

# SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

- IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (SEA) REGULATIONS  
2004 (SI No. 436 OF 2004) AS AMENDED -

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FOR  
**PROPOSED VARIATION No. 1**  
TO THE  
**ROSCOMMON TOWN LOCAL AREA PLAN 2014-2020**

**for:** **Roscommon County Council**  
The Courthouse  
Roscommon  
County Roscommon



**by:** **CAAS Ltd.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Courtyard  
25 Great Strand Street  
Dublin 1



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## List of Abbreviations

<b>AA</b>	Appropriate Assessment
<b>CSO</b>	Central Statistics Office
<b>DEHLG</b>	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
<b>DECLG</b>	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GSI</b>	Geological Survey of Ireland
<b>NHA</b>	Natural Heritage Area
<b>NIAH</b>	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
<b>RBD</b>	River Basin District
<b>RMP</b>	Record of Monuments and Places
<b>RPS</b>	Record of Protected Structures
<b>RPGs</b>	Regional Planning Guidelines
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SEO</b>	Strategic Environmental Objective
<b>SI No.</b>	Statutory Instrument Number
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Area
<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive

# 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 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 2000 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 Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) 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 Actions**

Strategic actions include: Policies/Strategies, which may be considered as inspiration and guidance for action and which set the framework for Plans and programmes; Plans, sets of co-ordinated and timed objectives for the implementation of the policy; and Programmes, sets of projects in a particular area.

## **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, or variation to 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, or the variation to the Plan, 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 Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan (LAP) 2014-2020. It has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Roscommon County Council.

The SEA is being carried out in order to comply with the provisions of Article 8 of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended. As the population or the target population of the area of the LAP is over 5,000 persons, SEA is required to be undertaken on the variation. This report should be read in conjunction with the Proposed Variation.

Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning.

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 (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

## **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 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.

## **1.4 Implications for the Proposed Variation and the Planning Authority**

As the population or the target population of the area of the LAP is over 5,000 persons, SEA is required to be undertaken on the variation.

The findings of the SEA are expressed in this Environmental Report. This report will be updated in order to take account of any change that are made to the Proposed Variation on foot of submissions. Elected Members of Roscommon County Council will take into account the findings of this report and other related SEA output during their consideration of the Proposed Variation and before its adoption. An SEA Statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan as amended will be prepared at the end of the process.

## **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 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA



## Section 2 The Proposed Variation

### 2.1 Statutory Context and Content

Roscommon County Council has prepared the Proposed Variation to give expression to changes required as part of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.

Section 10(2)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, requires that the development plan and, by extension, LAPs should include a development objective for:

*“the development and renewal of areas, identified having regard to the core strategy, that are in need of regeneration, in order to prevent —*

- (i) adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land,*
- (ii) urban blight and decay,*
- (iii) anti-social behaviour, or*
- (iv) a shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses”.*

The Proposed Variation therefore changes text in the LAP to include the abovementioned objective as well as amending various other policies and objectives to address vacancy and the introduction of the Vacant Site Levy. Mapping is also included as part of the Proposed Variation that indicates residential and regeneration lands within which the Vacant Site Levy may apply, as required in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015.

The Variation does not change the underlying land use zoning objectives provided for by the existing Plan.

### 2.2 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The LAP, to which the Proposed Variation relates, sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes and is subject to a number of high level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply (including those detailed in Appendix I, Section 4, Section 5 and Section 8 of this report).

The LAP and Proposed Variation comply with relevant high-level strategic actions and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions. In this regard, Appendix I includes statutory provisions, plans, policies and strategies that set the context within which the Plan is framed and which have influenced the strategies and objectives of the Plan. These provisions include high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply, including those that have been identified as Strategic Environmental Objectives in Section 4.

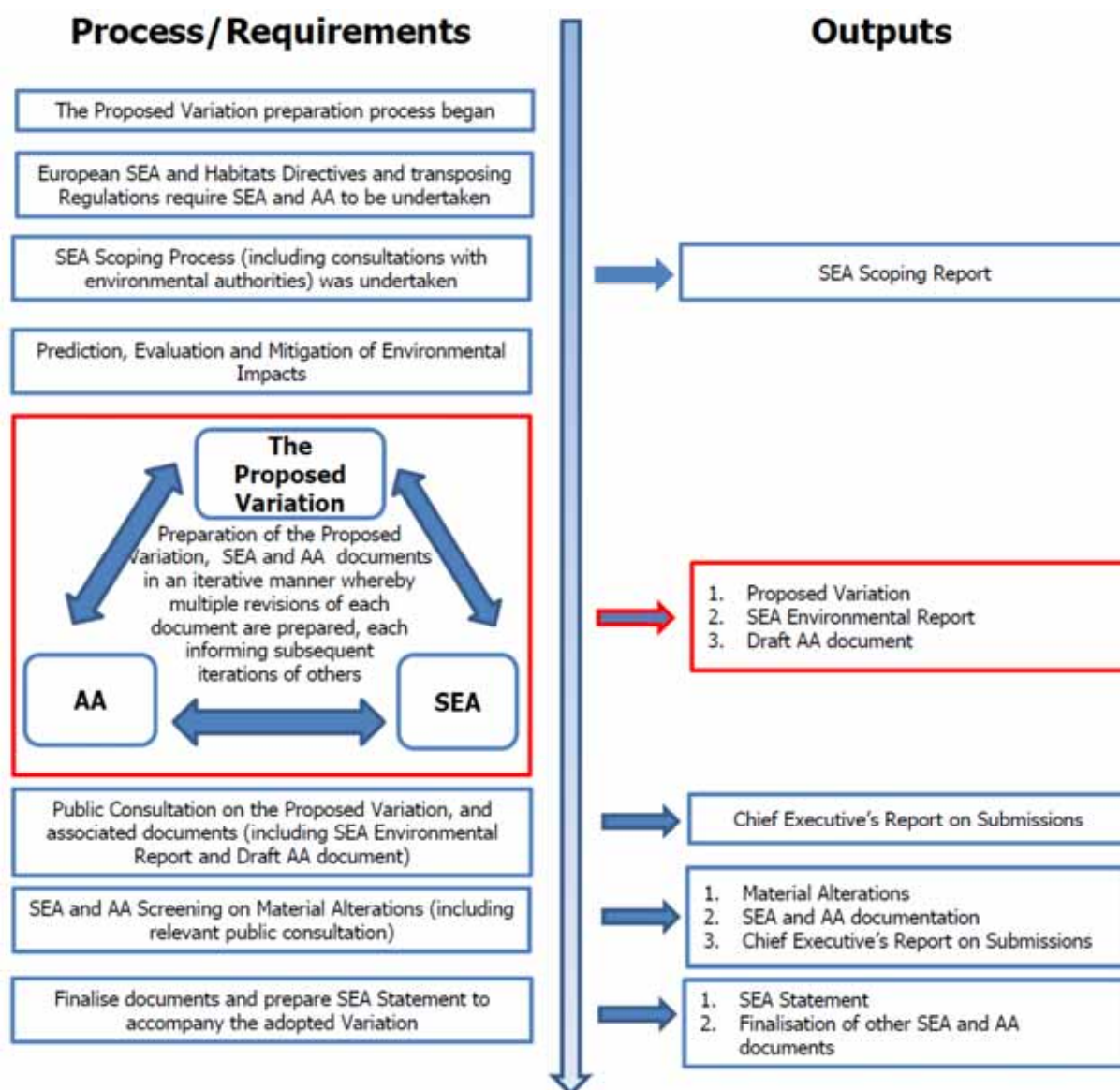
## Section 3 SEA Methodology

### 3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

This section details how the SEA has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Proposed Variation. Figure 3.1 lays out the main stages in the Proposed Variation preparation

and associated SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes.

The Proposed Variation and associated SEA and AA documents were prepared in an iterative manner whereby multiple revisions of each document were prepared, each informing subsequent iterations of the others.



**Figure 3.1 Proposed Variation to the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan and SEA and AA Stages**

### **3.2 Appropriate Assessment**

Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Proposed Variation.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The AA concluded that the Proposed Variation is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites<sup>1</sup>, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

### **3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG, 2009). A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was undertaken alongside the preparation of the Roscommon Local Area Plan 2014-2020. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA took place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA informed both the Plan and the SEA. Various recommendations made by the SFRA were integrated into the Plan.

The SFRA that was undertaken for the 2014-2020 Plan has informed this SEA however as the variation will not change the underlying land use zoning objectives provided for by the existing Plan, SFRA is not required to be undertaken as part of the Proposed Variation preparation process.

### **3.4 Scoping**

In consultation with the environmental authorities, 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.

All relevant environmental authorities<sup>2</sup> identified under the SEA Regulations as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Council indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council. Environmental authorities were informed that submissions would also be taken into account. One submission was received from the Environmental Protection Agency. This submission raised a number of important issues that are dealt with by the existing Plan (including timely provision of water services and waste management infrastructure) or are dealt with by the SEA process (including consultation with environmental authorities).

As the Proposed Variation is not likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State transboundary consultations as provided for by Article 7 of the SEA Directive were not undertaken.

### **3.5 The SEA Environmental Report**

In this SEA Environmental Report, which is placed on public display alongside the Proposed Variation, the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Variation are predicted and their significance evaluated.

The Environmental Report provides the Council, stakeholders and the public with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Variation.

Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by the Plan as amended are identified in Section 8 - these have already been integrated into the existing Plan.

<sup>1</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>2</sup> The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Communications,

Climate Action and Environment, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Community and Local Government, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Galway County Council, Leitrim County Council, Longford County Council, Mayo County Council, Offaly County Council, Sligo County Council and Westmeath County Council.

The Environmental Report will be updated in order to take account of recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of any changes that may be made to the original, Proposed Variation that is being placed on public display.

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

### **3.6 The SEA Statement**

On the making of the Proposed Variation by the Council, an SEA Statement will be prepared which will include information on:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan as amended, highlighting the main changes to the Plan as amended which 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 as amended in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as amended was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan as amended.

### **3.7 Difficulties Encountered**

No significant difficulties were encountered when undertaking the SEA.

**Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report**

<b>Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report</b>	<b>Corresponding Section of this Report</b>
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 7 and Appendix I
(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, 6 and 7
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 4
(E) List 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 Proposed Variation	Sections 5, 6 and 7 and Appendix I
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 6
(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 8
(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
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 9
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Non-Technical Summary (Appendix II)
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

## Section 4 Environmental Baseline

### 4.1 Introduction

Information on environmental sensitivities is provided in this section in order to comply with the legislation however, it is not expected that the Variation will result in significant environmental effects. The SEA is mandatory due to the thresholds set out in the legislation. The underlying land use zoning objectives provided for in the existing 2014 Plan will not change. The existing Plan already contains provisions relating to the issues that will be dealt with by the Proposed Variation such as those relating to urban regeneration, vacant sites and renewal. The Proposed Variation will further contribute towards such provisions and provide additional detail on these issues.

The SEA Directive requires a description of the likely evolution of the environment without the implementation of the plan, or variation to the plan. For this SEA, the description is provided by summarising the information on likely significant effects of implementing the 2014 Plan as identified by the SEA for that Plan. In the absence of the Proposed Variation these likelihood of these effects occurring would remain the same.

Positive effects arising from the 2014 Plan include (see Section 7 for details about effects associated with the Proposed Variation):

- Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development;
- Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area;
- Maximisation of sustainable mobility and brownfield development; and
- Provision of appropriate levels of water services.

Residual adverse effects arising from the Plan include (see Section 7 for details about effects associated with the Proposed Variation):

- Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces
- Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces
- Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events
- Residual wastes to be disposed of in compliance with relevant requirements
- Potential alteration to the context and setting of architectural heritage (Protected Structures) however these will occur in compliance with legislation
- Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage (Recorded Monuments) however this will occur in compliance with legislation
- Potential loss of unknown archaeology however this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Plan

### 4.2 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

#### 4.2.1 European Sites

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) by the (former) Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union. SPAs, along with SACs, comprise Ireland's European Sites – part of an EU-wide network of protected areas established under the Habitats Directive.

There are no European Sites occurring inside the Plan boundary, however there are a number of European Sites within 15km of the Plan area, including the Lough Ree cSAC and SPA (also designated a pNHA) which is situated 2km east of the town. European Sites within 15km of

Roscommon Town are mapped on Figure 4.1 and listed on Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 European Sites within 15km and downstream of Roscommon Town**

European Sites		
Designation	Code	Site Name
cSAC	002349	Corbo Bog
	000448	Fortwilliam Turlough
	000440	Lough Ree
	001637	Four Roads Turlough
	000611	Lough Funshinagh
	000610	Lough Croan Turlough
	000609	Lisduff Turlough
	000588	Ballinturly
	004064	Lough Ree
SPA	004097	River Suck Callow
	004140	Four Roads Turlough
	004139	Lough Croan Turlough

#### 4.2.2 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 or pNHAs occurring inside the Plan boundary. The closest NHA is the Suck River Callows (c. 3.5km to the south-west of the Plan area). All NHAs and pNHAs in the vicinity of the Plan area are listed on Table 4.2 and mapped on Figure 4.2.

**Table 4.2 NHAs and pNHAs within 15km of the Plan area**

Natural Heritage Areas		
Designation	Code	Site Name
NHA	000267	Funshin Bog
	000283	Kilmore Bog
	000229	Ballygar Bog
	001227	Aughrim Bog
	000222	Suck River Callows
	002072	Lisnarrigh Bog
	000605	Derrycanan Bog
pNHA	000598	Castleplunket Turlough
	001646	Newtown Turlough
	001624	Carrowreagh Turlough
	000613	Rathnalulleagh Turlough
	001648	Shad Lough
	000594	Brierfield Turlough
	000612	Mullygollan Turlough
	001617	Ardakillin Lough
	001627	Corbally Turlough
	000602	Corbo Bog
	000440	Lough Ree
	000449	Lough Bannow
	000448	Fortwilliam Turlough
	001821	Cordara Turlough
	001443	Lough Slawn
	000611	Lough Funshinagh
	000610	Lough Croam Turlough
	001637	Four Roads Turlough
	000609	Lisduff Turlough
	000588	Ballinturly Turlough

#### 4.2.3 WFD Register of Protected Areas

Under the Water Framework Directive, there are a number of entries to the Register of Protected Areas in the vicinity of the Plan area by virtue of their "ecological value". A stretch of the Hind River beginning within the south of the Plan area and extending to Lough Ree in the east is identified as being a Nutrient Sensitive River. Lough Ree (c. 7km to the east of the Plan area) is identified as a Nutrient Sensitive Lake.

#### 4.2.4 Habitat Mapping

Habitat Mapping<sup>3</sup> was carried out for Roscommon town in 2010 (see Figure 4.3 and Map 14 in the LAP). The habitat mapping identified twenty-seven different habitat types.

Much of the area surrounding the town is well drained and consists of Improved Agricultural Grassland, with pasture and silage production the predominant land use. There are some poorly drained areas, especially to the north-west of the town, and these consist of mainly Marsh and Wet Grassland habitats, both of which are quite species rich and add significantly to the ecological value of the town.

A network of Hedgerows and Tree Lines also criss-cross the town. These are important features of the landscape, acting as wildlife corridors. In the northwestern section of the town, there is a small area of species-rich Dry Neutral Grassland. This habitat type is relatively uncommon in the landscape and adds significantly to the ecological value of Roscommon town.

Loughnaneane Turlough, a highly sensitive habitat of national, possibly international importance that is yet undesignated, lies within the north-west of the town. Loughnaneane Turlough is identified as the most important habitat by the survey. A second Turlough habitat was identified in the town, at Ardsallaghmore. These two areas are Highly Sensitive, with an ecological value of International to National Importance, and they are linked to Annex 1 Habitat – Turlough.

#### 4.2.5 CORINE Land Cover Mapping<sup>4</sup>

The main types of cover in the Plan area are Discontinuous Urban Fabric - indicative of the built area of the town - and Pastures - indicative of the semi-natural habitats that are used for agricultural uses in the areas beyond the built envelope of the town. There is an area of Sport and Leisure Facilities i.e. Roscommon Golf Club (see Figure 4.2) on the southeastern perimeter.

<sup>3</sup> Habitat Mapping of Habitats in County Roscommon, 2011

<sup>4</sup> CORINE Land Cover (CLC) is a map of the European environmental landscape based on interpretation of satellite images. Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface. Because of the scale of the CORINE data and the method by which it

#### 4.2.6 Ecological Networks and Connectivity

Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. They are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers/streams, which provide corridors or stepping-stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna particularly for mammals, especially for bats and small birds and facilitate linkages both between and within designated ecological sites, the non-designated surrounding countryside and the town.

Important ecological networks comprise a variety of features including Loughnaneane Turlough, various agricultural lands, stands of trees and hedgerows, the Jiggy River that flows through the town and the Hind River to the south.

#### 4.2.7 Other Protected Species/Habitats

In addition to certain species and habitats already mentioned above, other species are protected under law wherever they occur, such as:

- 'Protected Species and natural habitats' as defined in the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 including annexed habitats and species listed under Annexes I, II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive;
- Species/Habitats legally protected under the Flora Protection Order in the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000;
- Other species of flora and fauna and their key habitats which are protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000 including all native mammals; and

was collected there are likely to be a number of inaccuracies at the local level. It is noted, however, that the land cover shown on the maps is generally accurate at the County level. The European Environment Agency, in conjunction with the European Space Agency, the European Commission and member countries is currently updating the CORINE land cover database.



- Stepping stones and ecological corridors including nature conservation sites (other than European Sites), habitats and species locations covered by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

#### **4.2.8 Existing Problems**

The development of the town has resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna. However, as part of this assessment no breaches with legislation that relates to ecology have been identified.

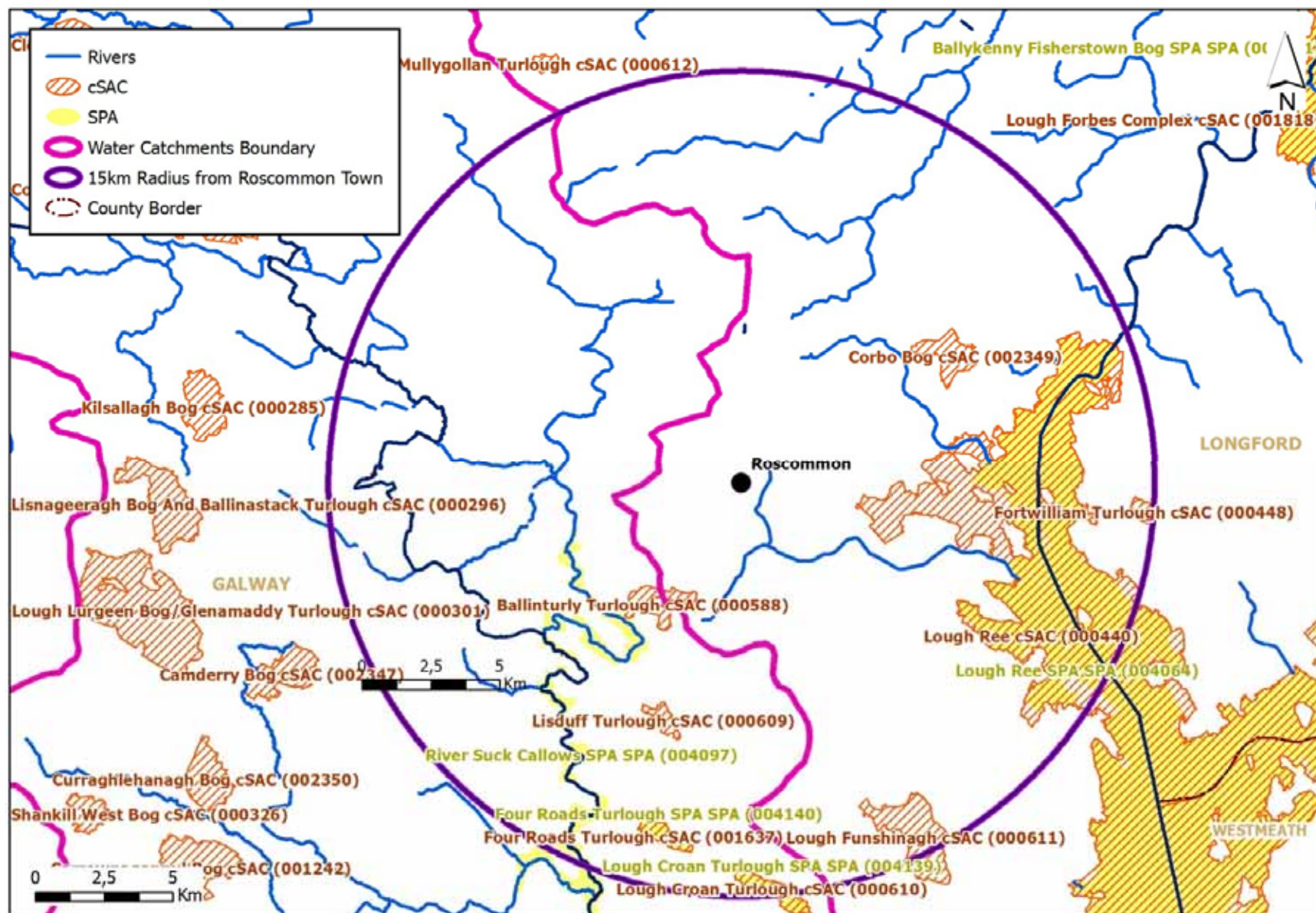


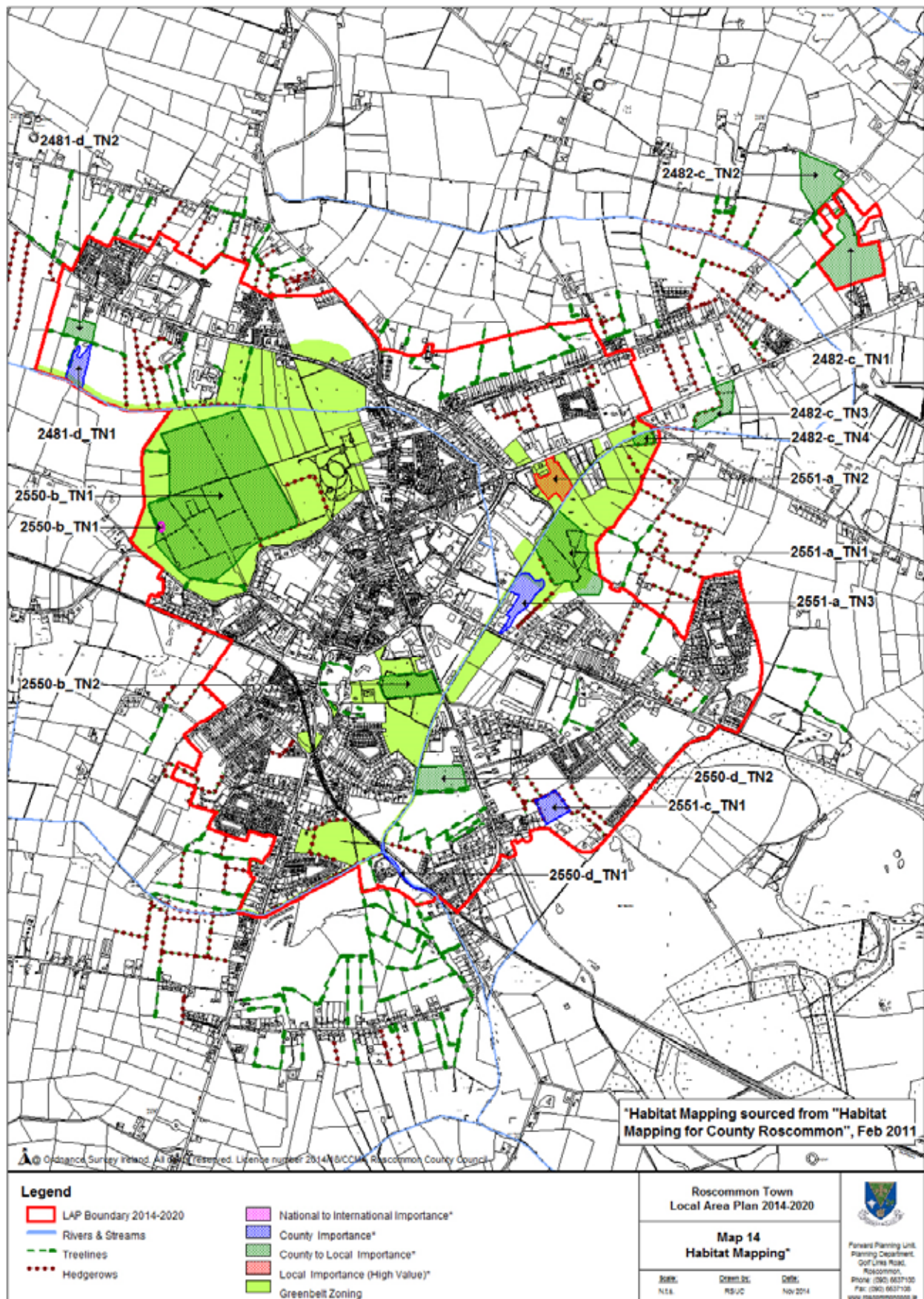
Figure 4.1 Designated European Sites within 15km of Roscommon Town





Figure 4.2 CORINE Land Cover Data 2006





**Figure 4.3 Habitat Mapping**

Source: Roscommon County Council (2011)

## 4.3 Population and Human Health

### 4.3.1 Population<sup>5</sup>

Preliminary results from the 2016 Census are currently unavailable for the Census town of Roscommon (the area of the Census town is similar to the area of the LAP). In 2011, the population of Roscommon Census town was 5,693 persons.

Preliminary results from the 2016 Census are available for the Roscommon Urban and Rural Electoral Districts (EDs). The Urban ED covers an area significantly smaller than the area covered by the LAP while the Rural ED covers an area significantly larger than the area covered by the LAP.

According to the preliminary results from the 2016 Census, the total population in the Roscommon Urban Electoral District (ED) was 1,723. The population in this ED has changed by 1.3% or 22 since the 2011 Census when the total population was recorded at 1,701. According to the preliminary results from the 2016 Census, the total population in the Roscommon Rural ED was 4,916. The population in this ED has changed by 2.8% or 134 since the 2011 Census when the total population was recorded at 4,782.

### 4.3.2 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 Proposed Variation.

<sup>5</sup> See also Figure 11 of Appendix 3 of the LAP that identifies District Electoral Division, Roscommon Census Town and LAP boundaries.

### 4.3.3 Existing Problems

There are various lands that are at elevated levels of flood risk within the Plan area. These lands were identified by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) undertaken alongside the existing 2014 Plan that guided land use zoning in this Plan so that no lands are inappropriately zoned. Flood mapping from the SFRA is reproduced on Figure 4.11.

## 4.4 Soil

### 4.4.1 Introduction

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.

### 4.4.2 Soil Types

Soil types, as classified by the EPA, are mapped on Figure 4.4. Areas outside of the built areas of the town are underlain by various types of soils including deep well drained mineral soils, mainly basic, some acidic, as well as some deep poorly drained mineral basic soils. There is a sizeable area of raised cutaway bog (brown/grey colour) on the eastern side of the town and alluviums along the bank of the River Jiggy, particularly in the north. Alluviums (Lacustrine) are identified in the west at Loughnaneane Turlough.

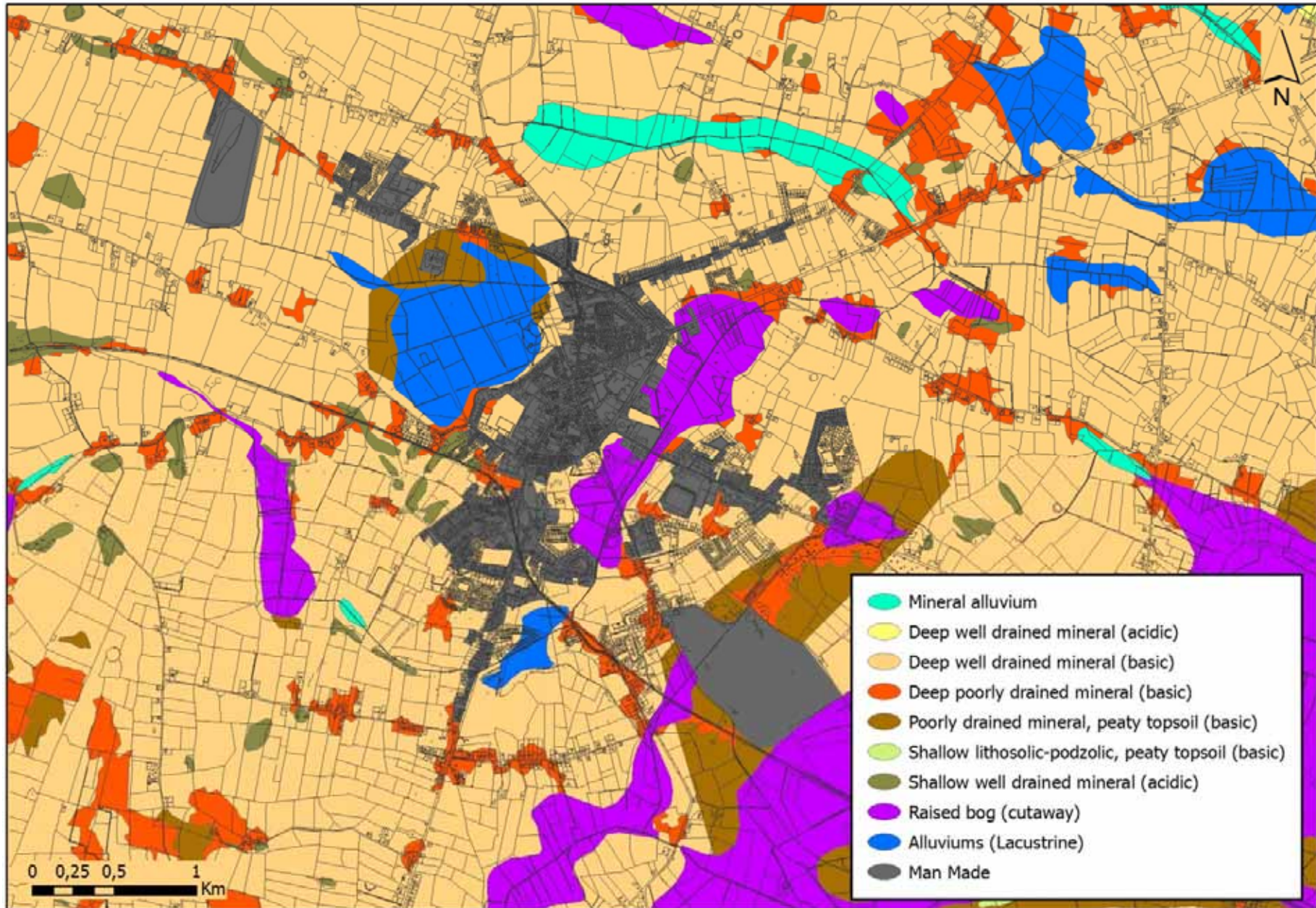
### **4.4.3 County Geological Sites**

An audit of Geological Sites in County Roscommon carried out by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) in 2012 identified Loughnaneane Turlough as a County Geological Site within Roscommon LAP area. The audit identified Loughnaneane as a good example of a Turlough (a geomorphological feature that is rare in Europe as a whole). Loughnaneane Turlough is mapped on Figure 4.5.

### **4.4.4 Existing Problems**

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

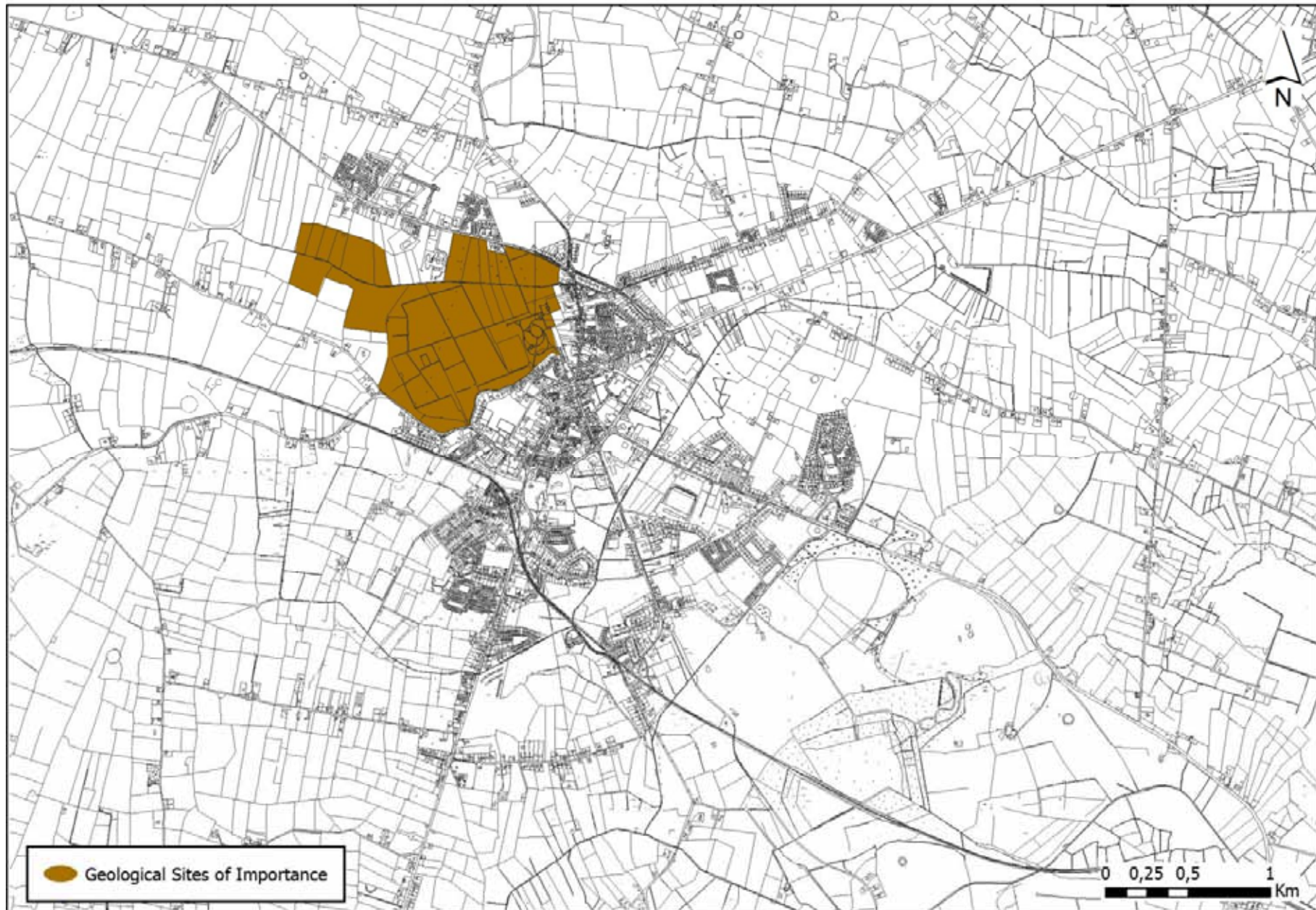




**Figure 4.4 Soil Type**

Source: Teagasc, GSI, Forest Service & EPA (2006) *Soils and Subsoils Class*





**Figure 4.5 Loughnaneane Turlough County Geological Site**

Source: Roscommon County Council (2012)



## 4.5 Water

### 4.5.1 Introduction

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 to maintain the good status of water bodies that are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to good status.

For the purpose of implementing the WFD, Ireland has been divided into eight River Basin Districts (RBDs) or areas of land that are drained by a large river or number of rivers and the adjacent estuarine/coastal areas. The management of water resources is on these river basin districts. Roscommon town falls within the Shannon International RBD.

Within each river basin district - for the purpose of assessment, reporting and management - water has been divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and coastal waters that are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies.

Local Authorities, including Roscommon County Council, have prepared the Shannon International River Basin Management Plan that is implemented in order to help protect and improve the status of waters. The Management Plans provide specific policies for individual river basins in order to implement the requirements of the WFD.

### 4.5.2 Surface Water

#### 4.5.2.1 WFD Surface Water Status

The WFD defines *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, 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.

Figure 4.6 maps the WFD Surface Water Status of catchments in the vicinity of the town, as currently available from the EPA<sup>6</sup>. The River Hind catchment within the Plan area is currently identified by the EPA as having *poor status*. This status has improved slightly since the previous EPA monitoring data recorded in 2011, when the status of the surface water for Roscommon town and its surrounding area was identified as mainly being of *bad status* with an area of *poor status* within and to the south, southeast and south-west of the town.

#### 4.5.2.2 Quality of Rivers

River water quality within the vicinity of the town is monitored by the EPA at a number of locations. The most recent data from the EPA for monitoring points closest to the town identifies Q-values of *poor status* (see Figure 4.7).

In relation to discharges to the Hind River and the quality of the river itself, the Wastewater Treatment Plant is the principal potential point source of pollution. In addition, farming practices and storm water overflows from the town also comprise other potential sources of pollution.

### 4.5.3 Ground Water

#### 4.5.3.1 Introduction

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

<sup>6</sup> EPA 2010-2015; Dataset downloaded March 2017.

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.

#### 4.5.3.2 WFD Groundwater Status

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 groundwater underlying both the Roscommon town and surrounding area is currently identified by the EPA<sup>7</sup> as being of *good status*. This status has improved significantly since the previous EPA monitoring data recorded in 2011, when the status of the groundwater underlying both the Roscommon town and surrounding area was identified as being of *poor status*, with a small area of *good status* within and to the east of the town.

#### 4.5.3.3 Aquifer Productivity, Vulnerability and Protection

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

Much of the Plan area is underlain by a Regionally Important Aquifer – Karstified (conduit).

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. Figure 4.8 maps aquifer vulnerability for the Plan and surrounding area – much of the area is identified as being of moderate or high or extreme vulnerability.

The Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) document “*Roscommon Central Regional Water Supply Scheme Groundwater Source Protection Zones*” (2003) identifies the Inner Source Protection Area<sup>8</sup> for the town’s water supply. This area is mapped on Figure 4.9.

<sup>7</sup> EPA 2010-2015; Datasets downloaded March 2017.

<sup>8</sup> The Inner Protection Area is designed to protect against the effects of human activities that might have an immediate effect on the source and, in particular, against microbial pollution. The area is defined by a 100-day time of travel from any point below the water table to the source.

### 4.5.4 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on the Register of Protected Areas (RPAs). Entries to RPAs within/adjacent to the Plan area comprise:

- Groundwater underlying the Plan area – as a drinking water source; and
- The River Hind downstream of the Plan area – as a nutrient sensitive water body.

These entries to the RPAs are shown on Figure 4.10.

### 4.5.5 Flooding

Flooding is an environmental phenomenon that, as well have causing economic and social impacts, could in certain circumstances pose a risk to human health.

European Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks required that Member States carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 in order to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such zones, flood risk maps were prepared and Flood Risk Management Plans are scheduled to be finalised in 2017.

In 2009, the DEHLG published The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. These are aimed at ensuring a more consistent, rigorous and systematic approach which will fully incorporate flood risk assessment and management into the planning system. Planning authorities are required to undertake flood risk identification, assessment and management processes as appropriate when preparing land use plans and in the consideration of applications for planning permission.

In karst areas, it will not usually be feasible to delineate 100-day time of travel boundaries, as there are large variations in permeability, high flow velocities and a low level of predictability. In these areas, the total catchment area of the source will frequently be classed as Inner Protection Area.

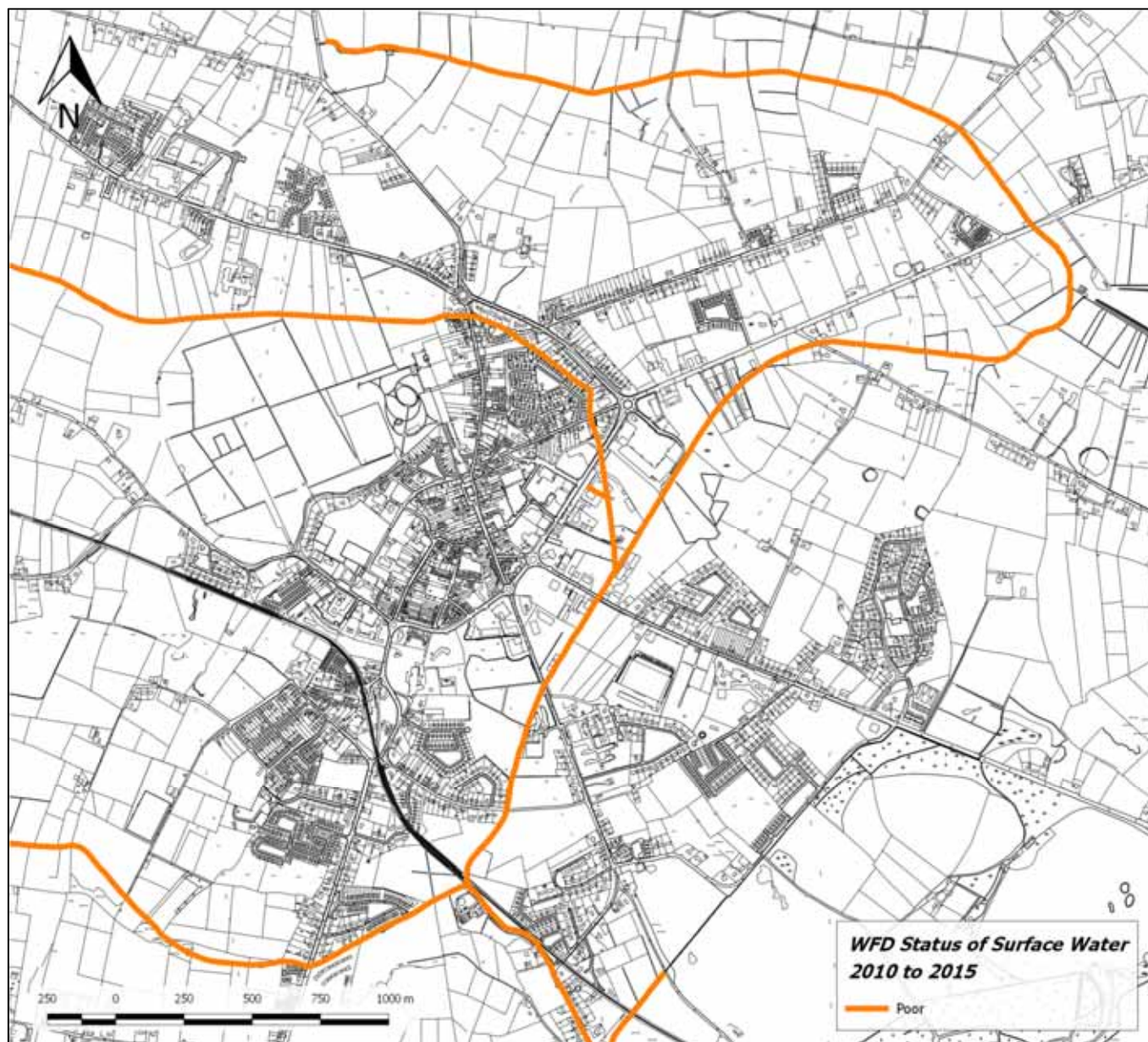
The requirement for Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG, 2009). A SFRA was undertaken alongside the preparation of the Roscommon Local Area Plan 2014-2020. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA took place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA informed both the Plan and the SEA. Various recommendations made by the SFRA were integrated into the Plan.

The SFRA that was undertaken for the 2014-2020 Plan has informed this SEA for the Proposed Variation however as the variation will not change the underlying land use zoning objectives provided for by the existing Plan, SFRA is not required to be undertaken as part of the Proposed Variation preparation process.

The SFRA undertaken alongside the existing 2014 Plan identified areas at elevated levels of flood risk and these are mapped on Figure 4.11 and guided land use zoning in that Plan so that no lands are inappropriately zoned.

#### **4.5.6 Existing Problems**

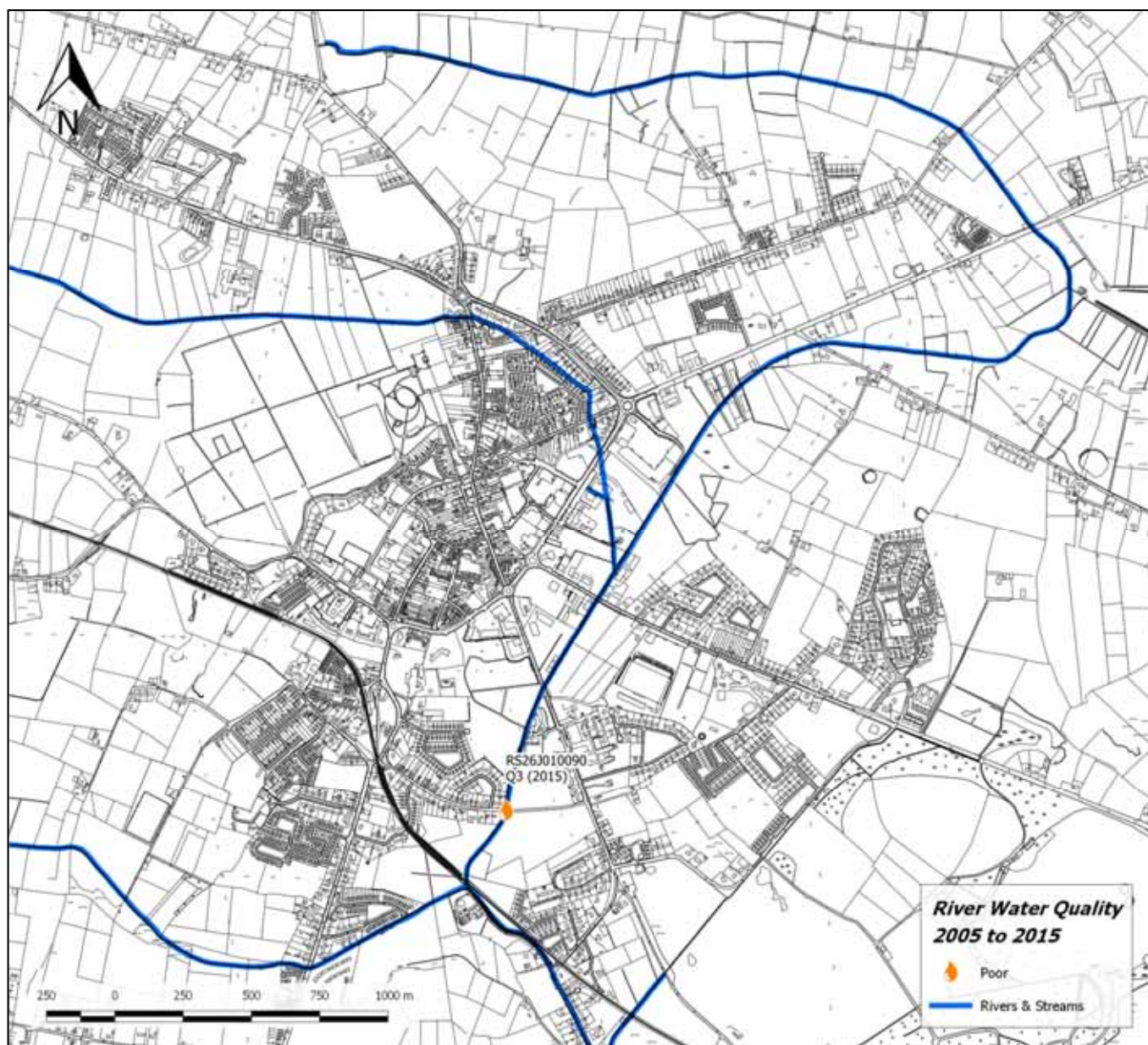
Various lands are at elevated levels of flood risk within the Plan area. These lands were identified by the SFRA undertaken alongside the existing 2014 Plan that guided land use zoning in this Plan so that no lands are inappropriately zoned.



**Figure 4.6 WFD Surface Water Status**

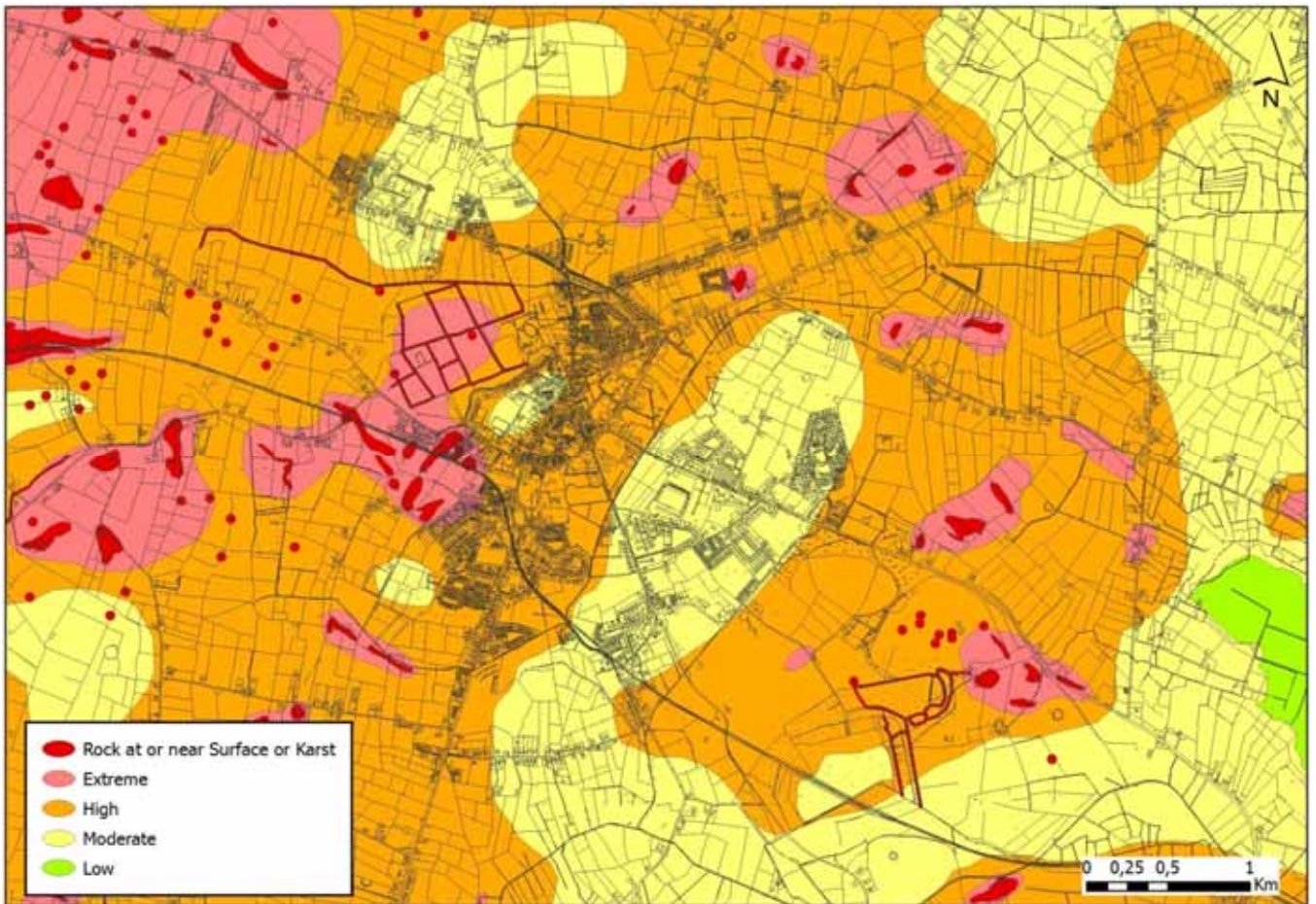
Source: EPA (Datasets downloaded March 2017)





**Figure 4.7 Q-Values at Points on Rivers 2004-2015**

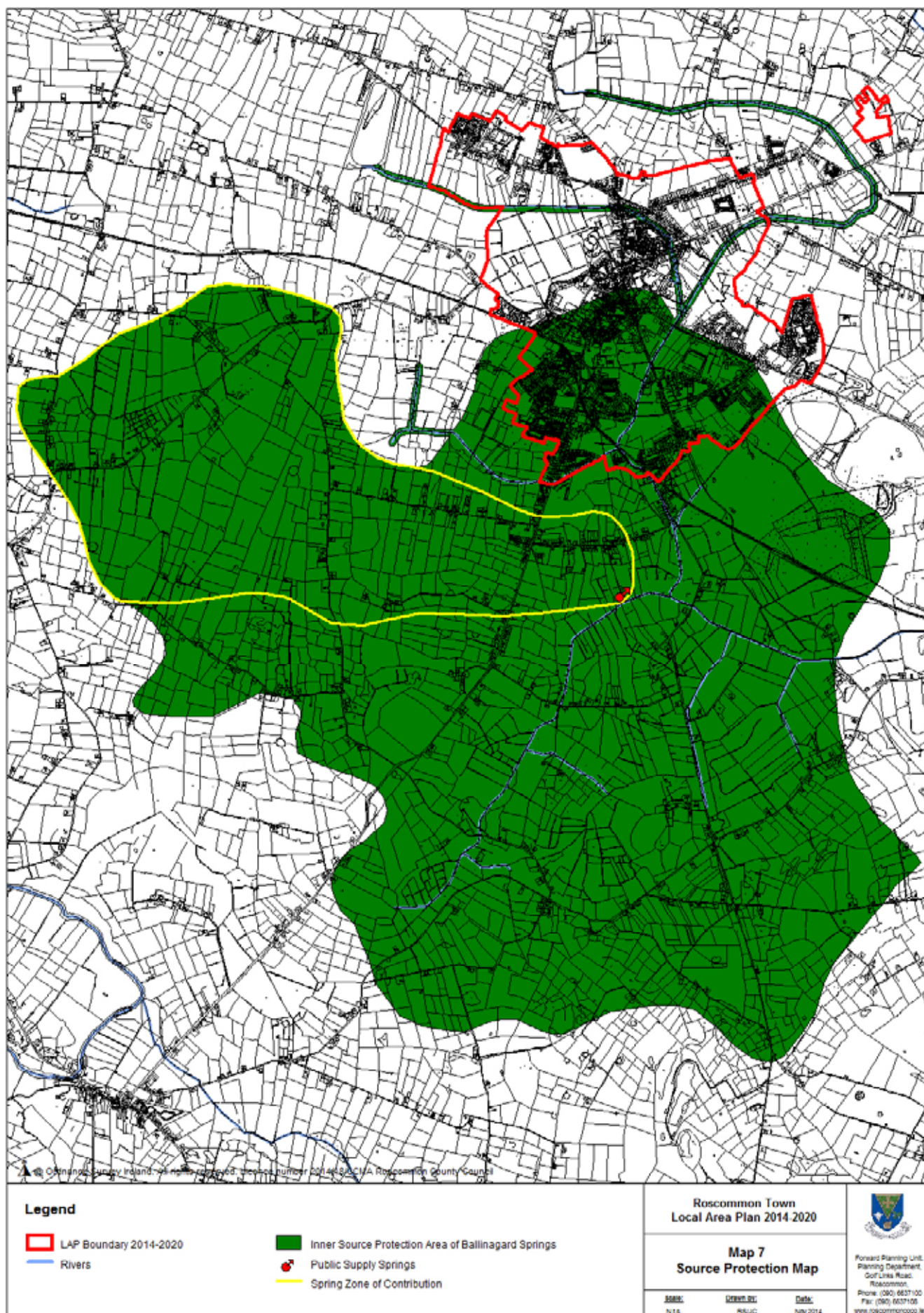
Source: EPA (Datasets downloaded March 2017)



**Figure 4.8 Aquifer Vulnerability**

Source: GSI (2006)





**Figure 4.9 Inner Source Protection Area**

Source: GSI (2003)

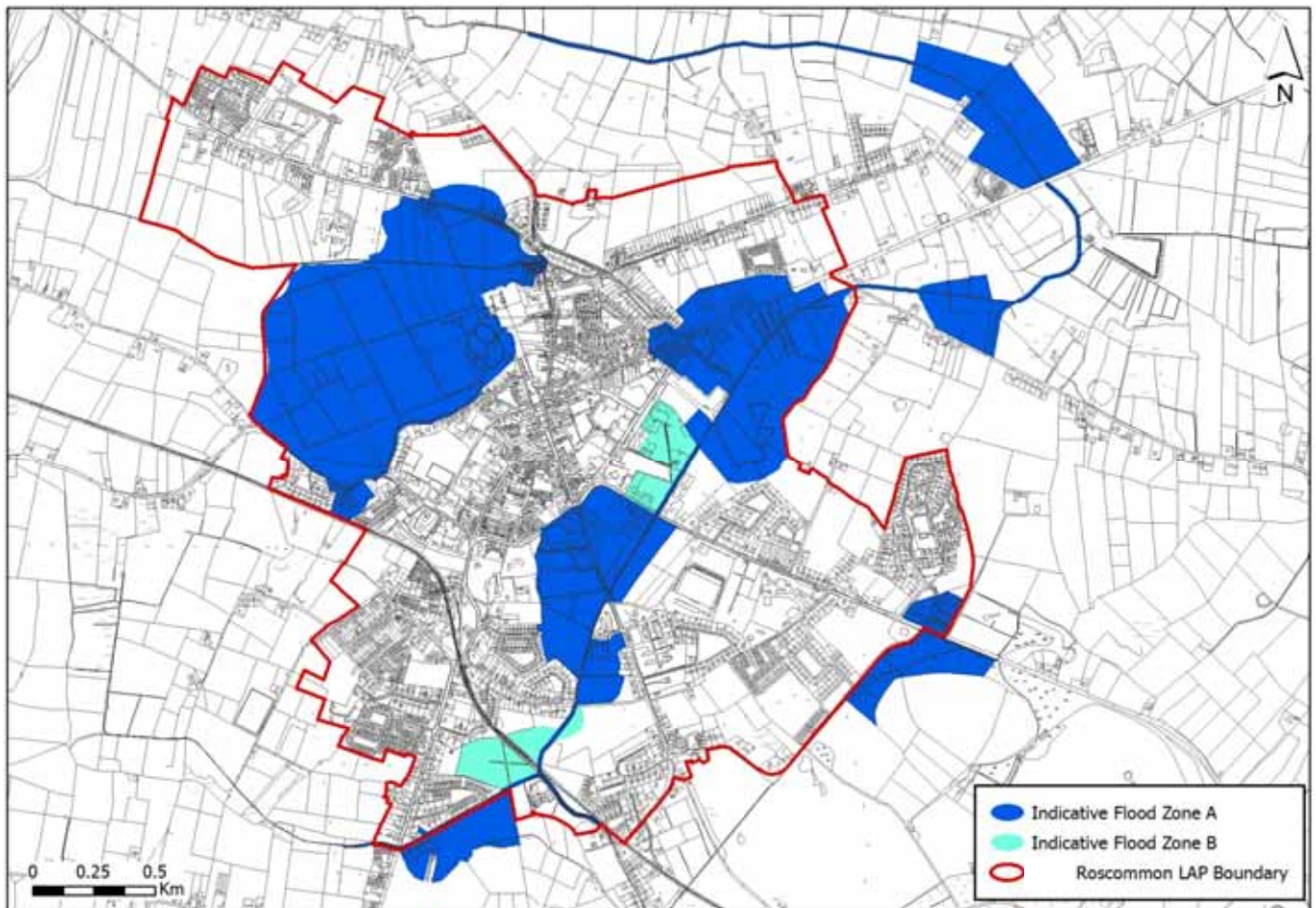




**Figure 4.10 WFD Entries to Nutrient Sensitive and Drinking Water RPAs**

Source: EPA (2011; datasets downloaded February 2014)





**Figure 4.11 SFRA Flood Mapping**

Source: SFRA (2014)

## 4.6 Air and Climatic Factors

### 4.6.1 Ambient Air Quality

#### 4.6.1.1 Introduction and Legislation

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 under the Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 as transposed into Irish law under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999 (SI No. 33 of 1999).

Four daughter Directives lay down limits or thresholds for specific pollutants. The first two of these directives cover: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead; and, carbon monoxide and benzene. Two more daughter directives deal with: ozone; and polyaromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic, nickel, cadmium and mercury in ambient air.

#### 4.6.1.2 Air Zones

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 main areas defined in each zone are:

- Zone A: Dublin Conurbation.
- Zone B: Cork Conurbation.
- Zone C: 21 Other cities and large towns including Galway, Limerick, Waterford, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Sligo, Drogheda, Wexford, Athlone, Ennis, Bray, Naas, Carlow, Tralee and Dundalk.
- Zone D: Rural Ireland, i.e. the remainder of the State - small towns and rural areas of the country - excluding Zones A, B and C.

Roscommon is located within Zone D where air quality is currently identified as being *good*<sup>9</sup>.

Key issues/challenges identified in the EPA's (2016) *Air Quality in Ireland 2015* report include:

- The WHO has intimated that there is no safe limit for air pollution.
- In general, air quality in Ireland is good and compares favourably with other EU member states, largely as a result of the relative absence of large cities, weather and access to predominantly clean air masses from the southwest. However, this status is both weather dependent and a comparison, relative to European neighbours many of whom are in exceedance of EU limit values for pollutants such as particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen dioxide.
- As the improvement in the Irish economy continues, Ireland will face challenges to comply with EU legislation for pollutants emitted from car exhausts.
- Economic activity will likely be mirrored by increases in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, particularly in urban areas.
- City centre and urban monitoring sites in Ireland are approaching EU limit values for NO<sub>2</sub>, and it is probable that Ireland will see limit value exceedances in the near future unless mitigation steps are taken.

### 4.6.2 Climatic Factors

The key issue involving the assessment of the effects of implementing the plan on climatic factors relates to greenhouse gas emissions arising from transport. It is noted that the Plan already contains a number of actions that respond to potential threats to environmental components arising from a changing climate.

Flooding (see Section 4.5.5) is influenced by climatic factors and the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk have been integrated into the recommendations that have

<sup>9</sup> The above index is for overall air quality in the Rural Ireland AQIH Region as accurate on 07/04/2017; EPA (2017) <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/data/dl/>

been inserted into the Plan. There are emerging objectives relating to climate adaptation and there is likely to be future Guidance for climate change proofing of land use plan provisions as is flagged in the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (DECLG, 2012). Some of these objectives might relate to green infrastructure that can achieve synergies with regard to the following:

- Provision of open space amenities;
- Sustainable management of water;
- Protection and management of biodiversity;
- Protection of cultural heritage; and
- Protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

Ireland's emissions profile has changed considerably since 1990, with the contribution from transport more than doubling and the share from agriculture reducing since 1998. Travel is a source of:

1. Noise;
2. Air emissions; and
3. Energy use (42.2% of Total Final Energy Consumption in Ireland in 2015 was taken up by transport, the largest take up of any sector)<sup>10</sup>.

Land-use planning contributes to what number and what extent of journeys occur. By addressing journey time through land use planning and providing more sustainable modes and levels of mobility, noise and other emissions to air and energy use can be minimised. Furthermore, by concentrating populations, greenfield development - and its associated impacts - can be minimised and the cost of service provision can be reduced.

For 2015, total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 3.7% higher than emissions in 2014. This follows the 0.3% decrease in emissions reported for 2014, most likely attributable to a mild winter in that year. Emission reductions have been recorded in eight of the last 10 years, however this has largely been as a result of reduced economic activity. There is now strong evidence that emissions are once again increasing in line with economic and employment growth, particularly in the Transport sector. Greenhouse gas emissions from the Transport sector increased by 4.2% in 2015. This is the third successive

year of increases in transport emission. Greenhouse gas emissions in 1990 and 2015 by sector show a more than doubling of the proportion of emissions from the Transport sector, from 9.2% in 1990 to 19.8% in 2015<sup>11</sup>.

The EPA 2015 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2014-2035*, identifies that:

- Under the 'worst case' scenario, Ireland is projected to cumulatively exceed its obligations by 4 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub>eq over the period 2013-2020.
- Under the 'best case' scenario, Ireland is projected to cumulatively meet its compliance obligations over the 2013-2020 period and meet its 2020 target. This takes into account the overachievement of the annual limits in the period 2013- 2017 that is banked and used in the years 2018-2020. The report identifies that achieving the outlook under the 'best case' scenario will require focus and effort that includes meeting renewable targets for transport and heat as well as energy efficiency targets.
- Transport emissions are projected to show strong growth over the period to 2020 with a 13%-19% increase on current levels depending on the level of policy implementation. Relative to 2005, transport emissions are projected to remain the same or, at best, decrease by 4% by 2020.

Maximising sustainable mobility will help Ireland meet its emission target for greenhouse gases under the 2020 EU Effort Sharing target that commits Ireland to reducing emissions from those sectors that are not covered by the Emissions Trading Scheme (e.g. transport, agriculture, residential) to 20% below 2005 levels. Subsequently, by 2030, Ireland is required to reduce its carbon emissions by up to 30% compared to 2005 levels.

#### 4.6.3 Existing Problems

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

<sup>10</sup> Sustainable Energy Ireland (2016) *Energy in Ireland 1990 – 2015*

<sup>11</sup> EPA (2016) *Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2015*

## 4.7 Material Assets

### 4.7.1 Water Services

#### 4.7.1.1 Irish Water

Since January 2014, Roscommon County Council no longer has any direct control in relation to the provision of water or wastewater services. The delivery, integration and implementation of strategic water and wastewater projects and infrastructural improvements are now the responsibility of Irish Water. The Council commits to working closely with Irish Water to ensure that the Plan continues to align with both the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines and that the provision of water/wastewater services will not be a limiting factor in terms of forecasted growth.

The function and role of Irish Water includes:

- Abstracting and treating water;
- Delivering water and wastewater services to homes and businesses;
- Installing water meters and billing domestic and business customers;
- Raising finance to fund improvements and repairs in the water system; and
- Maintaining and operating the water system.

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

#### 4.7.1.2 Wastewater Performance

The EPA's most recent report on wastewater treatment performance '*Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2015*' (EPA, 2016) identifies that the Roscommon Town Wastewater Treatment Plant met the standards set in the Directive for effluent quality, and a sufficient number of effluent samples were collected, analysed and reported to the EPA.

#### 4.7.1.3 Wastewater Capacity and Demand

The current Wastewater Treatment Plant has capacity for approximately 9,550 Population Equivalent (PE) and currently has sufficient capacity to meet the demands of the existing development in town as well as the proposed residential and commercial development on foot of the LAP (see Table 4.3 below).

**Table 4.3 Roscommon Wastewater Treatment Plant (D0116-01)**

Urban Area (PE)	Plant (PE)	Treatment Level	2015 Status
6,748	9,550	Secondary and P Removal	Pass

#### 4.7.1.4 Drinking Water Performance

Drinking water must be clean and wholesome. That means it must meet the relevant water quality standards and must not contain any other substance or micro-organism in concentrations or numbers that constitute a potential danger to human health.

Compliance with the drinking water requirements is determined by comparing the results of analyses submitted by water suppliers to the standard for 48 parameters specified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2), 2007. To ensure that these standards are met, each water supply must be monitored on a regular basis.

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 do not comply with the Regulations mentioned above.

The Roscommon Central (Ballinagard) Drinking Water Treatment Plant that supplies the town is not currently listed on the EPA's Remedial Action List (Q4 of 2016)<sup>12</sup>.

The current Plan identifies that water supply is considered to be sufficient to meet commercial,

<sup>12</sup> The Roscommon Central Regional Water Supply Scheme was previously listed on the EPA's Q4 2014 Remedial Action List due to inadequate treatment for *Cryptosporidium*. A new treatment plant comprising adsorption clarification,

filtration and ultraviolet treatment has been constructed and has been operating since 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This is an appropriate barrier to *Cryptosporidium* as required by the EPA's 2013 Direction to Roscommon County Council.

industrial, residential and agricultural water needs during the Plan period.

### 4.7.2 Waste Management

In March 2011, the EC (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 came into force. As well as including new re-use and recycling targets, these Regulations included a requirement to evaluate existing waste management plans by 31 December 2012 and make a recommendation to revise or replace the existing plans. An evaluation of the Replacement Connacht Plan was carried out and it was recommended that the Plan be replaced with a new plan. In 2015 a new plan was published; the Connacht - Ulster Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 with an objective to set out a framework for the prevention and management of waste on a regional scale.

With regard to domestic waste collection, the refuse collection service in County Roscommon is privatised. A number of domestic waste collection companies collect waste in Roscommon. Collectors provide a segregated collection service, where recyclables and municipal waste are collected on alternate weeks. The refuse collection companies working in County Roscommon at present are regulated by the Local Authority and the National Waste Collection Permit Office in Tullamore.

Roscommon town currently has a number of waste management facilities located in or close to the town including a local civic amenity site and bring bank facilities.

### 4.7.3 Existing Problems

No existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing material assets have been identified.

## 4.8 Cultural Heritage

### 4.8.1 Introduction

Heritage, by definition, means inherited properties, inherited characteristics and anything transmitted by past ages and ancestors. It covers everything, from objects and buildings to the environment. Cultural heritage includes physical buildings, structures and objects, complete or in part, which have

been left on the landscape by previous and indeed current generations.

### 4.8.2 Archaeological Heritage

#### 4.8.2.1 Introduction

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological heritage consists of such material remains (whether in the form of sites and monuments or artefacts in the sense of moveable objects) and environmental evidence. As archaeological heritage can be used to gain knowledge and understanding of the past it is of great cultural and scientific importance.

Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date; examples include earthworks of different types and periods, (e.g. early historic ringforts and prehistoric burial mounds), megalithic tombs from the Prehistoric period, medieval buildings, urban archaeological deposits and underwater features.

Archaeological sites may have no visible surface features; the surface features of an archaeological site may have decayed completely or been deliberately removed but archaeological deposits and features may survive beneath the surface.

#### 4.8.2.2 Record of Monuments and Places

Roscommon town's 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, established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped. The RMP includes all known monuments and sites of archaeological importance dating to before 1700 AD, and some sites that date from after 1700 AD.

Figure 4.12 shows the spatial distribution of entries to the RMP with the highest concentration occurring within the town's Zone of Archaeological Importance. There are 25 entries within the development envelope identified and listed for protection in the Record of Monuments and Places. Most of the core of the town also falls within a Zone of Archaeological Potential which runs from the

Dominican Abbey in the south to the moat north of the Castle and along The Walk.

### 4.8.3 Architectural Heritage

#### 4.8.3.1 Introduction

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.

#### 4.8.3.2 Record of Protected Structures

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) included in the Plan is 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:

- (i) the interior of the structure;
- (ii) the land lying within the curtilage<sup>13</sup> of the structure;
- (iii) any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- (iv) all fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

Current entries to the RPS in Roscommon are mapped on Figure 4.13; there are 87 protected structures within the Roscommon Town LAP area.

<sup>13</sup> 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

#### 4.8.3.3 Architectural Conservation Area

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of a Protected Structure. An ACA may or may not include Protected Structures. In an ACA, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. Planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in an ACA, which might alter the character of the structure, or of the ACA.

There are four ACAs designated in Roscommon town centre, as listed below and mapped on Figure 4.13:

- Abbey Street / Church Street ACA
- Main Street / Market Square ACA
- Goff Street / Athlone Road ACA
- St. Ciaran's Park ACA

### 4.8.4 Existing Problems

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

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.





**Figure 4.12 Archaeological Heritage - Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and Zones of Notification**

Source: Roscommon County Council (2014)







## 4.9 Landscape

### 4.9.1 Introduction

Landscapes are areas that are perceived by people and are made up of a number of layers: landform, which results from geological and geomorphological history; landcover, which includes vegetation, water, human settlements, and; human values that are a result of historical, cultural, religious and other understandings and interactions with landform and landcover.

### 4.9.2 Legislation

The importance of landscape and visual amenity and the role of its protection are recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, which requires that Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

### 4.9.3 Landscape Character Assessment

A Landscape Character Assessment is a study of a given landscape to determine its 'character'. Landscape character is the combination of physical, as well as, perceived aspects of the landscape.

The Roscommon LCA was produced as part of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2008-2014 and has subsequently been incorporated into the 2014-2020 County Plan. The LCA divides the County into Landscape Character Areas i.e. unique, geographically specific areas of a particular landscape type.

The aim of the County Roscommon LCA is to provide a tool for decision making regarding development control and to influence landscape policy at local level. In considering landscape character in the area, the Council acknowledges the importance of taking into account adjoining landscape character, landscape features and designations, including those in adjoining counties.

The Roscommon Town LAP area falls within Landscape Character Area 32: Roscommon town and Hinterland. The Key Characteristics of this Character Area are described in the LCA as follows:

*Roscommon town is the principal town and is centrally located in the very heart of the county. Outside of the town the landcover in this area is mostly low lying dry grassland with some areas of reclaimed raised bog and forestry to the south. The rolling drumlin hills in the north slope and drain in an easterly direction in the Hind River which connects to Lough Ree. Skrine Hill defines the boundary in the south. Roscommon town itself has a very distinctive character and comprises many features of important cultural heritage. These include the remains of Roscommon Castle (on the north-western side of the town) as well as the ruined Friary on the south-eastern side of the town centre. Both of these features have been preserved and are open to the public in very pleasant settings. They provide not only cultural interest but are also of high amenity value. The castle is located in the context of a large public park, with lake, tree planting and playground and provides an excellent backdrop to views of the Church in the middle ground. Located close to the park is a well-known turlough. There is also an important amenity area to the south of the town at Mote Park, providing walking routes in a woodland setting. There is a considerable amount of development currently taking place on the eastern and north-eastern approaches to the town, involving mostly commercial buildings. The town is very well connected with a number of regional roads converging in the town. The Dublin to Westport railway line also passes through this LCA.*

*The overall image for this LCA is of a nodal county town of rich cultural heritage located in the context of fertile farmland.*

The Landscape Character Assessment classifies landscapes in Roscommon according to their value. *Roscommon town and hinterland* is of *high* landscape value. This reflects the high quality of cultural heritage features to be found in the town environs as described above.

### 4.9.4 Views and Prospects

It is the policy of the Council to protect scenic views and routes within the County. There are four protected views in Roscommon Town (see Figure 6.1) of Roscommon Castle, Loughnaneane Turlough and the Dominican Abbey.

#### **4.9.5 Existing Environmental Problems**

Developments have resulted in changes to the visual appearance of the landscape within the existing Plan area however legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.

## **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 which have been transposed into Irish law and which are required to be implemented.

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

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

All SEOs, indicators and targets are provided on Table 5.1 overleaf while background to these measures is provided in the subsections below.

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

**Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Strategic Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>Selected Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Selected Target(s)</b>
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	B1: To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species <sup>14</sup>	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan <sup>15</sup>
	B2: To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for in the Plan
	B3: To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites <sup>16</sup> and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan  B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan  B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	PHH1: To protect human health from exposure to incompatible landuses	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan
<b>Soil</b>	S1: To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	S1: To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity
<b>Water</b>	W1: To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters	W1: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)	W1: Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve <i>good status</i> <sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>15</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- (a) no alternative solution available;
- (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>16</sup> The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site' which includes Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs.

<sup>17</sup> Good status as defined by the WFD equates to approximately Q4 in the current national scheme of biological classification of rivers and mesotrophic in the trophic classification of lakes, as set out by the EPA.

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)
	W2: To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water	W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC
	W3: To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities	W3: Number of incompatible developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk	W3: Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk in compliance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities
<b>Material Assets</b>	M1: To serve new development with adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment	M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	M1: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan
	M2: To serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean	M2: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan	M2: No non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan
	M3: To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse	M3i: Total collected and brought household waste  M3ii: Packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	M3i: Minimise increases in and, where possible, reduce household waste generation  M3ii: Maximise increases in packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	C1: To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport	C1: Percentage of population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means	C1: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH1: To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan
	CH2: To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH2: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan
<b>Landscape</b>	L1: To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape - especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and Scenic Routes and Scenic Views	L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape - especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and Scenic Routes and Scenic Views - resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	L1: No developments permitted which result in avoidable impacts on the landscape - especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and Scenic Routes and Scenic Views - resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan

## Section 6 Consideration of Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that (Point 14):

*"an environmental report should be prepared containing relevant information as set out in this Directive, identifying, describing and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme."*

Furthermore, Annex I to the Directive identifies that the environmental report should include, inter alia:

*"(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information."*

The Proposed Variation is relatively minor and is not likely to result in any additional significant environmental effects to those already presented by the existing 2014 Plan and assessed by its SEA. The reason that SEA is being undertaken is due to the mandatory population thresholds set out in the legislation.

The Proposed Variation indicates where the Vacant Sites Levy may apply to "regeneration" and "residential" lands and encourages the renewal and regeneration of lands within the development envelope (provisions in relation to renewal and regeneration are already included within the existing 2014 Plan).

The Proposed Variation is consistent with the alternative selected for the LAP as part of the 2014 Plan-preparation/SEA process. This alternative was selected by the Council having regard to both:

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

The description of the selected alternative for the LAP as detailed in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the 2014 Plan is provided on Table 6.1 overleaf with accompanying map provided as Figure 6.1.

With respect to the 2014 Plan that was developed from the selected alternative, Table 6.2 reproduces the following information from the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the 2014 Plan:

- Environmental Component;
- Likely Significant Positive Effects;
- Potential Adverse Effects, if unmitigated;
- Mitigation Measures already in force; and
- Residual Adverse Effects.

**Table 6.1 Description of Selected Alternative for the Plan**

<b>Alternative Development Strategy 3</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	Considers the implications of prioritising town centre development, while allowing the town to expand outward in a phased manner.
<b>Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Consolidate the commercial core with new commercial development directed, in a sequential manner, to existing vacant and infill development, backland areas including Opportunity Site 1 (SO1) identified in the Retail Strategy, and other appropriate sites within the town centre.</li> <li>o No new areas of residential / commercial, local centre development on the periphery.</li> <li>o New Roscommon town Link/Distributor Road envisaged to the east of the town linking the N61 Athlone Road to the N63 Lanesborough Road.</li> <li>o Improvement of existing pedestrian lanes and archways to backland areas would greatly enhance the character and accessibility of the town's retail core by encouraging greater pedestrian permeability, particularly between Main Street and the extended town centre to the east.</li> <li>o New access opportunities to backland areas identified.</li> <li>o Opportunity Site 1, off Circular Road, identified in the Retail Strategy is zoned for mixed residential and commercial development, and greenbelt.</li> <li>o Opportunity Site 2, the Mart Site, identified in the Retail Strategy is zoned for Core town Centre development.</li> <li>o Residential development is phased outward from the town centre.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Development Strategy 3</b>	
<b>Positive Planning Implications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Smaller town centre providing a variety of opportunities for new retail and commercial development resulting in good spatial connectivity and increasing the vitality and viability of the town centre.</li> <li>o Traffic congestion in the town would be reduced due to the development of the Roscommon town Link/Distributor Road taking N61 traffic out of town and providing direct access to all routes off the Lanesborough Roundabout.</li> <li>o Improvement to lanes and archways from the main streets to backland areas would improve local access and create new pedestrian links to the town centre, as well as aiding the regeneration and redevelopment of these areas.</li> <li>o New parking provision adjacent to the existing town centre with ability for expansion would improve overall access to the town centre.</li> <li>o Phasing of new residential development, outward from the town centre, would ensure that development occurs in a sustainable manner and provides an additional option for those wishing to move to the town.</li> </ul>
<b>Negative Planning Implications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o No Negative Implications identified.</li> </ul>

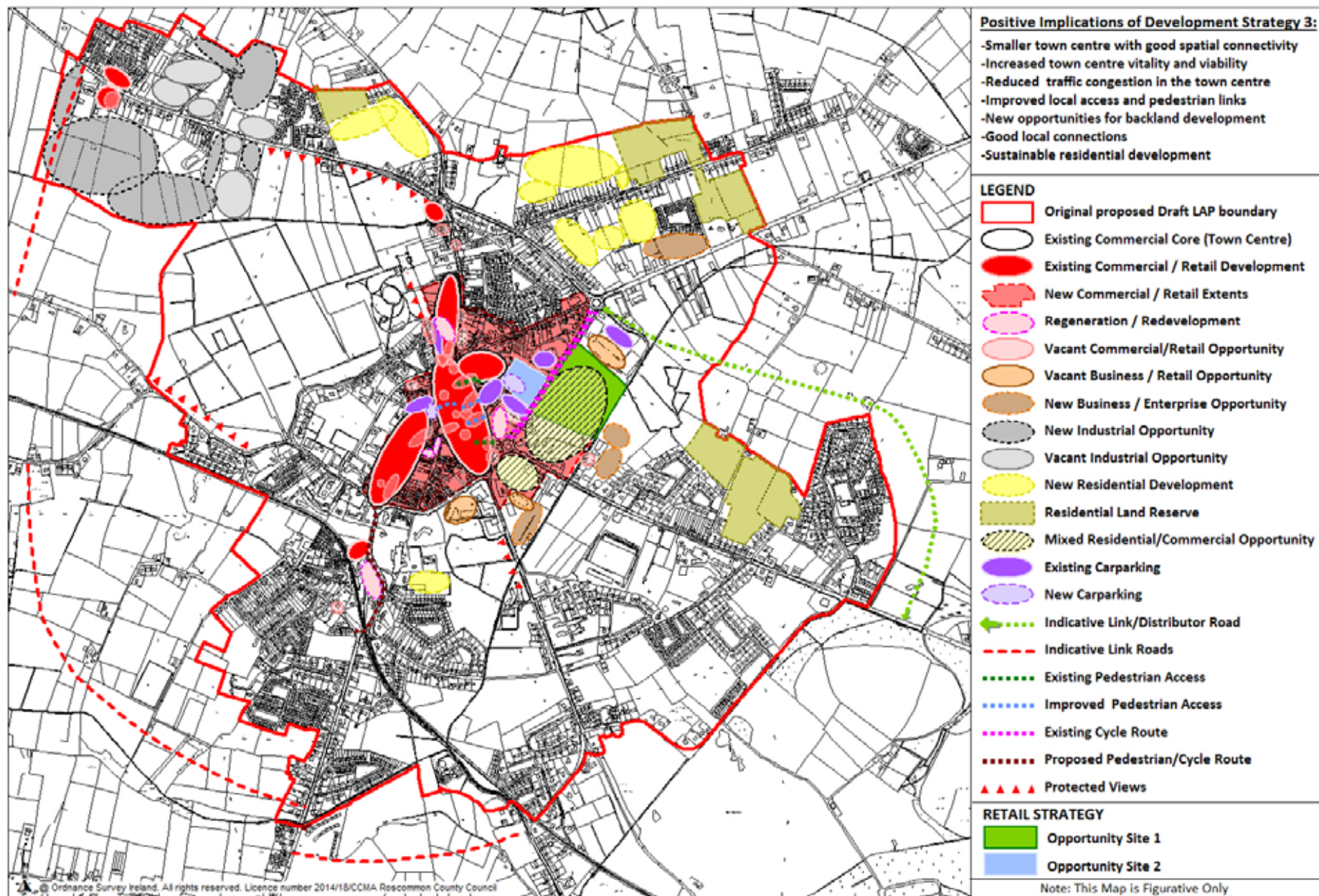


Figure 6.1 Alternative Development Strategy 3



**Table 6.2 Summary of effects arising from the current 2014 Plan and mitigation measures already in force through the 2014 Plan**

Environmental Component	Likely Significant Positive Effects	Potential Adverse Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures already in force	Residual Adverse Effects
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development	Loss of biodiversity with regard to designated biodiversity and flora and fauna	Policy 20 Policy 27 Policy 28 Policy 76 Policy 77 Policy 78 Policy 79 Policy 80 Policy 81 Policy 82 Objective 24 Objective 34 Objective 79	Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces
	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area  By providing for sufficient development within the town boundary, the Plan indirectly benefits the protection of various environmental components beyond the Plan area that could otherwise be threatened	Loss of biodiversity with regard to ecological connectivity and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna	Policy 83 Policy 84 Policy 85 Objective 80 Objective 81 Objective 82 Objective 83 Objective 84 Objective 85 Objective 86	
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development  Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area  By providing for sufficient development within the town boundary, the Plan indirectly benefits the protection of various environmental components beyond the Plan area that could otherwise be threatened	Spatially concentrated deterioration in human health	Objective 38 Objective 39 Policy 37 Policy 38	None
<b>Soil</b>	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development  Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area  Maximisation of sustainable mobility and brownfield development  By providing for sufficient development within the town boundary, the Plan indirectly benefits the protection of various environmental components beyond the Plan area that could otherwise be threatened	Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource	Objective 38	Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces

Environmental Component	Likely Significant Positive Effects	Potential Adverse Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures already in force	Residual Adverse Effects
<b>Water</b>	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development	Adverse impacts upon the status and quality of water bodies	Policy 17 Policy 29 Policy 30 Policy 77 Objective 20 Objective 83	Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events
	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area  By providing for sufficient development within the town boundary, the Plan indirectly benefits the protection of various environmental components beyond the Plan area that could otherwise be threatened	Increase in the risk of flooding	Policy 21 Policy 22 Policy 23 Policy 24 Policy 25 Policy 26 Objective 25 Objective 26 Objective 27	
<b>Material Assets</b>	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development	Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment	Policy 19 Policy 29 Policy 31 Objective 29 Objective 30 Objective 31 Objective 32 Objective 33	Residual wastes to be disposed of in compliance with relevant requirements
	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area  Provision of appropriate levels of water services  By providing for sufficient development within the town boundary, the Plan indirectly benefits the protection of various environmental components beyond the Plan area that could otherwise be threatened	Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean	Policy 16 Policy 17 Policy 18 Objective 19 Objective 20 Objective 21 Objective 22 Objective 23	
		Increases in waste levels	Policy 32 Policy 33 Policy 34 Policy 35 Policy 36 Objective 35 Objective 36 Objective 37	
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development  Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area  Maximisation of sustainable mobility and brownfield development  By providing for sufficient development within the town boundary, the Plan indirectly benefits the protection of various environmental components beyond the Plan area that could otherwise be threatened	Failure to contribute towards sustainable transport and associated impacts	Policy 1 Policy 2 Policy 3 Policy 4 Policy 7 Objective 1 Objective 2 Objective 3	None

Environmental Component	Likely Significant Positive Effects	Potential Adverse Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures already in force	Residual Adverse Effects
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development</p> <p>Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area</p> <p>By providing for sufficient development within the town boundary, the Plan indirectly benefits the protection of various environmental components beyond the Plan area that could otherwise be threatened</p>	Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and other archaeological heritage & Effects on entries to the Records of Protected Structures and other architectural heritage	Policy 66 Policy 67 Policy 68 Policy 69 Policy 70 Policy 71 Policy 72 Policy 73 Policy 74 Policy 75 Objective 68 Objective 69 Objective 70 Objective 71 Objective 72 Objective 73 Objective 74 Objective 75 Objective 76 Objective 77 Objective 78	<p>Potential alteration to the context and setting of architectural heritage (Protected Structures) however these will occur in compliance with legislation</p> <p>Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage (Recorded Monuments) however this will occur in compliance with legislation</p> <p>Potential loss of unknown archaeology however this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Plan</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of requiring new development to comply with Plan provisions relating to environmental protection and management and sustainable development</p> <p>Contribution towards the protection of various environmental components within and outside of the Plan area as a result of limiting development within the Plan area</p> <p>By providing for sufficient development within the town boundary, the Plan indirectly benefits the protection of various environmental components beyond the Plan area that could otherwise be threatened</p>	Occurrence of adverse visual impacts	Policy 86	None <sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> The Plan contributes towards the protection of landscape designations. The landscapes in the town will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments.

## Section 7 Evaluation of the Proposed Variation

This section provides Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of each part of the Proposed Variation.

This assessment is provided in Table 7.3 and is supplemented by Table 6.2 which provides the following information from the SEA Environmental Report which accompanies the 2014 Plan:

- Environmental Component;
- Likely Significant Positive Effects ;
- Potential Adverse Effects, if unmitigated;
- Mitigation Measures already in force; and
- Residual Adverse Effects.

A number of columns are provided to allow for the identification of the main interactions with each SEO (SEO codes are identified at the top of Table 7.3 and the SEOs are detailed in full in Table 7.1).

**Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>19</sup>**

Environmental Component	Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	B1	To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species <sup>20</sup>
	B2	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
	B3	To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites <sup>21</sup> and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	PHH1	To protect human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
<b>Soil</b>	S1	To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource
<b>Water</b>	W1	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters
	W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water
	W3	To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities
<b>Material Assets</b>	M1	To serve new development with adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment
	M2	To serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
	M3	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	C1	To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH1	To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
	CH2	To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context
<b>Landscape</b>	L1	To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape - especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and Scenic Routes and Scenic Views

<sup>19</sup> See Section 5 for a description of Strategic Environmental Objectives.

<sup>20</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>21</sup> The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site' which includes Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs.



The range of interactions are identified with symbols in Table 7.3. These symbols are explained in Table 7.2 below.

**Table 7.2 Main Interactions and associated Symbols**

Symbol	Main Interactions Identified
+	All potential beneficial environmental effects arising from this part of the Proposed Variation are present already and would be further contributed towards.
-	All potentially adverse environmental effects arising from this part of the Proposed Variation are present already and would be mitigated by the measures already in force through the current 2014 Plan.
+/-	All potential environmental effects arising from this part of the Proposed Variation: either are present already and would be further contributed towards; or are potentially adverse and would be mitigated by the measures already in force through the current 2014 Plan so as not to be significant.
0	No significant interaction and no change with the findings detailed in the SEA ER for the current 2014 Plan.

The full range of environmental effects, including cumulative effects<sup>22</sup> are considered by this assessment.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening (AA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Proposed Variation. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA concluded that the Proposed Variation is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites<sup>23</sup>, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

<sup>22</sup> The Plan to be varied sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes and is subject to a number of high level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply (including those detailed in Appendix I). The Plan as varied will be implemented within areas that have existing plans and programmes for a range of sectors at a range of levels (e.g. National, River Basin District, Regional, County and Local) that are already subject to more specific higher and lower tier SEA and AA. The Plan and associated Proposed Variation are consistent with such plans, programmes and legislation and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions. In this regard, Appendix I includes statutory provisions, plans, policies and strategies that set the context within which the Plan and associated Proposed Variation are framed.

<sup>23</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

**Table 7.3 Detailed Evaluation of each part of the Proposed Variation**

SEO Codes (see Table 7.2) for Main Interactions																
Proposed Variation	B1	B2	B3	PHH1	S1	W1	W2	W3	C1	M1	M2	M3	CH1	CH2	L1	SEA
Text is green is that text which is proposed to be included as part of the Variation.																
Text in yellow highlights where policy and objective numbers will change as well as the inclusion of relevant maps.																
<b>5.2 HOUSING STRATEGY AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>																
<b>5.2.1 Development Strategy for Residential Development</b>																
<p>The Roscommon Area Plan 2008-2014 identified almost 277 hectares of land for residential development in the town - more than 10 times the amount of land needed to accommodate the population growth identified in the RPGs for the West Region 2010-2022. Development of this extent of land could potentially accommodate up to 5540 new residences and approximately 13,296 people i.e. a tripling of the current population of the town. This would be unsustainable and would give rise to deficiencies in servicing such a large population increase, as well as being inconsistent with the town's low growth rate and the current economic climate. Development of this level would also be likely to give rise to significant environmental effects. Therefore the DECLG's 'sequential approach', as outlined earlier in this section, has been used to identify suitable lands for new residential development in this Local Area Plan. Within such an approach, it is imperative that those areas which are more remote and potentially do not have direct access to a public sewer system are developed over the longer term.</p> <p>The Council will maintain a Vacant Site Register and implement the Vacant Site Levy as required by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, as a mechanism to stimulate site activation in urban areas, which is intended to "bring underutilised vacant sites and buildings into beneficial use, ensuring more sustainable urban development and an efficient return on state investment in enabling infrastructure."<sup>24</sup></p> <p>The site activation measure aims to encourage the release of zoned lands at key locations in order to stimulate development, deliver housing at appropriate locations, and stimulate the regeneration of vacant urban sites.</p>	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	<p>Any increases in urban site activation and housing/regeneration of vacant urban site development – including those that may arise as a result of the maintenance of a Vacant Site Register and implementation of a Vacant Site Levy – will contribute towards sustainable mobility, minimising increases in energy usage and emissions to air, including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions. Such development would also reduce the need to develop more sensitive greenfield lands elsewhere in the Town and beyond, thereby avoiding potential adverse effects on various environmental components.</p> <p>The existing Roscommon Town LAP 2014 already provides for housing and regeneration development<sup>25</sup>. The proposed change further contributes towards such provisions. There are no additional adverse effects arising from this change (significant, potential or uncertain) that were not envisaged and mitigated by the SEA of the Roscommon Town LAP 2014. That SEA process successfully facilitated the integration of mitigation into the Town Plan in order to contribute towards the protection of the environment – see Table 6.2. Positive effects arising from housing and regeneration development have already been considered and will be further contributed towards. As these changes would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p>

<sup>24</sup> Circular letter PL6/2015, 31 August 2015.<sup>25</sup> For example:

- **Policy 94** Ensure that retail and service outlets are located within the identified town centre where they can best serve the population of the surrounding area, and discourage inappropriate out-of-town shopping facilities that detract from the viability and vitality of the existing town centre, in line with the Sequential Approach.
- **Policy 97** Promote the reuse of small vacant sites within the town for pocket parks, temporary exhibitions etc. and the use of larger sites for community gardens, allotments etc.
- **Policy 102** Ensure that areas of vacant, derelict and under-used land within existing built-up areas (brownfield sites) are brought into productive use, as an alternative to the use of Greenfield sites.
- **Strategic Aim 7** Positively impact on the economic, social and environmental well-being of the town and on the overall character and appearance of its streetscapes, by promoting the development of all areas of the town to their fullest potential. This includes ensuring the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and derelict residential, commercial and industrial buildings as well as retail warehousing in the town and promoting the renewal and environmental improvement of neglected areas.

## SEO Codes (see Table 7.2) for Main Interactions

Proposed Variation	B1	B2	B3	PHH1	S1	W1	W2	W3	C1	M1	M2	M3	CH1	CH2	L1	SEA
<p><b>Text is green is that text which is proposed to be included as part of the Variation.</b></p> <p><b>Text in yellow highlights where policy and objective numbers will change as well as the inclusion of relevant maps.</b></p>																
<b>6.1 LAND USE ZONING FIGURES</b> 6.1.1 Land Use Zoning Objectives and Matrix																
<b>Land Use Zoning Objectives</b> This plan identifies specific areas for specific types of land use in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development and the Land Use Zoning Maps reflect this detail.  In addition, explanatory maps have been provided which apply specific hatching over the Land Use Zones for "Residential" lands to give effect to the requirements of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015. The hatching applies to lands where the Vacant Site Levy may apply.  Objectives for each of these the land uses zones are outlined below. It should be noted that there are several which are common and repeated but which are relevant to the land uses proposed. It should also be noted that the objectives as listed are not exhaustive.	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The Variation does not change the underlying land use zoning objectives provided for by the existing Plan.  This part of the Variation identifies the application of hatching over the Land Use Zones for "Residential" lands to give effect to the requirements of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015. The hatching applies to lands where the Vacant Site Levy may apply. Please refer to SEA comments on Vacant Site Levy provided under "5.2 HOUSING STRATEGY AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT" in this table (above).
<b>7.12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT</b> 7.12.1 Economic Development and Employment Strategy																
<b>Policies for Retail and Commercial Development</b>  <b>Policy 95</b> Encourage consolidation of the existing retail core of the town through the reuse and regeneration of derelict and vacant buildings for retail uses in line with the sequential approach, in order to prevent— (i) adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land, (ii) urban blight and decay, (iii) anti-social behaviour, or (iv) a shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses. Those properties listed on the Vacant Sites Register are of particular relevance. <b>Policy 96</b> Encourage and facilitate the reuse of existing vacant units outside the town centre, particularly retail warehousing, for alternative uses provided proposals are not contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Those listed on the Vacant Sites Register are of particular relevance.	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	The amendment to Policy 95 provides for the addition of a purpose associated with the existing Policy – the addition of this purpose would not result in environmental effects. The amendments to Policy 95 and Policy 96 also identifies that properties "listed on the Vacant Sites Register are of particular relevance".  Please refer to SEA comments on Vacant Site Levy provided under "5.2 HOUSING STRATEGY AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT" above.  The amendment to Objective 97 makes an additional specific reference to an area where the Objective replies. The regeneration of areas and the use of derelict buildings in need of renewal for retail uses will contribute towards sustainable mobility, minimising increases in energy usage and emissions to air, including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions. Such development would also reduce the need to develop more sensitive greenfield lands elsewhere in the Town and beyond, thereby

## SEO Codes (see Table 7.2) for Main Interactions

Proposed Variation	B1	B2	B3	PHH1	S1	W1	W2	W3	C1	M1	M2	M3	CH1	CH2	L1	SEA
<p><b>Text in green is that text which is proposed to be included as part of the Variation.</b></p> <p><b>Text in yellow highlights where policy and objective numbers will change as well as the inclusion of relevant maps.</b></p>																
<p><b>Policy 97</b> Promote the reuse of small vacant sites within the town for pocket parks, temporary exhibitions etc. and the use of larger sites for community gardens, allotments etc.</p> <p><b>Policy 102</b> Ensure that areas of vacant, derelict and under-used land within existing built-up areas (brownfield sites) are brought into productive use, as an alternative to the use of Greenfield sites.</p> <p><b>Objectives for Retail and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Objective 97</b> Encourage the regeneration of areas and the reuse of derelict buildings in need of renewal for retail uses, in line with the sequential approach. In Roscommon town this will include the Opportunity Sites identified in Chapter 4 and within those areas included as Regeneration and Residential Lands on Maps 18a and b.</p>																<p>avoiding potential adverse effects on various environmental components.</p> <p>This objective already provides for the regeneration of areas and the use of derelict buildings in need of renewal for retail uses. The proposed change further contributes towards such provisions. There are no additional adverse effects arising from this change (significant, potential or uncertain) that were not envisaged and mitigated by the SEA of the Roscommon Town LAP 2014. That SEA process successfully facilitated the integration of mitigation into the Town Plan in order to contribute towards the protection of the environment – see Table 6.2. Positive effects arising from housing and regeneration development have already been considered and will be further contributed towards.</p> <p>As these changes would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p>
<p><b>7.13 URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN</b></p> <p><b>7.13.1 Residential Development</b></p>																
<p><b>Policies for Residential Development</b></p> <p><b>Policy 110</b> Identify and facilitate the development and renewal of obsolete areas, vacant and derelict sites and derelict buildings in a manner appropriate to the area, including the completion of unfinished residential estates.</p> <p><b>Policy 111</b> To provide for the renewal of areas in need to regeneration in order to prevent— (i) adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land, (ii) urban blight and decay.</p>	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	<p>The development of vacant sites and the renewal of areas in need of regeneration will contribute towards sustainable mobility, minimising increases in energy usage and emissions to air, including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions. Such development would also reduce the need to develop more sensitive greenfield lands elsewhere in the Town and beyond, thereby avoiding potential adverse effects on various environmental components.</p> <p>The existing Roscommon Town LAP 2014 already provides for the development of vacant sites and the renewal of areas in need of regeneration<sup>26</sup>. The proposed change further contributes</p>

<sup>26</sup> For example:

- **Policy 97** Promote the reuse of small vacant sites within the town for pocket parks, temporary exhibitions etc. and the use of larger sites for community gardens, allotments etc.
- **Policy 102** Ensure that areas of vacant, derelict and under-used land within existing built-up areas (brownfield sites) are brought into productive use, as an alternative to the use of Greenfield sites.
- **Strategic Aim 7** Positively impact on the economic, social and environmental well-being of the town and on the overall character and appearance of its streetscapes, by promoting the development of all areas of the town to their fullest potential. This includes ensuring the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and derelict residential, commercial and industrial buildings as well as retail warehousing in the town and promoting the renewal and environmental improvement of neglected areas.



## SEO Codes (see Table 7.2) for Main Interactions

Proposed Variation	B1	B2	B3	PHH1	S1	W1	W2	W3	C1	M1	M2	M3	CH1	CH2	L1	SEA
<p><b>Text in green is that text which is proposed to be included as part of the Variation.</b></p> <p><b>Text in yellow highlights where policy and objective numbers will change as well as the inclusion of relevant maps.</b></p>																
<p>(iii) anti-social behaviour, or</p> <p>(iv) a shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Policy numbers will change from here</p>																<p>towards such provisions. There are no additional adverse effects arising from this change (significant, potential or uncertain) that were not envisaged and mitigated by the SEA of the Roscommon Town LAP 2014. That SEA process successfully facilitated the integration of mitigation into the Town Plan in order to contribute towards the protection of the environment – see Table 6.2. Positive effects arising from the development of vacant sites and the renewal of areas in need of regeneration have already been considered and will be further contributed towards.</p> <p>As these changes would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p>
<b>8.3 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS</b> <b>8.3.4 Derelict Sites-Dereliction, Vacancy and Regeneration</b>																
<p><b>1. Derelict Sites</b></p> <p>The Council will continue to take appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act 1990, and amendments, to ensure the elimination of dereliction as it occurs. At the community meeting several sites within the LAP area were identified as derelict. The Council will encourage the redevelopment of these sites and facilitate well-designed new development.</p> <p><b>2. Vacant Sites Register and Levy</b></p> <p>The Council will maintain the Vacant Site Register and implement the Vacant Site Levy as required by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, as a mechanism to stimulate site activation in urban areas, which is intended to "bring underutilised vacant sites and buildings into beneficial use, ensuring more sustainable urban development and an efficient return on state investment in enabling infrastructure."<sup>27</sup></p> <p>The site activation measure aims to encourage the release of zoned lands at key locations in order to stimulate development, deliver housing at appropriate locations, and stimulate the regeneration of vacant urban sites.</p> <p><b>INCLUSION OF MAPS 14A, B AND C SHOWING REGENERATION AND RESIDENTIAL LANDS</b></p>	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	<p>Please refer to SEA comments on Vacant Sites Register and Levy provided under <b>"5.2 HOUSING STRATEGY AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT"</b> and <b>"6.1 LAND USE ZONING FIGURES"</b> above.</p>

<sup>27</sup> Circular letter PL6/2015, 31 August 2015.  
CAAS for Roscommon County Council

## Section 8 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 the Plan as amended.

By integrating related recommendations into the existing 2014 Plan, the Council have ensured that both the beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan have been and will be maximised and that potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset.

Table 8.1 links key mitigation measure(s) to the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan as amended, if unmitigated.

Most mitigation measures are already in force through the existing Plan and these will ensure that the effects of implementing the Plan as amended will be mitigated. These measures came about through the 2014 Plan preparation and environmental assessment (SEA, AA and SFRA) process. Other measures that are part of the Proposed Variation have also been listed in Table 8.1.

The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

Table 8.1 Mitigation Measures

Topic	Potentially Significant Effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation, including  Key Normal black text like this is already in force through the current 2014 Plan Text highlighted green like this is proposed to be added to the 2014 Plan as part of the Proposed Variation Red strikethrough text like this is proposed to be deleted from the 2014 Plan as part of the Proposed Variation
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	Loss of biodiversity with regard to designated biodiversity and flora and fauna	<b>Policy 20</b> Protect surface water and groundwater resources and their associated habitats and species including fisheries and in particular Annex II listed species.
		<b>Policy 27</b> Ensure that existing wetland habitats are adequately protected, managed and where appropriate enhanced where flood protection/management measures are necessary.
		<b>Policy 28</b> Any proposals aimed at alleviating flooding will be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6 (4) of the EU Habitats Directive.
		<b>Policy 76</b> Protect cSACs, SPAs, NHAs and pNHAs which are designated or become designated and notified to Roscommon County Council during the lifetime of this LAP.
		<b>Policy 77</b> Protect any additional areas that may become designated during the lifetime of the plan, including the proposed and designated Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas, by resisting development which would detrimentally impact on the conservation status of those sites.
		<b>Policy 78</b> Promote development in these areas, for recreational and educational purposes, where it would not conflict with the preservation and protection of these sites.
		<b>Policy 79</b> Ensure the protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines.
		<b>Policy 80</b> Ensure the protection of habitats and species listed in the annexes to and/or covered by the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008, and regularly occurring-migratory birds and their habitats, and species protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000 and the Flora Protection Order.
		<b>Policy 81</b> Protect the water resources, including rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, turloughs, groundwater, as well as aquatic and wetland habitats and freshwater and water dependant species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Western River Basin District Management Plan 2009-2015, Shannon International River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).
		<b>Policy 82</b> Prohibit projects which would give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects <sup>28</sup> )
		<b>Objective 24</b> All proposals for the development of an upgrade to the water supply system will be screened for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and where significant impacts are identified, a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared.
		<b>Objective 34</b> Any proposals for the development of an upgrade of the waste water treatment plant and waste water network will be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6 (4) of the EU Habitats Directive.
		<b>Objective 79</b> Ensure Appropriate Assessment Screening, and, where required, Appropriate Assessment, is carried out for any plan or project which, individually, or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant direct or indirect impact on any Natura 2000 site or sites; in accordance with best practice guidance as issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and / or the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.
		<b>Policy 83</b> Promote the retention and enhancement of existing habitats, biodiversity and geological heritage in Roscommon.
		<b>Policy 84</b> Promote the implementation of key actions and objectives set out in the County Roscommon Heritage Plan, the County Roscommon Biodiversity Plan as appropriate.
		<b>Objective 80</b> Promote the conservation of biodiversity outside of designated areas, while allowing for appropriate development, access and recreational activity.
		<b>Objective 81</b> Identify, protect and conserve, in co-operation with the relevant statutory authorities and other groups, vulnerable, rare and threatened species or wild flora and fauna and their habitats. These include plant and animal species afforded protection under the Wildlife Acts and the EU Habitats & Birds Directives for example The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, NPWS & DEHLG, 2008.
		<b>Objective 82</b> Avoid development in habitats classified as 'Highly Sensitive' and 'Very Sensitive', and minimise development in habitats classified as 'Moderately Sensitive' in the Habitat Mapping of Habitats in County Roscommon, RPS, May 2011.
		<b>Objective 83</b> Conserve, protect and enhance ecological stepping stones and wildlife corridors, as identified by the Habitat Mapping carried out for Roscommon town.
		<b>Policy 85</b> Development on or near a site which is considered to be of local importance is required to avoid any significant adverse impact on the features for which the site is considered to be of importance.

<sup>28</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2014-2020

Topic	Potentially Significant Effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation, including  Key Normal black text like this is already in force through the current 2014 Plan Text highlighted green like this is proposed to be added to the 2014 Plan as part of the Proposed Variation Red strikethrough text like this is proposed to be deleted from the 2014 Plan as part of the Proposed Variation
		<p><b>Objective 84</b> Ensure that the conservation and management of biodiversity is a key priority in water resource management and other infrastructural projects in the LAP area, particularly those undertaken by the Council.</p> <p><b>Objective 85</b> Have regard to impacts of floodlighting and public lighting in open spaces and to minimise light intrusion in areas of habitat value.</p> <p><b>Objective 86</b> Protect and conserve Loughnaneane Turlough which is identified by Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) as a feature of geomorphological interest.</p>
Population and human health	Spatially concentrated deterioration in human health	<p>See measures related to water quality, flooding, waste water treatment and drinking water supply and quality.</p> <p><b>Objective 38</b> Developments shall ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Require the undertaking of appropriate investigations to determine the nature and extent of any soil and / or groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where Brownfield development is to occur within the Plan area.</p> <p><b>Objective 39</b> Collaborate with the HSE and other relevant agencies in relation to the potential spread of water, food or vector borne pathogens.</p> <p><b>Policy 37</b> Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p><b>Policy 38</b> Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p>
Soil	Soil pollution / Failure to maximise urban consolidation	<p><b>Policy 94</b> Ensure that retail and service outlets are located within the identified town centre where they can best serve the population of the surrounding area, and discourage inappropriate out-of-town shopping facilities that detract from the viability and vitality of the existing town centre, in line with the Sequential Approach.</p> <p><b>Policy 95</b> Encourage consolidation of the existing retail core of the town through the reuse and regeneration of derelict and vacant buildings for retail uses in line with the sequential approach, in order to prevent—                      (i) adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land,                      (ii) urban blight and decay,                      (iii) anti-social behaviour, or                      (iv) a shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses.                      Those properties listed on the Vacant Sites Register are of particular relevance.</p> <p><b>Policy 96</b> Encourage and facilitate the reuse of existing vacant units outside the town centre, particularly retail warehousing, for alternative uses provided proposals are not contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Those listed on the Vacant Sites Register are of particular relevance.</p> <p><b>Policy 97</b> Promote the reuse of small vacant sites within the town for pocket parks, temporary exhibitions etc. and the use of larger sites for community gardens, allotments etc.</p> <p><b>Objective 97</b> Encourage the regeneration of areas and the reuse of derelict buildings in need of renewal for retail uses, in line with the sequential approach. In Roscommon town this will include the Opportunity Sites identified in Chapter 4 and within those areas included as Regeneration and Residential Lands on Maps 18a and b.</p> <p><b>Policy 110</b> Identify and facilitate the development and renewal of obsolete areas, vacant and derelict sites and derelict buildings in a manner appropriate to the area, including the completion of unfinished residential estates.</p> <p><b>Policy 111</b> To provide for the renewal of areas in need to regeneration in order to prevent—                      (i) adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land,                      (ii) urban blight and decay,                      (iii) anti-social behaviour, or                      (iv) a shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses.</p> <p><b>Policy 102</b> Ensure that areas of vacant, derelict and under-used land within existing built-up areas (brownfield sites) are brought into productive use, as an alternative to the use of Greenfield sites.</p> <p>See measures related to water resources protection.</p> <p><b>Objective 38</b> Developments shall ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Require the undertaking of appropriate investigations to determine the nature and extent of any soil and / or groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where Brownfield development is to occur within the Plan area.</p>



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Topic	Potentially Significant Effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation, including  Key Normal black text like this is already in force through the current 2014 Plan Text highlighted green like this is proposed to be added to the 2014 Plan as part of the Proposed Variation Red strikethrough text like this is proposed to be deleted from the 2014 Plan as part of the Proposed Variation
Water	Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies	Also see measures related to waste water provision and soil protection.
		<b>Policy 17</b> Encourage and promote compliance with the Water Framework Directive 2000; Groundwater Source Protection Zones document for the Roscommon Central Regional Water Supply Scheme (GSI, April 2003); the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009); as well as any National and EU Regulations concerning water quality for the County.
		<b>Policy 29</b> Facilitate, in conjunction with Irish Water, the provision of an adequate wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system for Roscommon Town LAP area to serve existing and future populations in accordance with the Water Framework Directive 2000, and EU Urban Wastewater Directive and in accordance with the EPA Discharge Licence.
		<b>Policy 30</b> Support the protection of groundwater resources and dependent wildlife/habitats in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) or any updated legislation.
		<b>Policy 77</b> Protect any additional areas that may become designated during the lifetime of the plan, including the proposed and designated Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas, by resisting development which would detrimentally impact on the conservation status of those sites
		<b>Objective 20</b> Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plans for the Shannon International River Basin District and the Western River Basin District, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, in co-operation with Irish Water.
		<b>Objective 83</b> Conserve, protect and enhance ecological stepping stones and wildlife corridors, as identified by the Habitat Mapping carried out for Roscommon town.
	Increase in the risk of flooding	<b>Policy 21</b> Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010), the DEHLG (now the DECLG) and OPW Guidelines for Planning Authorities, The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (Nov 2009), updated/superseding legislation or Departmental Guidelines and any future outputs from the Shannon International Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme.
		<b>Policy 22</b> Protect water bodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. Promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid, where possible, culverting or realignment of these features.
		<b>Policy 23</b> Require a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding, including developments that may be appropriate to the particular Flood Zone.
		<b>Policy 24</b> Development will not be permitted in flood risk areas, particularly floodplains, except where there are no alternative and appropriate sites available in lower risk areas that are consistent with the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development. Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/ land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document). Any proposal for development/land use which is inappropriate within the Flood Zone must be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific FRA in accordance with the criteria set out under the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.
		<b>Objective 25</b> In conjunction with Irish Water, and where technically feasible and economically viable, improve and extend the surface water disposal infrastructure to serve all zoned areas, in order to facilitate development.
		<b>Objective 26</b> Continue to implement the recommendations contained in the Roscommon Town Main Drainage: River Jiggy Flood Study Report (RCC, 2010), in co-operation with Irish Water and as funding permits.
		<b>Policy 25</b> Require all new large scale developments to provide 'Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems' (SUDS) as part of their development proposals.
		<b>Objective 27</b> Within the Roscommon Town LAP area, RCC shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding;</li> <li>• avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface run-off;</li> <li>• ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains;</li> <li>• avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth;</li> <li>• improve the understanding of flood risk amongst relevant stakeholders;</li> <li>• ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.</li> </ul>
		<b>Policy 26</b> Require a Flood Risk (Impact) Assessment and Management Plan for all significant development impacting on flood risk areas to identify potential loss of floodplain storage and how it would be offset in order to minimise impact on the river

SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2014-2020

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		<b>Objective 88</b> Recognise European and national objectives for climate adaptation and work with the EPA, the Western Regional Authority and neighbouring planning authorities in implementing future Guidance for climate change proofing of land use plan provisions as is flagged in the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (DECLG, 2012).
	Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment	<b>Policy 19</b> Development will not be permitted in instances where there is insufficient capacity in the public water and wastewater infrastructure. <b>Policy 29</b> Facilitate, in conjunction with Irish Water, the provision of an adequate wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system for Roscommon Town LAP area to serve existing and future populations in accordance with the Water Framework Directive 2000, and EU Urban Wastewater Directive and in accordance with the EPA Discharge Licence. <b>Policy 31</b> Ensure that all new developments have and are provided with satisfactory drainage systems in the interests of public health and to avoid the pollution of the ground and surface waters. <b>Objective 29</b> Investigate the possible extension of the public sewerage system to un-served areas within the LAP boundary, in co-operation with Irish Water. <b>Objective 30</b> Explore the feasibility and appropriateness of entering into Public-Private Partnerships for the provision of necessary infrastructure, in co-operation with Irish Water. <b>Objective 31</b> Upgrade the WWTP and the wastewater network to ensure sufficient capacity in the system, to meet the required effluent quality standards, and to prevent existing surcharging, when funding becomes available and the need arises, in co-operation with Irish Water. <b>Objective 32</b> In conjunction with Irish Water, implement relevant recommendations set out in the EPA (2012) publication Focus on Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland (and any subsequent update). <b>Objective 33</b> Comply with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007
	Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean	<b>Policy 16</b> In conjunction with Irish Water, continue the development and upgrading of the water supply so as to ensure that an adequate, sustainable supply of piped water of suitable quality is available for domestic, commercial, industrial and other uses (e.g. fire safety) for the sustainable development of the Roscommon Town LAP area. <b>Policy 17</b> Encourage and promote compliance with the Water Framework Directive 2000; Groundwater Source Protection Zones document for the Roscommon Central Regional Water Supply Scheme (GSI, April 2003); the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009); as well as any National and EU Regulations concerning water quality for the County. <b>Policy 18</b> Encourage the use of rainwater harvesting systems on suitable sites within the LAP area <b>Objective 19</b> Implement the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 and ensure, in conjunction with Irish Water, that water supplies comply with the 48 parameters identified in these Regulations, in co-operation with Irish Water. <b>Objective 20</b> Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plans for the Shannon International River Basin District and the Western River Basin District, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, in co-operation with Irish Water. <b>Objective 21</b> Facilitate the implementation of water conservation projects, which reduce consumption and leakage in existing water distribution systems in co-operation with Irish Water. <b>Objective 22</b> The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall have regard to the EPA (2012) publication The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland - A Report for the Year 2011 (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County. <b>Objective 23</b> The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall undertake recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failure to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List.
	Increases in waste levels	<b>Policy 32</b> Encourage waste reduction and recycling in accordance with the National Environmental Awareness Campaign. <b>Policy 33</b> Promote the increased re-use and recycling of materials from waste sources and co-operate with local retailers and residents' associations in managing collection points for recycling goods. <b>Policy 34</b> Have regard to the information and ensure the implementation of any recommendations in the EPA reports, where appropriate, such as the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012. <b>Policy 35</b> Ensure the implementation of any national and regional waste management planning processes so that priority waste issues are addressed e.g. the implementation of segregated brown bin collection for bio-waste, mentioned in the DEHLG (now the DECLG) Circular WPPR 17/08, National Strategy on Biodegradable waste. <b>Policy 36</b> Ensure the implementation of any policies and programmes that may be in place for waste management issues, such as the relevant Environmental Inspection Plans (developed in line with the Council Recommendations on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections – RMCEI) and Enforcement Policy for Unauthorised Waste Activity established following the Ministerial Policy Direction of July 2008 (Circular WPR 04/08).

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		<p><b>Key</b>  Normal black text like this is already in force through the current 2014 Plan  Text highlighted green like this is proposed to be added to the 2014 Plan as part of the Proposed Variation  Red strikethrough text like this is proposed to be deleted from the 2014 Plan as part of the Proposed Variation</p>
		<p><b>Objective 35</b> Implement the objectives of the Connaught Waste Management Plan 2006-2011 and its successor, and promote, where appropriate, the DEHLG (now the DECLG) Best Practice Guidelines on the preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction &amp; Demolition Projects, July 2006.</p> <p><b>Objective 36</b> Work with and assist local community groups and schools in litter prevention and control, and support initiatives such as the Tidy Towns, Tidy Estates, Tidy Gardens, Tidy Graveyard, Golden Mile, Green Schools Programme and schools anti-litter awareness competitions.</p> <p><b>Objective 37</b> Facilitate the upgrading and maintenance of waste management facilities in the area, including bring banks and litter bins, and extend the bring bank network where appropriate to all new housing developments.</p>
	Failure to contribute towards sustainable transport and associated impacts	<p><b>Policy 1</b> Support the provision of the full network of public transport services and facilities within the Roscommon Town LAP area.</p> <p><b>Policy 2</b> Consult with Iarnród Éireann regarding the provision of improved rail infrastructure and services for the LAP area.</p> <p><b>Policy 3</b> Have regard to the recommendations contained within the document Smarter Travel - A sustainable transport future: A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020, and implement within the Plan area as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Policy 4</b> Require development proposals, where appropriate and necessary, to provide adequate pedestrian and cycle paths and facilities.</p> <p><b>Policy 7</b> Ensure all planning applications for new development that may affect the national road network shall be accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) including reference to the NRA Traffic &amp; Transport Assessment Guidelines. A TIA shall ensure the provision of a safe and convenient movement network that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• caters for the future orderly and sustainable expansion of the Roscommon Town LAP area;</li> <li>• has adequate capacity to accommodate current and expected future traffic volumes from existing and proposed developments anticipated within the lifetime of the Plan;</li> <li>• will guide future development on these lands along an appropriate internal circulation network for vehicular, pedestrian and cycling movement; and,</li> <li>• will facilitate appropriate public transportation to and from the town.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective 1</b> Work with Iarnród Éireann to progress the upgrading of the rail infrastructure and the frequency of service on the Dublin-Westport rail line.</p> <p><b>Objective 2</b> Investigate the provision of a Park and Ride facility in close proximity to Roscommon Railway Station, should the frequency of service to Dublin increase.</p> <p><b>Objective 3</b> Provide a pedestrian and cycle friendly environment within the Roscommon Town LAP area, subject to resources. This will include the provision of facilities outlined in Table 31 under Public Transport of Appendix 10.</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and other archaeological heritage & Effects on entries to the Records of Protected Structures and other architectural heritage	<p><b>Policy 66</b> Identify, protect and conserve structures (i.e. includes conservation, preservation, and improvement compatible with maintaining the character and interest of the structure), or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or which are listed on the Record of Protected Structures or are located within the Roscommon Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).</p> <p><b>Policy 67</b> Promote the protection and conservation of Buildings and Features of Interest identified in this Plan as they contribute to the character of the town.</p> <p><b>Policy 68</b> Protect and preserve the archaeological sites identified on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), those yet unknown and those discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (1998).</p> <p><b>Policy 69</b> Seek archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, excavation and testing, preservation by record or preservation in situ, in relation to all development proposals on which the archaeological heritage may be affected.</p> <p><b>Policy 70</b> Protect the integrity, quality and context of significant sites and recorded monuments.</p> <p><b>Policy 71</b> Ensure that development proposals do not adversely affect the character of a protected structure or the setting of a protected structure, where the setting is considered to be of importance.</p> <p><b>Policy 73</b> Discourage development that would adversely affect the character of the Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), and seek to prevent the demolition or partial demolition of any building or structure within the ACAs that contributes to its character.</p> <p><b>Policy 74</b> Require that all new development within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) assimilates sensitively into the existing built fabric, and utilises the highest quality materials.</p> <p><b>Policy 75</b> Require that development proposals appropriately conserve and protect features of the built environment such as stone walls, pillars, piers, stiles, bridges, kerbing, cobbles, gates, railings, wells, mass rocks, post-boxes, historic telephone boxes, memorials, milestones, benchmarks, streetlights, manhole covers, ventilation pipes etc.</p> <p><b>Objective 68</b> Promote pride and awareness of the importance and value of Roscommon town's architectural and archaeological heritage, and manage any change to that heritage in such a way as to retain its character and special interest.</p> <p><b>Objective 69</b> Promote best conservation practice and the importance of informed decision making with regard to historic buildings through advice to owners / occupiers and by encouraging the engagement of a suitably qualified conservation specialist with regard to material specification and application for protected structures.</p> <p><b>Objective 70</b> Promote appropriate use/re-use and repair of protected structures, including the use of available conservation grants and any other funding opportunities that may become available.</p>

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		<p><b>Objective 71</b> Carry out an inventory of the structures and features of significance within the Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), as resources permit.</p> <p><b>Objective 72</b> Encourage the improvement of key sites within the ACA and in the LAP area in order to protect the built heritage and enhance the appearance of the town.</p> <p><b>Objective 73</b> Positively and actively encourage redevelopment of derelict and obsolete sites in a manner that is sympathetic with and complimentary to the inherent character of neighbouring structures and the historic character of the town.</p> <p><b>Objective 74</b> Implement a high standard of shopfront design relating to the character of the shopfronts in the town including rendered fronts, solid timber fronts, tiled fronts, etc.</p> <p><b>Objective 75</b> Apply best conservation practice to protect features and buildings of interest within the LAP area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise reuse and renovation over demolition of buildings of interest and other historic buildings.</li> <li>• Retain traditional features such as historic windows, doors, overlights/fanlights, renders, roof coverings, shopfronts and rainwater goods, in preference to their removal and replacement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective 76</b> Facilitate and co-operate with voluntary groups and tidy towns committees in maintaining and improving the urban landscape.</p> <p><b>Objective 77</b> Review and implement the County Roscommon Heritage Plan as it relates to the LAP area.</p> <p><b>Objective 78</b> Provide guidance to developers and property owners regarding the protection of the archaeological heritage and the archaeological implications of proposed development.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	Occurrence of adverse visual impacts	<b>Policy 86</b> Require planning applications, with potential to impact adversely on the landscape character of the Plan area, to include an appropriate visual impact assessment of the proposed development.
	Other – green infrastructure	<p><b>Objective 87</b> Encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of open space amenities</li> <li>• Sustainable management of water</li> <li>• Protection and management of biodiversity</li> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage</li> <li>• Protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</li> </ul>

## Section 9 Monitoring Measures

### 9.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures that will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan as amended. These measures have already been included as part of the SEA undertaken for the Plan in 2014.

Monitoring can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

### 9.2 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 4 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) that were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions.

Table 10.1 shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan as amended, if unmitigated.

The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues - including unforeseen effects - as they arise. Such issues may be identified by the Council or identified to the Council by other agencies.

### 9.3 Sources

Measurements for indicators generally come from existing monitoring sources. Existing monitoring sources include those maintained by the Council and the relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National

Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office.

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council will provide monitoring of various indicators and targets on a grant of permission by grant of permission<sup>29</sup> basis. Where significant adverse effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect - have the potential to occur upon, for example, entries to the RMP, entries to the RPS or ecological networks as a result of the undertaking of individual projects or multiple individual projects such instances should be identified and recorded and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

### 9.4 Reporting

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

### 9.5 Thresholds

Thresholds at which corrective action will be considered include:

- The occurrence of flood events;
- Court cases taken by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage including entries to the RMP;
- Complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable environmental impacts resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan;
- Boil notices on drinking water; and
- Fish kills.

<sup>29</sup> The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. By documenting this determination (e.g. whether a proposed development will impact upon a

Protected Structure or whether a proposed development can be adequately served with water services) while granting permissions, or at a later date, the requirement to monitor the effects of implementing the Plan can be achieved.



**Table 9.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources**

Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Source (Frequency)
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan <sup>30</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years).</li> <li>Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 9.4).</li> </ul>
	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for in the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years).</li> </ul>
	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 9.4).</li> </ul>
	B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976	B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976	
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with EPA and Health Service Executive (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 9.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Soil</b>	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	S1: To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	W1: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)	W1: Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' <sup>31</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland.</li> </ul>
	W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual).</li> </ul>
	W3: Number of incompatible developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk	W3: Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk in compliance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>

<sup>30</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- (a) no alternative solution available;
- (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>31</sup> Good status as defined by the WFD equates to approximately Q4 in the current national scheme of biological classification of rivers and mesotrophic in the trophic classification of lakes, as set out by the EPA.

Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Source (Frequency)
<b>Material Assets</b>	M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	M1: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>
	M2: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan	M2: No non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland reports (multi-annual).</li> <li>EPA Remedial Action List (every quarter).</li> </ul>
	M3i: Total collected and brought household waste	M3i: Minimise increases in and, where possible, reduce household waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA National Waste Reports</li> <li>EPA Ireland's Environment Reports</li> </ul>
	M3ii: Packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	M3ii: Maximise increases in packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Ireland's Environment Reports</li> </ul>
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	C1: Percentage of population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means	C1: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO Population Data (every c. 5 years).</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 9.4).</li> </ul>
	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH2: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 9.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape - especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and Scenic Routes and Scenic Views - resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	L1: No developments permitted which result in avoidable impacts on the landscape - especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and Scenic Routes and Scenic Views - resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>

## Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

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

<b>European</b>				
<b>Directive/ Protocol/ Strategy/Programme</b>	<b>High Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective</b>	<b>Lower level objectives, actions etc.</b>	<b>Relevant legislation in Ireland</b>	<b>Relevance to the Plan</b>
UN Kyoto Protocol (2ND Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015	<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"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II)</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP</li> </ul> <p>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system</p>	National Policy Position and final Heads of the Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development Bill	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – 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"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency</li> </ul>	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage</li> </ul>	<p>The Framework for Climate Change Bill</p> <p>European Communities (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 147/2011)</p>	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – 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"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species</li> <li>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</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV</li> </ul>	<p>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011)</p> <p>The Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy</li> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services</li> <li>The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity</li> <li>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure</li> <li>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry</li> <li>Sustainable management of fish stocks</li> <li>Reducing invasive alien species</li> <li>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan, 2011	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive)</li> <li>Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives</li> <li>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets objectives for ambient air quality</li> <li>designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole</li> <li>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public;</li> <li>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases;</li> <li>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011)</p> <p>Arsenic, Cadmium, Mercury, Nickel and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Ambient Air Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 58 of 2009)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>			
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	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> </ul>	Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 140 of 2006)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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	Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>• Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <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>		
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>• Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3</li> <li>• Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above</li> <li>• Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process</li> </ul>	<p>European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations (S.I. 122/2010)</p> <p>European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 470/2012)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain <i>good status</i> of water bodies</li> <li>• Promote sustainable water usage</li> <li>• The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>◦ Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>◦ Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>◦ Shellfish Directive</li> <li>◦ Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>◦ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>◦ Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive</li> <li>• Achieve "good status" for all waters</li> <li>• Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts</li> <li>• Involve the public and streamline legislation</li> <li>• Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas</li> <li>• Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas</li> <li>• Recover costs for water services</li> </ul>	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) (as amended)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, control and conserve groundwater</li> <li>• Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9/2010) (as amended)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations



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Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption</li> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I</li> <li>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)</li> <li>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</li> <li>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause</li> <li>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action</li> <li>Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health</li> <li>Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial</li> </ul>	<p>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 106 of 2007) (as amended)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of wastewater discharges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban wastewater entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment</li> <li>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges</li> <li>Establishes minimum requirements for urban wastewater collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors</li> </ul>	European Communities (Urban Wastewater Treatment) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 254/2001)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent</li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met</li> </ul>		
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive</li> <li>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</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment</li> </ul>	<p>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435/ 2004) (as amended)</p> <p>Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436/2004) (as amended)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made</li> <li>The information to be provided by the developer in accordance with paragraph 1 shall include at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a description of the project comprising information on the site, design and size of the project;</li> <li>a description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects;</li> <li>the data required to identify and assess the main effects which the project is likely to have on the environment;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (S.I. No. 349/1989) (as amended)</p> <p>European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 470/2012)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o an outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects;</li> <li>o a non-technical summary of the information referred to each of the above.</li> </ul>		
<b>National</b>				
<b>Policy/ Framework / Initiative / Strategy</b>	<b>High Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective</b>	<b>Lower level relevant objectives , actions etc.</b>	<b>Relevant legislation</b>	<b>Relevance to the Plan</b>
Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2012-16: Medium Term Exchequer Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviews infrastructure and capital spending over a medium timeframe to ensure investment is made in the best areas</li> <li>• Identifies gaps in existing infrastructure that require addressing to aid economic recovery, social cohesion and environmental sustainability</li> </ul>	<p>The approach identifies four main components of the investment strategy as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic infrastructure – encompassing transport networks, energy provision and telecommunications capacity</li> <li>• Investment in the productive sector and human capital – such as direct supports for enterprise development; science, technology and innovation advancement; supports for tourism, agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and capital investment in education infrastructure</li> <li>• Environmental infrastructure – including our waste and water systems and investment for environmental sustainability</li> <li>• Critical social investment – such as the health service and social housing programmes</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Smarter Travel Initiative 2012-2016	Sustainable transport investment programme to encourage transport initiatives such as cycling, car sharing, the use of public transport etc.	Limerick, Dungarvan and Westport were targeted demonstration areas for smarter transport initiatives and allocated funds to implement same	not applicable	In combination with this Initiative the Plan will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved</li> <li>• Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>o To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>o To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>o To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>o To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 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</li> <li>o 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</li> <li>o improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>o strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	not applicable	In combination with this Policy the Plan will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.
Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>• Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>• Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>	not applicable	In combination with this Framework the Plan will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.
Scoping Study for a National Cycle Network (NCN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigated the feasibility of developing a National Cycle Network for recreational routes in rural areas, urban areas and connecting larger urban areas</li> </ul>	not applicable	not applicable	In combination with this Study the Plan will contribute towards smarter travel and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scoping study and subsequent workshops resulted in a recommended National Cycle Network</li> </ul>			associated positive environmental effects.
Strategic Framework for Integrated Land use and Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism And Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presents the findings and conclusions of a steering group which was convened and tasked with overseeing the preparation of an integrated, evidence-based framework that would guide key land transport investment decisions.</li> </ul>	<p>Key features of the framework policy include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on economic growth</li> <li>Principles to frame future investment</li> </ul>	not applicable	In combination with this Study the Plan will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.
National Climate Change Strategy 2007 – 2012 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines measures to be undertaken to meet greenhouse gas emission commitments</li> </ul>	not applicable	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (DECLG, 2012)	The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework provides a strategic policy focus to ensure adaptation measures are taken across different sectors and levels of government to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change.	<p>Actions include those relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research and Knowledge Base</li> <li>Governance</li> <li>Local Plans</li> <li>Stakeholder Consultation</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Renewable Energy Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach for Ireland including measures to meet European targets for 2020 including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020</li> </ul>	not applicable	Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – 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"> <li>Provides an analysis and a strategic framework for sustainable development in Ireland</li> <li>Identifies the approaches required to support sustainable development</li> </ul>	not applicable	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Wildlife Act of 1976  Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	not applicable	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mainstream biodiversity in the decision making process across all sectors</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity</li> <li>To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment</li> <li>To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process</li> <li>Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing development plans and local area plans and in the assessment of planning applications</li> <li>Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding</li> <li>Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off</li> <li>Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains</li> <li>Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth</li> <li>Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders</li> <li>Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</p> <p>S.I. No. 122/2010 EC (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010</p> <p>S.I. No. 470/2012 European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012.</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of these Guidelines



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European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)  European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation</li> <li>• Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans</li> <li>• Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs</li> <li>• Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies</li> <li>• Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances</li> <li>• Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater</li> </ul>	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the requirements of the Water Framework Directive into Irish Legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies</li> <li>• Outlines surface water quality standards</li> <li>• Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality</li> </ul>	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality</li> <li>• Sets groundwater quality standards</li> <li>• Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater</li> </ul>	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)  European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9/2010) (as amended)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division</li> </ul>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prosecute for water pollution offences;</li> <li>• attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters;</li> <li>• issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects;</li> <li>• prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas</li> </ul>	Water Services Act 2013	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
European Communities (Urban Wastewater Treatment) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 254/2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive into Irish Legislation</li> <li>• Aims to protect receiving waters from environmental damage arising from Urban Wastewater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the legislative requirements for urban wastewater collection and treatment systems</li> <li>• Provides for monitoring programmes of discharges</li> <li>• Specifies threshold values and minimum standards for water quality</li> </ul>	Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation

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<p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply</li> <li>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland</li> </ul>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.</li> <li>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems.</li> <li>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	not applicable	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
<p>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan (Draft 2015) and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>Provide Effective Management of Wastewater.</li> <li>Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>Invest in Our Future.</li> </ul>	The Water Services (No. 2) Act (2013)	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
<p>National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 (2002)</p> <p>Note that the National Spatial Strategy is currently in the process of being replaced by a National Planning Framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning framework for Ireland</li> <li>Aims to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by effective planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposes that areas of sufficient scale and critical mass will be built up through a network of gateways, hubs and key town</li> </ul>	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
<p>Grid25 Implementation Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Framework for the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short, medium and long terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks to implement the provisions of the 2007 Government White Paper on Energy -“Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland” in terms of development of electricity transmission infrastructure</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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National Landscape Strategy 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to implement the European Landscape Convention in Ireland by providing for specific measures to promote the protection, management and planning of the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise landscapes in law</li> <li>Develop a National Landscape Character Assessment;</li> <li>Develop Landscape Policies;</li> <li>Increase Landscape Awareness;</li> <li>Identity Education, Research and Training Needs; and</li> <li>Strengthen Public Participation.</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Rural Development Programme (draft/in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – 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"> <li>Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>Forest Roads</li> <li>Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> <li>Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>Producer Groups</li> <li>Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Peatlands Strategy (draft/in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Draft Strategy, prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, will, when finalised, establish principles in relation to Irish peatlands in order to guide Government policy. The Draft Strategy aims to provide a framework for which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution.</li> </ul>	not applicable	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Biodiversity Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Action Plan sets out an integrated strategy for collective delivery of the potential benefits of bioenergy resources across the agriculture, enterprise, transport, environment and energy sectors.</li> </ul>	Includes detailed actions for the electricity sector, transport fuel sector, heat sector, research and development sector.	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

<b>Regional and Inter-County</b>				
<b>Plan / Programme / Guidelines</b>	<b>High Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective</b>	<b>Lower level relevant objectives , actions etc.</b>	<b>Relevant legislation in Ireland</b>	<b>Relevance to the Plan</b>
Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010-2022	Ireland was divided into eight regional forward planning regions, Dublin, Midlands, Mid East, Mid-West, South East, South West, West and Border, each with its own regional planning authority composed of Elected Members selected by the constituent local government councils. Regional planning authorities were required, under the Planning and Development (Regional Planning Guidelines) Regulations 2003 (SI No. 175 of 2003), to draw up Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs), long term strategic planning frameworks, for their relevant region. Since 2015, three new regional assemblies (the Northern and Western, Southern and Eastern and Midland Regional Assemblies) undertake the work previously undertaken by the Regional Authorities, including the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines. Roscommon County Council was part of the Western Region Authority and is now part of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to give regional effect to the National Spatial Strategy</li> <li>Guide the Development Plans and lower tier plans of planning authorities</li> </ul> <p>County Roscommon, including Roscommon Town, is subject to the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Western Region 2010-2022 that provide a framework for the long-term strategic development of the Western Region. The Guidelines do this through setting out goals, policies and objectives in relation to population targets, housing, infrastructure, economic development, environment, amenities, social infrastructure and community development, ensuring the successful implementation of the NSS at regional, county and local level</p>	Requirement of the Planning and Development Act (2000), as amended	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Shannon International River Basin Management Plan and associated Programmes of Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies at River Basin District (RBD) level</li> <li>Preserve, prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain <i>good status</i> of water bodies in that RBD</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD</li> <li>Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD</li> <li>Involve the public through consultations</li> </ul>	<p>Requirement of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 (SI No. 722) (as amended)</p> <p>Guidelines for the Establishment of River Basin District Advisory Councils (RBDAC)</p>	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Water Quality Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained</li> <li>Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards</li> <li>Outlines management programmes for water catchments</li> <li>Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater</li> </ul>	Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Management Plans for European Sites	Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for Special Area of Conservation involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans.	Integrated Management Plans can be practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.	Habitats Directive	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the

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				regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Investing in our Transport Future – A Strategic Investment Framework for Land Transport Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009) Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework (2009)	Outlines policies for how a sustainable travel and transport systems can be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	not applicable	In combination with this Policy the Plan will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.
Outputs from the Shannon International Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. The Programme is being implemented through CFRAM Studies that are being undertaken for each of the six river basin districts in Ireland.</li> </ul>	CFRAM Studies are being 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 Maps have been finalised for the areas that are at most risk and Flood Risk Management Plans, that will define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed, are in preparation.	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Connacht - Ulster Region Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021	The regional plan provides the framework for waste management for a period of six years and sets out a range of policies and actions in order to meet specified mandatory and performance targets. The strategic vision of the regional waste plan is to rethink our approach to managing waste, by viewing our waste streams as valuable material resources, leading to a healthier environment and sustainable commercial opportunities for our economy.	<p>Strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy &amp; Legislation</li> <li>Prevention</li> <li>Resource Efficiency</li> <li>Coordination</li> <li>Infrastructure Planning</li> <li>Enforcement &amp; Regulations</li> <li>Protection</li> <li>Other Wastes</li> </ul>	European Directive (2008/98/EC) on Waste (Waste Framework Directive); Council Decision (200/532/EC) establishing a list of wastes; and Regulation (1013/2006) on the shipments of waste	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Basin Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline</li> <li>Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland</li> <li>Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status</li> </ul>	Requirement of Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003)	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management



			European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) The Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000	
<b>County and Local</b>				
<b>Plan / Programme / Guidelines</b>	<b>High Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective</b>	<b>Lower level relevant objectives , actions etc.</b>	<b>Relevant legislation in Ireland</b>	<b>Relevance to the Plan</b>
County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016 (Incorporating County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan)	The aim of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan is to create and promote an increased knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the natural, built and cultural heritage of County Roscommon, and to conserve it for future generations, in other words: notice – care – enjoy.	Objective 1: Collect and disseminate heritage information - 'Notice' To facilitate the development of a comprehensive heritage database for the county, to make this information available to all. Objective 2: Promote best practice in heritage conservation and management - 'Care' To promote and advise on best practice standards for heritage conservation and management within the county. Objective 3: Raise awareness of our heritage - 'Enjoy' To increase knowledge, awareness, understanding and enjoyment of Roscommon's heritage.	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
County Development Plans and Local Area Plans in the following authorities Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, Westmeath, Offaly and Longford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory documents which provide detailed planning policies to ensure proper planning and sustainable development of area</li> <li>Set out objectives for future planning and development</li> <li>County Development Plans provide the key parameters for lower tier plans such as the future population and housing targets and sets out the broad strategy for the future economic and social development of these towns.</li> </ul> <p>The Roscommon County Development Plan 2014-2020 sets out the strategic planning and sustainable development of County Roscommon over its lifetime and is consistent with the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines.</p> <p>The main aim of the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan is to set out a framework for the physical development of Roscommon town so that growth may take place in a coordinated, sensitive and orderly manner, while at the same time being sensitive to the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify issues of relevance to the area and outlines principles for future development of area</li> <li>Is consistent with relevant County/Town Development Plans, National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines</li> </ul> <p>Roscommon town is identified as the primary settlement in the County: a Tier 1 settlement. The following population allocations apply to the town:</p> <p>Period: 2014-2020 Population Allocation = 845 persons Houses Required = 352 units Residential Land Required = 26.4 Hectares</p> <p>Period: 2020-2026 Population Allocation = 641 persons Houses Required = 267 units Residential Land Required = 20 Hectares</p> <p>Policies and objectives outlined in the Roscommon Town LAP are in addition to the policies and objectives contained in the Roscommon County Development Plan (RCDP) 2014-2020.</p>	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Roscommon	Undertaken jointly between the GSI and Roscommon County Council, the purpose of the scheme is to preserve the quality of groundwater, particularly for drinking water purposes, for the benefit of present and future generations.	The scheme identifies the vulnerability of areas within the County and Groundwater protection responses for existing and new potentially polluting activities.	Groundwater Protection Schemes Guidelines document (DELG/EPA/GSI, 1999).	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Local Economic and Community Plan for County Roscommon	The LECP 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 local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	The LECP and County Development Plan are closely linked. The LECP must be consistent with the Core Strategy of the development plan and the development plan will need to underpin the aims of the LECP where there are 'land use' or 'development' related objectives contained in the LECP. The development plan gives effect to the objectives of the LECP.	Local Government Reform Act 2014	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management