycle link; and Various local mobility and public realm improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development 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 and the wider planning framework, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Development Plans to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 	AC
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the City and County by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the two towns 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. 	CH
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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 and views 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 and wider planning framework's landscape protection/visual assessment measures. 	L

8.4 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, 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. 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 8.3.

Table 8.3 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								

8.5 Appropriate Assessment

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) is being undertaken alongside preparation of the Plan. Requirements for AA are provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The emerging 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. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

8.6 More Detailed Assessment of Plan Provisions⁶⁰

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **BFF**, **PHH**, **S**, **W**, etc. refer to Table 8.1 on page 62.

8.6.1 Overall Objective and Vision Statement

Plan measures, including:	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>The main objective of the Plan is to establish a holistic, joined, and well-coordinated approach towards future development of Killaloe and Ballina. Accordingly, the Plan pictures future of the towns as the following:</p> <p>“Killaloe and Ballina are towns of sustainable, inclusive environment and vibrant economy which enjoy a highly valued riverfront location and townscape that not only inspires identity and unity, but also encourages a diverse range of activities and recreation Safe, accessible, and visually attractive public realm improvements will improve the quality of life for residents, visitors, and workers The Shannon Crossing and Bypass will change the face of both towns by linking two national tourism brands of the Hidden Heartlands and the Wild Atlantic Way In this way, the riverfront will be further opened up as a key amenity that both enhances public access and fosters new investment”.</p> <p>Underpinning this vision is the desire to ultimately develop an evidence based long term strategy that will inform the future development of these twin towns.</p> <p>A set of goals within thematic areas that help to frame the values and vision of the area has been developed. These are identified on the following tables.</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Overall Objective and associated Vision Statement against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO's 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 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>The Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans.</p> <p>The Overall Objective and associated Vision Statement would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

⁶⁰ 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's provisions 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:

- 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.
- 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, including those which have been reproduced in the Plan.

8.6.2 Mobility Management and Transport

Plan measures, including:	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
Mobility and Transport Strategy Goals (A) Promote Sustainable Mobility and Access in Killaloe-Ballina (B) Promote Sustainable Management of Car Parking in Killaloe-Ballina (C) Deliver a Highly Accessible Experience for Pedestrians and Cyclists in Killaloe-Ballina (D) Enhance Connectivity of the Towns by Transition of the Bridge to Pedestrian and Cycle Link Various objectives and detailed measures are also included (refer to Plan document for detail)	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
Commentary The assessment of the Plan's Mobility Management and Transport 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 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. Many of these provisions 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 development of new greenways and walking and cycling routes 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, if unmitigated, arising from both construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. Proposals for this type along the ecological and visually sensitive River Shannon would need to carefully consider environmental requirements and the advice that has been integrated into the Plan – see Section 9 of this report. The Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans. Implementation of the Plan's Mobility Management and Transport guidance would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.				

8.6.3 Public Realm

Plan measures, including:	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
Public Realm Strategy Goals (A) Develop a Network of Well-connected Public Spaces (B) Design to Include Everyone of all Ages and Abilities (C) Creation of a Clean Air or Low Carbon Zone in Killaloe-Ballina (D) Enhance Townscape and View Management of Killaloe-Ballina Various objectives and detailed measures are also included (refer to Plan document for detail)	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
Commentary The assessment of the Plan's Public Realm 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 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. Various placemaking initiatives under this theme would help both towns become more desirable places to live, work in and visit. These interventions would increase the potential of the towns to attract and sustainably accommodate new residents and visitors and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. The Public Realm provisions would also 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 Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans.

Implementation of the Plan's Public Realm guidance would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

8.6.4 Heritage

Plan measures, including:	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
Heritage Strategy Goals (A) Promote and Celebrate Unique Identity and Heritage of Killaloe-Ballina Various objectives and detailed measures are also included (refer to Plan document for detail)	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
Commentary The assessment of the Plan's Heritage 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 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. The focus of these provisions is the protection, management and harnessing of the towns' built heritage (including archaeological and architectural heritage) as well as its landscape. The Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans. Implementation of the Plan's Heritage guidance would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.				

8.6.5 Tourism

Plan measures, including:	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
Tourism Strategy Goal - Enhance the Tourism and Visitors' Experience in Killaloe-Ballina Various objectives and detailed measures are also included (refer to Plan document for detail)	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. These provisions would have the potential to affect visitor numbers, dwell time and behaviour/activities. Advice has been integrated into the Plan to address these issues ⁶¹ .				

⁶¹ Seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.

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.

The Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans.

Implementation of the Plan's Tourism guidance would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

8.6.6 Green and Blue Infrastructure

Plan measures, including:	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
Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Goals (A) Develop a Network of Green Infrastructure Linking Killaloe-Ballina to its Wider Area (B) Exposure of River Shannon to the Context of Killaloe-Ballina Various objectives and detailed measures are also included (refer to Plan document for detail)	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
Commentary The assessment of the Plan's Green and Blue Infrastructure 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 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>The development of green and blue 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 development of new greenways, blueways walking and cycling routes 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, if unmitigated, arising from both construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. Proposals for this type along the ecological and visually sensitive River Shannon would need to carefully consider environmental requirements and the advice that has been integrated into the Plan – see Section 9 of this report.</p> <p>The Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans.</p> <p>Implementation of the Plan's Green and Blue Infrastructure guidance would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

8.6.7 Implementation and Phasing

Plan measures, including:	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
The Plan will promote the phasing of development in a rational and sequential approach in accordance with funding secured for the proposed works. The Plan sets out a phasing strategy.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
Commentary The assessment of the Plan's Implementation and Phasing 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 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>The Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan</p>				

(in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans.

Implementation of the Plan's Implementation and Phasing guidance would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

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 Councils through the SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes. By integrating SEA and AA related recommendations into the Plan, the Councils are helping to ensure that:

- Environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework, are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework, are maximised.

Mitigation was achieved through the following:

- The consideration of strategic alternatives;
- Establishing the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework;
- Consideration of Requirements for Sustainable Development, Environmental Protection and Management; and
- Mitigation Measures from the draft Plan.

9.2 Consideration of Strategic Alternatives

As part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Councils considered a number of alternatives for the Plan (see Section 6).

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 Plan that was prepared and placed on public display.

9.3 Establishing the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework⁶²

The SEA team worked with the Plan-preparation team in order to help establish the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework.

The draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021 will be non-statutory and will not form public policy. The Plan will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

The draft Plan exists separate to the hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, transport, land use development, infrastructure, public realm, tourism and environment protection and management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

⁶² This framework includes various environmental requirements.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction until 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Southern Region, the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) and North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied) and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans, set out (or will set out) objectives relating development of the area, that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment.

Implementation of the Plan shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, RSEs and these lower-tier Development Plans, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been (or are being) integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.

9.4 Consideration of Requirements for Sustainable Development, Environmental Protection and Management

In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSEs for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans.

9.5 Mitigation Measures from the draft Plan

In addition to the measures referred to under Section 9.4, many Plan measures would contribute towards the mitigation of effects arising from development in the towns of Killaloe and Ballina.

These measures are identified on Table 9.1 and include advice for key environmental sensitivities that has been integrated into the Plan at Appendix I.

Table 9.1 Potentially Significant Adverse Effects, if Unmitigated, and Mitigating Measures

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Measures contained in the Plan
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 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. 	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water, Material Assets and Landscape.</p> <p>Advice from Appendix I Environmental Considerations</p> <p>All proposals will need to minimise proposals within the water as well as most forms of development immediately adjoining the water. Drainage from all newly paved areas will need to be intercepted and diverted away from the river. Additional or intensified activity within the waterway will need to be thoroughly assessed to demonstrate that it will not give rise to additional pollution or disturbance within these designated areas.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of European sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects), 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</p> <p>Seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>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>Lighting fixtures shall provide only the amount of light necessary for personal safety and shall be designed so as to avoid creating glare or emitting light above a horizontal plane. Lighting fixtures shall have minimum environmental impact, thereby contributing towards the protection of amenity and the protection of light sensitive species such as bats.</p> <p>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; and Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation. <p>Provisions under thematic area of Green and Blue Infrastructure.</p>
Population and human health	<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>
Soil	<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>Advice from Appendix I Environmental Considerations</p> <p>Drainage from all newly paved areas will need to be intercepted and diverted away from the river.</p> <p>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; and Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Measures contained in the Plan
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of surface and ground 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>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Advice from Appendix I Environmental Considerations</p> <p>No additional loading of pollution or sediments should be permitted, during use or construction.</p> <p>No developments or uses that are likely to contain or store potential water pollutants should be hydraulically connected to surface waters of areas within flood plains.</p> <p>Any development that is intended for occupation should avoid the floodplain.</p> <p>Any unoccupied development in the flood plain should not obstruct the existing free-flow of flood waters.</p> <p>All projects to protect existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitats and species, in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000, the Groundwater Directive 2006, transposing Regulations and the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Proposed plans and projects shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands. Also, to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>All proposals will need to minimise proposals within the water as well as most forms of development immediately adjoining the water.</p> <p>Drainage from all newly paved areas will need to be intercepted and diverted away from the river.</p> <p>Additional or intensified activity within the waterway will need to be thoroughly assessed to demonstrate that it will not give rise to additional pollution or disturbance within these designated areas.</p> <p>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>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; and - Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation. <p>Provisions under thematic area of Green and Blue Infrastructure.</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<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>Provisions under thematic areas of Mobility Management and Transport, Public Realm and Green and Blue Infrastructure.</p>
Material Assets	<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). 	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health.</p> <p>Advice from Appendix I Environmental Considerations</p> <p>Ensure all proposals are framed within the capacity of existing or permitted/approved water services - expressed as 'projected/ estimated maximum demand in terms of population equivalent'.</p> <p>Examine and describe likely patterns of maximum, average and minimum infrastructure demands to identify whether peak demands can be adequately serviced.</p> <p>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>Provisions under thematic areas of Mobility Management and Transport, Public Realm, Heritage, Tourism and Green and Blue Infrastructure.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Measures contained in the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<p>Advice from Appendix I Environmental Considerations</p> <p>Be aware of likely requirements for assessment, investigation and detailed design scrutiny for proposals in the vicinity of national monuments, and protected structures.</p> <p>Try to minimise proposals that would significantly alter the appearance and character of historic settings.</p> <p>Try to minimise works involving major excavations in the vicinity of national monuments, and protected structures.</p> <p>Try to minimise significant changes to the appearance and character of structures and public realm within and adjacent to architectural conservation areas.</p> <p>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; and Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation. <p>Provisions under thematic areas of Heritage.</p>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<p>Advice from Appendix I Environmental Considerations</p> <p>Avoid significant/ avoidable developments that are visually prominent within and along the water course, shore of enclosing skyline ridges - unless visual prominence is an intended, integral and necessary part of the new development - such as a lookout post.</p> <p>Avoid unauthorised developments or uses that would significantly and adversely alter the context and setting of a national monument, protected structure, historic area or architectural conservation area.</p> <p>Avoid developments that would significantly and unintentionally contrast with the appearance and character of areas of established and valued character, including residential areas, town centre areas, amenity areas and historic areas.</p> <p>Ensure that the appearance, character, scale, materials, form and surface of new development conform as closely as possible with existing character-giving elements - unless contrasts are specifically intended, integral and necessary part of the new development - such as high-visibility finishes required for road or navigation safety.</p> <p>All proposals will need to minimise proposals within the water as well as most forms of development immediately adjoining the water.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of European sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects), 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</p> <p>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; and Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation.

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.

Where the Plan, or parts of the Plan, become part of the Development Plans, monitoring will be undertaken as part of the programme set out by the Development Plan's SEA.

The monitoring programme is flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It monitors all potential effects, including positive and negative ones (including cumulative effects). Monitoring can 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.

10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 5 and used in the evaluation.

The monitoring measures (see Table 10.1) have been identified having regard to the SEAs for the adopted Southern RSES and the SEAs for the existing and emerging, new draft Development Plans. Having a degree of consistency with these SEAs can help to avoid duplication and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

10.3 Sources

In order to avoid duplication and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring, monitoring reports prepared for implementation of the Southern RSES and, when adopted, the emerging, new draft Development Plans will be significant informants of future monitoring reports for the Plan, if it does not become part of these Plans.

10.4 Reporting

Future monitoring reports will be prepared taking into account monitoring reports prepared for implementation of the Southern RSES and, when adopted, the emerging, new draft Development Plans.

Where the Plan becomes part of the Development Plans, reporting on monitoring will be undertaken as part of the programme set out by the Development Plans' SEAs. Reporting on environmental monitoring will address the indicators, or their equivalents, set out below.

Table 10.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Indicators	Targets	Source(s)	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in 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, the Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021 and the Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023, and any superseding versions of same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) 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) 	<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.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of ecosystem services and green infrastructure in proposals for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of ecosystem services and green infrastructure ecosystem services and green infrastructure in proposals for development and 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, the Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021 and the Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023, and any superseding versions of same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of systems/ Establish reasons and develop solutions.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening for EIAs and AAs, and subsequent assessment as relevant, for proposals for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake, as relevant, EIA and AA for new proposals for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of systems/ Establish reasons and develop solutions.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Development Plan measures at Section 9 of this SEA Environmental Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Development Plan measures at Section 9 of this SEA Environmental Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of systems/ Establish reasons and develop solutions.
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"> Implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for the in-force Development Plans 	<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 the in-force Development Plans By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of systems/ Establish reasons and develop solutions. Consultations with DECC
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the in-force Development Plans within Killaloe-Ballina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the in-force Development Plans within Killaloe-Ballina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission CSO data Monitoring of the Councils' Climate Change Adaptation Strategies 2019-2024 	<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, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.

SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Indicators	Targets	Source(s)	Remedial Action
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of specific green infrastructure mapping in development proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of specific green infrastructure mapping in development proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of systems/ Work with the City and County Council to establish reasons and develop solutions.
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission EPA Geoportal 	<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, establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of systems/ Establish reasons and develop solutions.
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<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 River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with City and County Council and others as relevant in order to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of systems/ Establish reasons and develop solutions.
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<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, consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission CSO data Monitoring of the Councils' Climate Change Adaptation Strategies 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, develop a tailored response.
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"> 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 Contribution towards maintenance of and improvement in air quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, develop a tailored response.

SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Indicators	Targets	Source(s)	Remedial Action
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"> Implementation of Development Plan measures relating to climate mitigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of systems/ Establish reasons and develop solutions.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission Monitoring of the Councils' Climate Change Adaptation Strategies 2019-2024 EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office, as relevant, to establish reasons and develop solutions.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Development Plan 		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission CSO data Monitoring of the Councils' Climate Change Adaptation Strategies 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office, as relevant, to establish reasons and develop solutions.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission CSO data Monitoring of the Councils' Climate Change Adaptation Strategies 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office, as relevant, to establish reasons and develop solutions.
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<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 	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on cultural heritage, establish reasons and develop solutions.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape designations, resulting from development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape designations, resulting from development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of other SEA monitoring reports (see Section 10.4) Review of proposals for development granted permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts, establish reasons and develop solutions.

Appendix I SEA Determinations



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

Screening for SEA Determination

for the Emerging Draft

Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan

A Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination is being made by Clare County Council regarding the emerging draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan.

The Plan will be non-statutory and will not form public policy. The Plan will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

The SEA Directive [Article 3 (2)] requires, subject to certain exceptions, that SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- (a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended, or
- (b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment¹ pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.


The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument No. (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended. Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, requires, subject to certain exceptions, that SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- (a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or
- (b) which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site.

The Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site; however, development of in Killaloe-Ballina has the potential to affect the integrity of European Sites². Consequently, it is being determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake Stage 2 AA of the Plan, aligned with AA requirements under: European Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument No. 477 of 2011), as amended.

Taking the above into account and in order to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into the Plan, so that the Plan can usefully inform future decision-making, it has been determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake an SEA of the Plan, aligned with SEA requirements under: Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers of 27 June 2001 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment; and European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 485 of 2004), as amended.

Date: 6/7/2021

Signed: 
Signatory
Approved Officer.

¹ Also referred to as an Appropriate Assessment

² Factors related to such development that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions related to mobility management and transport, public realm, heritage, tourism and green/blue infrastructure that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments - these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational developments.

An Roinn Pleanála

An Stiúrthóireacht Forbairt Gheilleagrach

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Planning Department

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Screening for SEA Determination

for the Emerging Draft

Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan

A Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination is being made by Tipperary County Council regarding the emerging draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan.

The Plan will be non-statutory and will not form public policy. The Plan will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

The SEA Directive [Article 3 (2)] requires, subject to certain exceptions, that SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- (a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended, or
- (b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment¹ pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument No. (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended. Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, requires, subject to certain exceptions, that SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- (a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or
- (b) which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site.

The Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site; however, development of in Killaloe-Ballina has the potential to affect the integrity of European Sites². Consequently, it is being determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake Stage 2 AA of the Plan, aligned with AA requirements under: European Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora; and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument No. 477 of 2011), as amended.

prudent and responsible to undertake an SEA of the Plan, aligned with SEA requirements under: Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers of 27 June 2001 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment; and European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended.

Date: 05/07/2021

Signed: 

Signatory
Approved Officer

¹ Also referred to as an Appropriate Assessment

² Factors related to such development that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions related to mobility management and transport, public realm, heritage, tourism and green/blue infrastructure that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments - these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational developments.

Appendix II Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, 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.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
International/European Level			
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 are 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. 	<p>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:</p> <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 	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. –

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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. 	<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 	the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. 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 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. 	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 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. 	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.
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. 	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.
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. 	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 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 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 	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. –

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	<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. 	<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. 	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.
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<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 	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 Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<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. 	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.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. 	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.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 	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.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	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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			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.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	<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 compliment 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. 	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 2020 Climate and Energy Package	<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 complimentary 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. 	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 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<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. 	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.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE 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. 	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.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	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>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>	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.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<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, 	<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 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential

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	cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	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.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<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. 	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.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<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. 	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.
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. 	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.
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. 	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.
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive	<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 	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.

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2013/30/EU		<p>threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	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.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	<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. 	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.	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.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	<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. 	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.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. 	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.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<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. 	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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European Landscape Convention 2000	<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. 	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.
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	<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. <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. 	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.
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	<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. 	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.
Bali Road Map (2007)	<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 	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.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	<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 	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.	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.
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 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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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 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 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 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.
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 Persistent Organic Pollutants (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 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.
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 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.
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	<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"> 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 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 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.
European Parliament resolutions, including the European Green Deal (EGD) 2020	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 and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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EU (2020) Biodiversity Strategy	A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making. Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. 	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 (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	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.
Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation; Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs; Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes. 	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.
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)	<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. 	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compact Growth Enhanced Regional Accessibility Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities Sustainable Mobility A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenities and Heritage Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	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.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	In preparation	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. –

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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. 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>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>
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	<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 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 Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	<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 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>
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	<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 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 Communities Environmental Objectives Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)	<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 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 Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	<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 nitrites and phosphorus (total) / 	<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</p>

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		<p>phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	<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. 	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.
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. 	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.
Climate Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Climate Action Plan 2019 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation. 	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.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 provides a legal framework for significantly reducing Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. It contains a National Climate Objective which commits the country to "pursue and achieve, but no later than the end of the year 2050" carbon neutral status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bill states that this would enable Ireland to "transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy". This goal is to be achieved through the introduction of carbon budgets, which will place a limit on the amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted by sectors such as transport and agriculture. 	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.
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 an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an '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. 	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.
Infrastructure and Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and 	Where new land use developments or activities occur

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Investment Plan (2016-2021)	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"> 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. 	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.
European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in European 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).	<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. 	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.
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	<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. 	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.
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	<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. 	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.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	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>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <p>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95%</p> <p>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.
National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	<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 	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

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		carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.	with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]	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. 	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.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"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."</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate 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. 	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.
All Island Grid Study 2008	<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. 	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.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<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. 	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.
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. 	<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 	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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National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	Vision: <i>“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.”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater <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 	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.
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. 	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.
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	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.
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: <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. 	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.
Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.	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.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020	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 revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues 	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

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	<p>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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation 	<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>
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	<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 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>
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	<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 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>
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	<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>
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<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"> 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 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>
Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	<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>
Delivering a Sustainable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy 	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur</p>

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Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> 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 	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.
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	<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 	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.
2030 Climate and Energy Framework	Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.	Key targets for 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels). At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018. At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018. 	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.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)	<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. 	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	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.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	<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. 	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.
National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.	The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement.	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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Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	<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 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>
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan	<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 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 Broadband Plan (2012)	<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 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 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)	<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"> Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on River Basin Districts (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 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 Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)	<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 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 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>
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	<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. 	<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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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013	<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. 	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.
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	<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. 	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.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas	<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. 	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.
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. 	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.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	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.
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. 	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. –

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National Rural Development Programme	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	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <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.; and • 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 	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.
Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development 2017	The Plan aims to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level which will ensure that people who live in rural areas have increased opportunities for employment locally, and access to public services and social networks that support a high quality of life.	The Plan contains 276 actions across five key pillars. The five pillars are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Sustainable Communities, • Supporting Enterprise and Employment, • Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential, • Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities, and • Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity. 	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.
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. 	Measures include the following: <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 	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.
River Basin Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Basin Management Plan sets 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. 	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.
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	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.	Objectives of the Strategy include: <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. 	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.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<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. 	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.	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. –

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Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: <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. 	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <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. 	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.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	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.	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.	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.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTAS) 2017- 2030	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.	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 	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.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	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.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <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. 	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.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<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 	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.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<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>	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

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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
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	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.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <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 	framework for environmental protection and management. 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 Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	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.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <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. 	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.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework	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.	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. 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.	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.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector 2017- 2030	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.	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	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	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government: <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. The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.	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>	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <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.

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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
Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022	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.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <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.
All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and 2021-2025 [in preparation]	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects in order to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment. The main objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly; Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them; Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers; Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and Collecting evidence to track change and measure success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land. 	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			
Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2020-2032	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Southern Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow 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 priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <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.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <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 	<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. 	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.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	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. 	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. –

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			the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans (such as Development Plans and Local Area Plans) in force within County Tipperary and County Clare, including: Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) North Tipperary County Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied) And emerging, new Draft County Development Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development. Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the relevant area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhances 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. 	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.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LECPs seek 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. 	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.
County Tipperary Landscape Character Assessment (2016) and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<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. 	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.
Strategic Tourism Marketing, Experience and Destination Development Plan 2016-2021 and 'Tipperary Transforming – Tourism Product Development Plan 2020 – 2030'	The overall objective has been to create a Plan to enable growth for Tipperary as a unique tourism destination within the island of Ireland experience.	<p>In meeting that objective the Plan's aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and promote the tourism experiences in order to improve Tipperary's performance within the national framework; To encourage industry sustainability and growth through the improvement and development of product offering; To build the capacity of tourism providers and to extend visitor length of stay; and To identify and build synergies between different tourism product offerings in order to deliver a top quality visitor experience. 	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.
Lough Derg Visitor Experience Development Plan 2020-2024	This Visitor Experience Development Plan seeks to develop a coordinated approach to destination development across the Lough Derg region.	<p>The purpose of this Visitor Experience Development Plan is therefore to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A steer for experience development and investment based on geographically distinctive opportunities, Insights into the motivations of our most likely visitors - what they need and want, A framework for curating clusters of experiences that will motivate prospective visitors, A collaborative approach to spreading the word about this great place, and <p>Ways of keeping track of progress</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.
The Shannon Mighty River of Ireland A Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon 2020-2030	As set out in the Masterplan, 'It presents a coordinated strategy and development framework of scale to guide sustainable development of the Shannon as a compelling tourism destination within Ireland's Hidden Heartlands'.	The Masterplan identifies three spatial "Discovery Zones", namely, Upper Shannon (Lough Allen and Shannon Erne Waterway), Mid-Shannon (Lough Ree, peatlands & Shannon Callows), and Lower Shannon (Lough Derg & Lower Shannon).	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. –

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			the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021	The aim of the Tipperary Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017- 2021 is to connect the citizens of Tipperary to their heritage, raise awareness and appreciation of this rich asset and ensure its protection for future generations.	The actions of this plan come under 3 key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote awareness and appreciation of the Heritage of Tipperary; Promote active conservation of the Heritage of Tipperary; and Support gathering and dissemination of information on the Heritage of Tipperary. 	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.
Clare County Heritage Plan 2017 - 2023	The Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023, building on the two previous Clare County Heritage Plans, aims to create awareness and understanding, leading to a greater appreciation, enjoyment and ownership of our natural, cultural, built and community heritage to optimise the opportunities that derive from the unique character of County Clare's heritage.	Aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify, manage and conserve heritage for the benefit of all; collect and make available heritage information; raise awareness through education initiatives; acquire knowledge through surveys and research; inform public policy on heritage; support the strategic and integrated management of heritage at a local level. 	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.
Tipperary Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 and Clare County Council Noise Action Plan 2018	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.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: 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	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.
Tipperary County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024	The Strategy is developed around 6 key thematic areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations Infrastructure and Built Environment Land Use and Development Drainage and Flood Management Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure Sustaining Our Communities 	The Climate Adaptation Strategy takes on the role as the primary instrument at local level to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change; Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner; and Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of Tipperary 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.
Tipperary County Council Renewable Energy Strategy	The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.	The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.	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.
Clare Renewable Energy Strategy 2017-2023	The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.	The Strategy outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.	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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Southern Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	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.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	framework for environmental protection and management. 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.
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands'	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands 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.	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. 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.	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.
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes, such as the Masterplan of Tobermurragh and Bane Field in Killaloe 2016 and Killaloe Bypass, Shannon River Crossing & R494 Improvement 2012	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes. Various other plans and projects 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	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. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. 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.	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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APPENDIX III – NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

FOR THE

DRAFT KILLALOE-BALLINA TOWN ENHANCEMENT AND MOBILITY PLAN 2021

for: Clare County Council

Áras Contae an Chláir
New Road, Ennis
County Clare



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

and Tipperary County Council

Civic Offices
Nenagh
County Tipperary



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin 7



JULY 2021

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Section 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021 (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 SEA process that is being undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of the Clare and Tipperary County Councils.

What is an 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 it needed?

Taking legislative requirements relating to environmental assessment into account and in order to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into the Plan, so that the Plan can usefully inform future decision-making, it has been determined that it would be prudent and responsible to undertake an SEA of the Plan, aligned with SEA requirements under: Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers of 27 June 2001 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment; and European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended.

How does it work?

All of the main environmental issues in the area were assembled and considered by the team who prepared the Draft Plan. This helped them to devise a Plan that is consistent with the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework and includes advice on environmental protection and management. The SEA was scoped in consultation with designated environmental authorities.

What is included in the Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan?

The Environmental Report contains the following information:

- 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 can avoid/reduce the environmental effects of developing the towns of Killaloe-Ballina and can contribute towards compliance with important environmental protection legislation.

Difficulties Encountered during the SEA process

No significant difficulties were encountered in undertaking the assessment.

There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the study area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term "unassigned status" applies in respect of these waterbodies. Measures have been integrated into the Plan that could 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.

Section 2 The draft Plan

2.1 Summary

The draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021 will be non-statutory and will not form public policy. The Plan will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

The draft Plan outlines a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements within Killaloe (town in County Clare) and Ballina (town in County Tipperary), providing a clear vision for Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements in the context of the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge crossing.

2.2 Overall Objective and Vision Statement

The main objective of the Plan is to establish a holistic, joined, and well-coordinated approach towards future development of Killaloe and Ballina. Accordingly, the Plan pictures future of the towns as the following:

“Killaloe and Ballina are towns of sustainable, inclusive environment and vibrant economy which enjoy a highly valued riverfront location and townscape that not only inspires identity and unity, but also encourages a diverse range of activities and recreation Safe, accessible, and visually attractive public realm improvements will improve the quality of life for residents, visitors, and workers The Shannon Crossing and Bypass will change the face of both towns by linking two national tourism brands of the Hidden Heartlands and the Wild Atlantic Way In this way, the riverfront will be further opened up as a key amenity that both enhances public access and fosters new investment”. Underpinning this vision is the desire to ultimately develop an evidence based long term strategy that will inform the future development of these twin towns.

The vision statement is framed to embark on a transformational journey to create a single cohesive settlement highlighting the assets of Killaloe Ballina and providing an inclusive environment which brings vibrancy to the area.

This can be achieved by improvements to connectivity, public realm, and amenities as well as the historic fabric of the area and the tourism experience.

2.3 Themes and Goals

A set of goals within thematic areas that help to frame the values and vision of the area has been developed. These thematic areas are:

1. Mobility Management and Transport
2. Public Realm
3. Heritage
4. Tourism
5. Green and Blue Infrastructure

To determine how the Plan will meet these goals, a set of detailed objectives are identified, which are outlined in short to medium and long term timeframes.

2.4 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The draft Plan exists separate to the hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, transport, land use development, infrastructure, public realm, tourism and environment protection and management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction until 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 Southern Region, the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) and North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied) and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans, set out (or will set out) objectives relating development of the area, that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment.

Implementation of the Plan shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, RSES and these lower-tier Development Plans, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been (or are being) integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.

In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part.

Section 3 The Environmental Baseline

The environmental baseline together with the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which are identified in Section 3.9, is used in order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the draft Plan and in order to determine appropriate monitoring measures.

The likely evolution of the environment in the absence of a Plan would resemble the environmental effects that are described for Alternative 1 “Do not prepare a Plan to inform future decision making” under Section 4.

3.1 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna which 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.

Key ecological sensitivities across the Plan area include those relating to:

- Rare species and habitats protected in the **Lower River Shannon SAC**, within the southern/central parts of the Plan area, **Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC**, in vicinity of the north-east parts of Killaloe, and **Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA**, adjacent to the northern parts of the Plan area;
- Aquatic and riverine ecology associated with lakes, rivers, their tributaries and riparian buffer zones, including those associated with the River Shannon and Lough Derg within and adjacent to the Plan area; and
- Mature trees, priority hedgerows and woodland areas of local biodiversity value.

European sites occur along the waterways within and adjacent to the Plan area. These European Sites comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation¹ (SACs); and
- Special Protection Areas² (SPAs).

SACs designated within and adjacent to the Plan area, include the Lower River Shannon SAC, within the southern/central parts of the Plan area, the Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC, in vicinity of the north-eastern parts of Killaloe, and Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA, adjacent to the northern parts of the Plan area.

Existing Problems

Ireland’s Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies many Irish habitats 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 include:

- Agriculture;
- Energy production processes and related infrastructure development;
- Development and operation of transport systems; and
- Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas.

Ireland’s Article 12 Birds Directive Reports and the 6th National Report under the Convention of Biological Diversity identify similar issues.

Advice relating to the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services has been integrated into the Plan.

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. 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.

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.

3.2 Population and Human Health

Using the Census data, the population of the Plan area in 2016 was identified as being of: 1,484 persons in the settlement of Killaloe; and 2,632 persons in the settlement of Ballina. Killaloe and Ballina are identified by the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 as offering employment opportunities and services in strategically located areas and providing social opportunities, employment and infrastructure to a network of communities.

Population has the potential to interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Contribution towards increase in demand for wastewater treatment;
- Contribution towards 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

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 areas within the Plan area with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country.

3.3 Soil

Typical brown earths³ make up most of the soils across and surrounding the Plan. Other soils identified across the Plan area include:

- **Surface water gleys**⁴ (adjacent to the south in Killaloe and Ballina);
- **Alluvial soils**⁵ (along the main waterways); and
- **Urban and man-made soils** (in the central parts of the Plan area).

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. County Tipperary and County Clare Geological Sites Audits were completed in 2019 and 2005, respectively.⁶ There are no County Geological Sites within the Plan area; the closest geological site - Kilmastulla Meltwater Channels County Geological Site (Site Code: TY040) - is located approx. 2 km south of Ballina. This site comprises a series of deep channels that were formed by meltwater erosion.

The GSI have identified the Plan area as having low levels of landslide susceptibility with some areas of moderately low and moderately high.

In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact upon human health, water quality and habitats and species. In urban areas that have had a range of historical land use activities, soils have the potential to have been contaminated in the past. Such contamination has the potential to affect water quality, biodiversity and flora and fauna and human health. Requirements have been identified in the relevant Development Plans that address potential contamination issues.

³ Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

⁴ Surface water gleys are wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

⁵ These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

⁶ Details are available from Geological Survey Ireland (www.gis.ie).

3.4 Water

Surface and Ground Water Status

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*.

The WFD status of the surface waters of sections⁷ of rivers and lakes in the Plan area (see Figure 3.1) are classified as *good* and *moderate*, including: Lough Derg (on the River Shannon) with *good status* within the south of the Plan area/it is also classified as 'HMWB' (heavily-modified waterbody) and *moderate status* within the north of the Plan area.

The WFD groundwater status (2013-2018) of all groundwater underlying the Plan area is identified as being of *good status*, meeting the objectives of the WFD.

Groundwater quality is an important resource for potable water and a sustaining resource for ecology. Geological conditions within and surrounding the Plan area mean that much of it is vulnerable to contamination.

Aquifer Vulnerability

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The vulnerability of aquifers underlying the Plan area and generally classified as being of:

- *High, moderate and low vulnerability*, in the west and south of the Plan area; and
- *Extreme vulnerability and extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)* mainly in the north-east of the Plan area.

Flooding

Certain areas across the Plan area are at risk from pluvial⁸ and fluvial⁹ flooding. Historical flooding is documented at a number of locations, including along the Lough Derg on the River Shannon within the centre of the Plan area. Catchment Flood Risk Assessment (CFRAM) flood risk mapping for the Plan area indicates areas likely to be at most risk of flooding.

Existing Problems

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

⁷ As per EPA classification system (gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps).

⁸ Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

⁹ Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

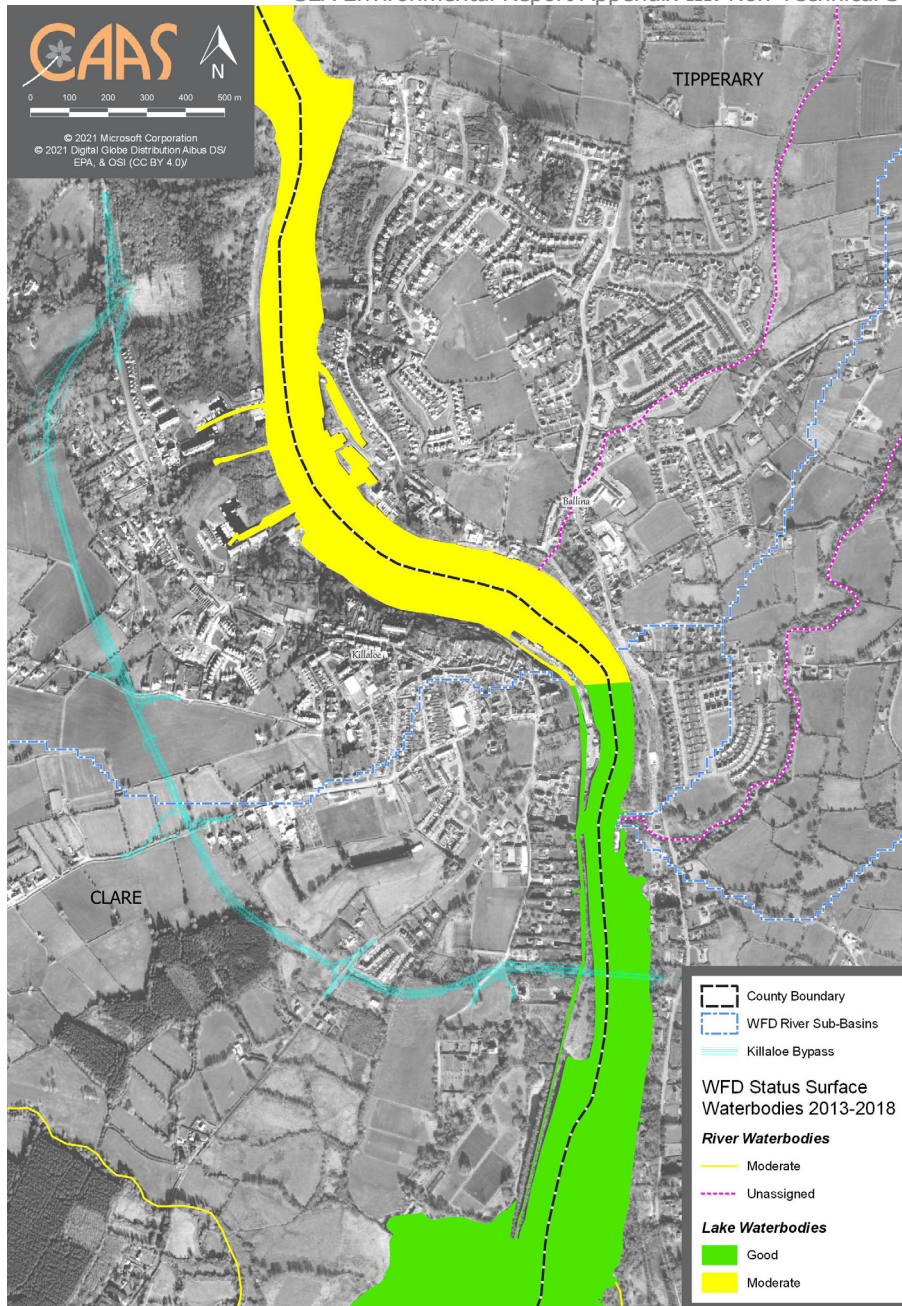


Figure 3.1 Surface Water Status (2013-2018)

3.5 Air and Climatic Factors

Various provisions relating to climatic action have been integrated into the Plan. Such measures include those relating to:

- Sustainable mobility and access;
- A highly accessible experience for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Enhancing connectivity of the towns by transition of the bridge to pedestrian and cycle link; and
- Various local mobility and public realm improvements.

Interactions with climatic factors are also present with other environmental components including water/flooding (see Section 3.4).

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).

The National Climate Action Plan 2019 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 Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation.

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 current¹⁰ air quality at all monitoring stations in Counties Clare and Tipperary is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

3.6 Material Assets

Waste Water

The Plan area is served by the Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) (serving both settlements - Ballina and Killaloe). Irish Water has provided information on wastewater treatment capacity, constraints and projects planned for Ballina WWTP, to improve the existing network. This information indicates where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth ("headroom") in terms of population equivalent¹¹ (PE) in areas serviced by the public wastewater treatment plant. Currently, there is no spare treatment capacity available in the Ballina WWTP¹².

Water Supply

Drinking water supply in the Plan area is provided by and private/public water supply schemes. 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 most recent EPA Remedial Action List (Q1 of 2021) does not identify any sources within the Plan area.

Public Assets and Infrastructure

Killaloe is identified as "Small Town", of fundamental importance offering services and facilities including employment and tourism, to residents and to surrounding rural area. Ballina is identified as a "Service Town", robust settlement that have a capacity to accommodate new residential growth, employment and enterprise and other appropriate uses.

The Plan area is served by regional and strategic roads, including a crossing of the River Shannon.

Two bus routes operate within the Plan area: 'Bus 323' (Drummin Village - Newport Tipperary), stopping at Ballina Church, operates seven services per day Monday to Friday and three services per day on Sunday; and 'Bus 345' (Limerick – Scariff), stopping at St. Anne's College, operates two services per day Sunday to Thursday.

A new Shannon river crossing, Killaloe by-pass and upgrade of the R494 was approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2012 to alleviate traffic in the Plan area.

Waste Management

Waste management within the Southern Region is guided by the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021. The Southern Region comprises: Limerick City and County Council; Tipperary County Council; Wexford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kilkenny County Council; Waterford City and County Council; Cork City Council; Cork County Council; Kerry County Council; and Clare County Council. The Strategy provides a framework for the prevention and management of waste in a sustainable manner.

¹⁰ 15/06/2021 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)

¹¹ WWTPs 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.

¹² Wastewater Treatment Capacity for Tipperary County Council (Irish Water, 2020)

3.7 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.

The Plan area comprises a number of archaeological monuments, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) - see Figure 3.2.

The Zone of Notification in Killaloe and Ballina encompasses a number of historically important features in the river and aligns with the County boundary line in the centre of the River Shannon and the zone extends south of St. Flannan's Cathedral.

There are 18 National Monuments and four scheduled monuments located within the Plan area, including two National Monuments in State Care (shown on Figure 3.2): St. Flannan's Church, (a Romanesque cathedral, built in the 1180s); and St. Molua's Church (originally constructed in the 9th and 10th century on Friars Island and later dismantled and reconstructed at the present site).

Clusters of archaeological heritage are found within the towns' core, with higher concentrations of monuments occurring in Killaloe. Archaeological sites of the particular importance include: Brian Borus Fort (located 2 km north of Killaloe); St Lua's Oratory; and Killaloe Bridge (18th century bridge joining Killaloe and Ballina).

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 concentrated within the towns' core, as shown on Figure 3.3. Notable structures include: Killaloe Bridge; Church of Our Lady and Saint Lua; Ferns Hollow; Killaloe Courthouse; and Parochial House. There are 22 Protected Structures within the Plan area. These include examples of churches, shops and houses.

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. Killaloe ACA is designated within the Plan area (shown on Figure 3.3) and covers the old historic centre of the town, including Killaloe Bridge, extending south from the canal walls to Royal Parade, John St., Main St., The Green, Chapel St., Thomas St., New St., parts of Courthouse Road and Carrig's Lane. Killaloe ACA is designated in order to maintain the integrity and character of this historic town.

3.8 Landscape

The towns of Killaloe and Ballina are located on the southern end of Lough Derg, along the border shared between Counties Clare and Tipperary. The River Shannon runs through the centre of the two towns, which are joined by the historic bridge. The area is rich in heritage and public amenities associated with Lough Derg and the River Shannon.

The Landscape Character Assessment for County Tipperary identifies 23 Landscape Character Areas¹³. The Plan area is identified as being situated within the 'Arra Mountains – Lower Lough Derg Landscape Character Areas'. This area is described as a lakeland enclosure that is a mixture of upland/lowland and lake areas. The area is identified as being of transitional vulnerability.

¹³ Landscape Character Assessment for Tipperary (2016)
CAAS for Clare and Tipperary County Councils

The Landscape Character Assessment for County Clare identifies 21 Landscape Character Areas¹⁴. The Plan area is identified as being situated in the 'Lough Derg Basin Landscape Character Area'. This area is described as highly scenic, with recognised ecological value, including lough shores enclosed by semi-natural deciduous woodland.

The landscape designations provided for by the Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans, are considered when assessing planning applications. These designations include Scenic Views and Routes and Primary and Secondary Amenity Areas.

Views and Vistas identified by the draft Plan within the Plan area include those along the River Shannon (including the hills to the north as seen when approaching the bridge on the Ballina side). There are also a number of landmarks within the Plan area, with linear views from the river bank such as Our Lady and St. Lua and St. Flannan's Cathedral. In addition, there are contrasting and emerging views along the Main Street in Killaloe when walking towards the Bridge and from the short link from Main Street in Ballina to the river-bank, these views contrast with the emerging view of the St. Flannan's Cathedral.

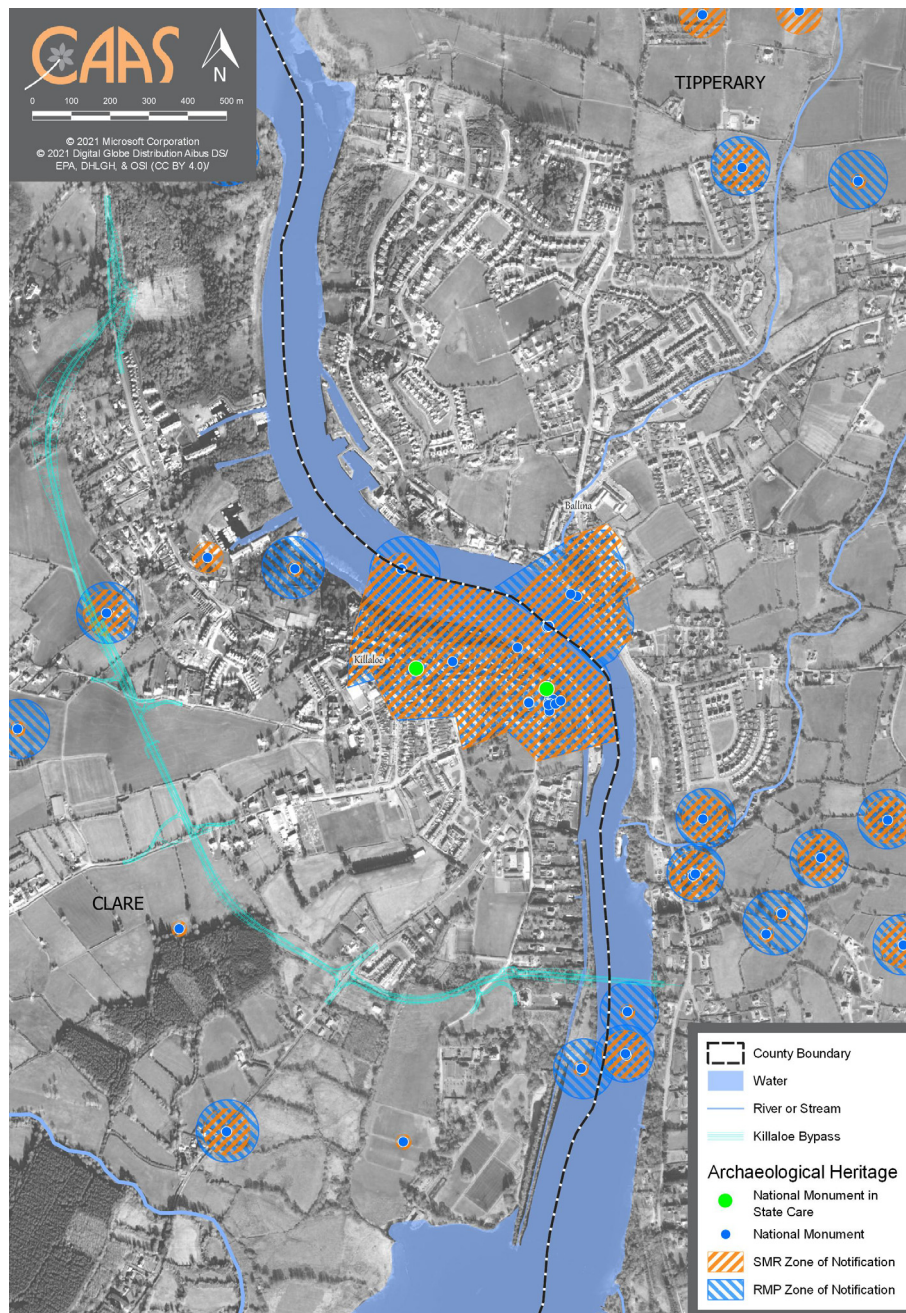


Figure 3.2 Archaeological Heritage

¹⁴ Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied)
CAAS for Clare and Tipperary County Councils

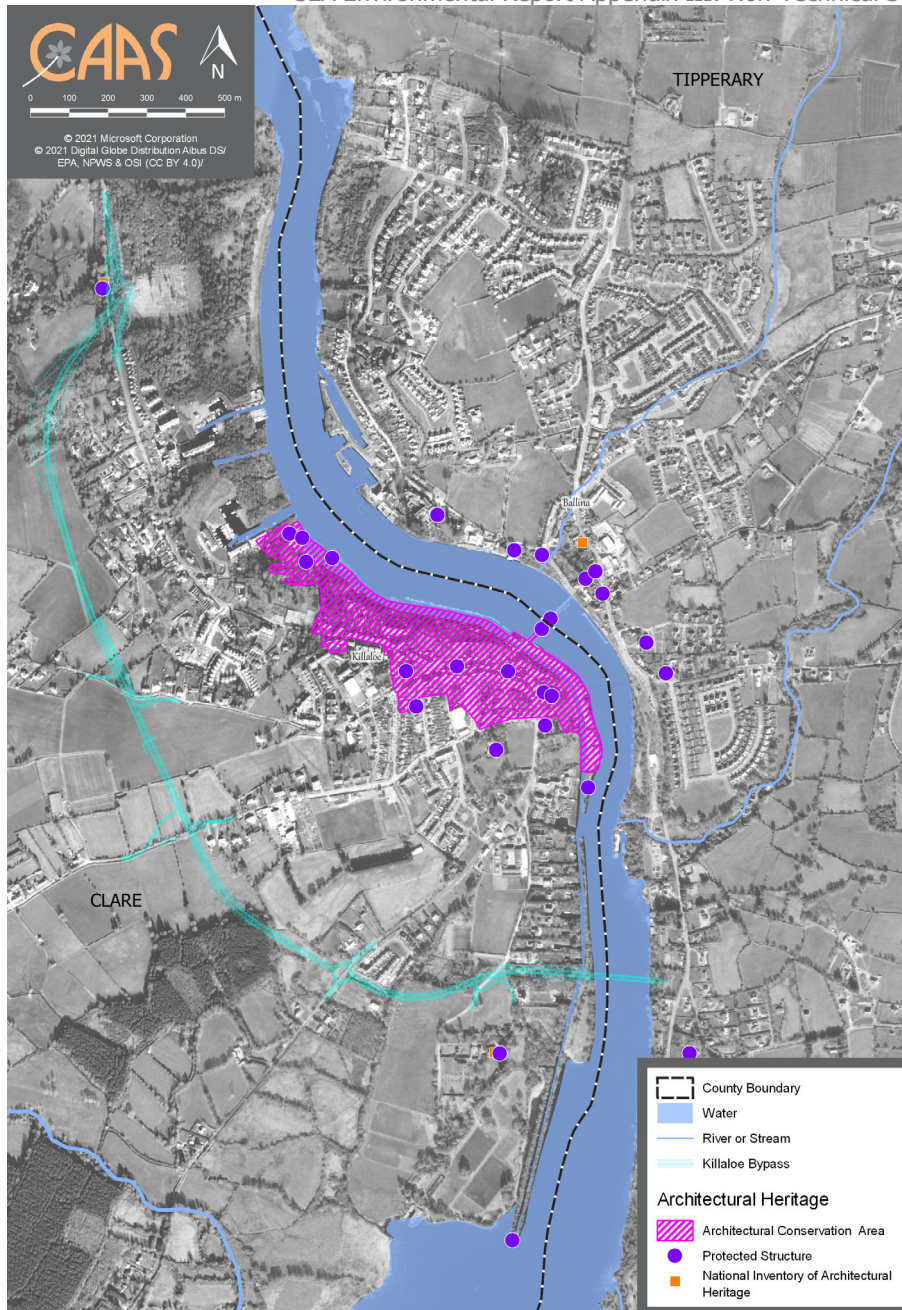


Figure 3.3 Architectural Heritage

3.9 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. 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. The measures have been identified having regard to the SEAs for the adopted Southern RSES and the SEAs for the existing and emerging, new draft Development Plans. Having a degree of consistency with these SEAs can help to avoid duplication and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

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 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 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 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 sites 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 growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate 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 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, 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, towns 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 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	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the provisions for the identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Section 4 Alternatives

As per the requirements of the SEA Directive, reasonable alternatives are considered, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan.

Projects under all alternatives would continue to be required to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of documents that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Alternative 1: Do not prepare a Plan to inform future decision making

Under this Alternative, guidance on the balanced development of Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements in the context of the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge crossing would be limited to the City/County-wide provisions of the Development Plan in force at the time. Applications for development would be made on an ad-hoc basis and without the benefit of a sustainable mobility led, planned and co-ordinated approach.

Planning Assessment:

- There would be less clarity for the public and developers.
- Planning applications would be less likely to be granted permission without delays or challenges due to limited coordinated guidance and advice.
- Individual developments would be less likely to be coherent and complementary across the two towns.
- There is greater potential for the aspirations of the County Development Plans, NPF and RSES not to be fulfilled.

Environmental Assessment:

- Objectives for the sustainable development (encompassing environmental protection and management) would be more likely to take a longer amount of time to achieve.
- Linkages, mobility and environmental infrastructure would not be set out at a strategic level for the towns and would be developed in a piecemeal fashion.
- Increased potential for delays in accommodating demand for development within the town could drive demand towards less well-connected, less well-served and more environmentally sensitive areas elsewhere in the wider region.
- Not having the Plan in place prevents the consideration of mobility issues and environmental impacts at the earliest and most strategic stage and may reduce the degree to which mitigating provisions would be contributed towards.

Alternative 2A and 2B: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making

Under this Alternative, the Plan would be available in addition to the City/County-wide provisions of the Development Plan, providing more detailed and specific guidance on the balanced development of Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements in the context of the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon bridge crossing. Applications for new development would be able to consider a clear vision with advice on issues including Mobility Management and Transport; Public Realm; Heritage; Tourism; Green and Blue Infrastructure.

Planning Assessment:

- There would be more clarity for the public and developers.

- Planning applications would be more likely to be granted permission without delays or challenges.
- Individual developments would be more likely to be coherent and complementary across the two towns.
- There is greater potential for the aspirations and objectives of the County Development Plans, NPF and RSES not to be fulfilled.

Environmental Assessment:

- Objectives for the sustainable development (encompassing environmental protection and management) would be more likely to take a shorter amount of time to achieve.
- Linkages, mobility and environmental infrastructure would be set out strategically for the towns and could be developed wholly and in good time, taking into account the wider context, including development of the Killaloe Bypass, Shannon River Crossing and R494 Improvement.
- Accommodating demand for development in the urban core and on brownfield land would reduce future increases in demand at less well-connected, less well-served and more environmentally sensitive areas elsewhere in the wider region.

Under Alternative 2 there are two separate alternatives as identified below.

Alternative 2A: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and do not undertake SEA and AA

This alternative involves not undertaking SEA and AA, on the basis that the Plan: will be non-statutory; will not form public policy; and will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

Not undertaking SEA and AA would result in a Plan into which less environmental considerations are integrated. Such a Plan would not contribute to environmental protection and management to the same degree as a Plan under Alternative 2B. Not undertaking SEA and AA could result in projects being included in the Plan that would be challenging to achieve in compliance with environmental requirements.

Alternative 2B: Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and undertake SEA and AA

This alternative involves undertaking SEA and AA on the Plan, even though the Plan: will be non-statutory; will not form public policy; and will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

Undertaking SEA and AA would result in a Plan into which more environmental considerations are integrated. Such a Plan would contribute to environmental protection and management to a greater degree than a Plan under Alternative 2A. Undertaking SEA and AA would help to ensure that projects being included in the Plan can be realistically achieved, subject to further assessment, in compliance with environmental requirements.

Selected Alternative: 2B Prepare a Plan to inform future decision making and undertake SEA and AA

Section 5 Summary of Effects arising from the draft Plan

The Councils have integrated various environmental considerations into the draft Plan. In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSES for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans

Table 5.1 provides a detailed overall assessment of the environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation, including that which has been integrated into the Plan.

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 3.1.

Table 5.1 Overall Findings – Summary of Assessment

Environmental Component	Environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Southern RSES and the existing and emerging Development Plans			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green and blue 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. 	<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). 	BFF
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 the existing population and planned growth by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water and helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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. 	PHH
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 helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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 (if such unknown lands exist). 	<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. 	S
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of surface and ground water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology – and associated interactions with ecological and human receptors. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any increased loadings or changes in flow as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan and various provisions of integrated into the Plan from the relevant Development Plans. 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 relevant Development Plans. 	W

SEA Environmental Report Appendix III: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Southern RSES and the existing City Development Plan and new Draft City and County Development Plan				SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Significant Effects	Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to the existing population and planned growth by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. 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. 	<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. 		MA
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 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 mobility and access; A highly accessible experience for pedestrians and cyclists; Enhancing connectivity of the towns by transition of the bridge to pedestrian and cycle link; and Various local mobility and public realm improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development 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 and the wider planning framework, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Development Plans to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 		AC
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the City and County by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the two towns 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. 		CH
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by helping to facilitate compact development within the existing built-up footprint of the two towns. 	<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 and views 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 and wider planning framework's landscape protection/visual assessment measures. 		L

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 Councils through the SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes. By integrating SEA and AA related recommendations into the Plan, the Councils are helping to ensure that:

- Environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework, are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of developing Killaloe-Ballina, including effects of the combined planning framework, are maximised.

Mitigation was achieved through the following:

- The consideration of strategic alternatives¹⁵;
- Establishing the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework¹⁶;
- Consideration of Requirements for Sustainable Development, Environmental Protection and Management¹⁷; and
- Mitigation Measures from the draft Plan, including advice provided at Appendix I to the draft Plan.

¹⁵ As part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Councils 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 Plan that was prepared and placed on public display.

¹⁶ The SEA team worked with the Plan-preparation team in order to help establish the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework.

The draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan 2021 will be non-statutory and will not form public policy. The Plan will identify non-binding criteria that will only become binding if the Plan is incorporated into the relevant Clare and Tipperary County Development Plans.

The draft Plan exists separate to the hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, transport, land use development, infrastructure, public realm, tourism and environment protection and management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction until 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Southern Region, the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) and North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied) and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans, set out (or will set out) objectives relating development of the area, that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment.

Implementation of the Plan shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, RSEs and these lower-tier Development Plans, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been (or are being) integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.

¹⁷ In order to be realised, projects mentioned in the draft Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to demonstrate compliance with, 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, of which the draft Plan currently is not part. This framework includes a multitude of provisions for sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection that have been (or are being) subject to environmental assessment, including provisions from: the NPF; the RSEs for the Southern Region; the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied); the North Tipperary Development Plan 2010-2016 (as varied); and the emerging, new Clare and Tipperary draft County Development Plans.

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 in the evaluation.

Where the Plan, or parts of the Plan, become part of the Development Plans, monitoring will be undertaken as part of the programme set out by the Development Plan's SEA.

In order to avoid duplication and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring, monitoring reports prepared for implementation of the Southern RSES and, when adopted, the emerging, new draft Development Plans will be significant informants of future monitoring reports for the Plan, if it does not become part of these Plans.

Table 6.1 overleaf shows the current indicators and targets that have been selected for monitoring.

Table 6.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in 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, the Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021 and the Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023, and any superseding versions of same
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of ecosystem services and green infrastructure in proposals for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of ecosystem services and green infrastructure ecosystem services and green infrastructure in proposals for development and 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, the Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017-2021 and the Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023, and any superseding versions of same
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening for EIAs and AAs, and subsequent assessment as relevant, for proposals for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake, as relevant, EIA and AA for new proposals for development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Development Plan measures at Section 9 of this SEA Environmental Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Development Plan measures at Section 9 of this SEA Environmental Report
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for the in-force Development Plans 	<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 the in-force Development Plans By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the in-force Development Plans within Killaloe-Ballina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the in-force Development Plans within Killaloe-Ballina
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of specific green infrastructure mapping in development proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of specific green infrastructure mapping in development proposals
Soil (and Land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of settlements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<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 River Basin Management Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
Air	<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 Contribution towards maintenance of and improvement in air quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Development Plan measures relating to climate mitigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Development Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
Cultural Heritage	<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 	<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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape designations, resulting from development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape designations, resulting from development