



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma  
Leitrim County Council



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council

# Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report



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# SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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FOR THE

## CARRICK-ON-SHANNON JOINT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025-2031

for: Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils



**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma**  
**Leitrim County Council**



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council

by: **CAAS Ltd.**



**MAY 2025**

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>AA</b>	Appropriate Assessment
<b>CAFE</b>	Cleaner Air for Europe
<b>CFRAM</b>	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
<b>CORINE</b>	Co-ORDinated INformation on the Environment
<b>CSO</b>	Central Statistics Office
<b>DAFM</b>	Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
<b>DCCAE</b>	Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment
<b>DCHG</b>	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
<b>DEHLG</b>	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
<b>DHPLG</b>	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>EQS</b>	Environmental Quality Standard
<b>ELVs</b>	Emission Discharge Values
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GFC</b>	Gross Final Consumption
<b>GSi</b>	Geological Survey of Ireland
<b>LAP</b>	Local Area Plan
<b>LCA</b>	Landscape Character Assessment
<b>NHA</b>	Natural Heritage Area
<b>NIAH</b>	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
<b>NTA</b>	National Transport Authority
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>pNHA</b>	proposed Natural Heritage Area
<b>PAS</b>	Priority Action Substance
<b>RAL</b>	Remedial Action List
<b>RBD</b>	River Basin District
<b>RBMP</b>	River Basin Management Plan
<b>RMP</b>	Record of Monuments and Places
<b>RPA</b>	Register of Protected Areas
<b>RSES</b>	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
<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>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive

# Glossary

## Appropriate Assessment

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

## Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

Flora is all the plants found in a given area.

Fauna is all 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, coming into contact with human beings.

## Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

## Mitigation Measures

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



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

## **Natural Heritage**

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

## **Protected Structure**

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

## **Recorded Monument**

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

## **Scoping**

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

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

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

## **Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)**

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

# Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits

## 1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan (JLAP) 2025-2031. It has been prepared by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils. The purpose of this report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan.

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

The SEA has been undertaken in order to comply with the European SEA Directive<sup>1</sup>, which introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes that are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning.

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<sup>1</sup> 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, transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011), and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

## 1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority

SEA identifies the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan. The findings of the SEA are expressed in this Environmental Report, an earlier version of which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display and has been updated following consultation, and identifies how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how alternatives for the Plan were considered.

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

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

## 1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits

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

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

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

The Plan directs incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the town and focuses on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of

these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit.

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

## Section 2 The Plan

### 2.1 Introduction

The Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Carrick-on-Shannon and consists of a written statement and accompanying maps including Local Objectives specific to Carrick-on-Shannon. These Objectives will provide a framework for guiding the future development of housing, transportation, employment, heritage, tourism, and social and community infrastructure in the town.

The Plan has been prepared under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), particularly Sections 18-20.

### 2.2 Vision and Structure

The Plan provides a framework to deliver on a vision for Carrick-on-Shannon to “respond positively to the distinct setting and built form of the area and to continue to create an environment that the local community and visitors can relate to and identify with in terms of its scale and quality”.

The Plan’s written statement is divided into ten chapters as follow:

1. Introduction and Context
2. Town Centre Fringe and Regeneration
3. Economic Development and Tourism
4. Homes and Communities
5. Climate Action and Flood Risk
6. Movement and Transport
7. Social and Community Infrastructure
8. Built and Natural Heritage
9. Land Use Strategy
10. Implementation and Monitoring

### 2.3 Strategic work undertaken by the Councils to ensure evidence-based planning

The Plan has been prepared to deliver a collaborative and integrated framework for the future development of the town.

It is the first such joint plan for the town and it has a strong focus on the development of both the Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober areas of the town.

In preparing the Plan, information relating to various sectors, from different Departments within the Councils and from different bodies and organisations, was gathered and analysed, contributing towards the development of evidence-led Plan provisions. This work included undertaking a Settlement Capacity Audit, undertaking a Social Infrastructure Audit and preparing a Local Transport Plan.

The undertaking of the SEA process was part of this strategic work and contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed in Section 9 of this report.

### 2.4 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix I<sup>2</sup> (see also, Section 4

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<sup>2</sup> Appendix I is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The

"Environmental Baseline", Section 5 "Strategic Environmental Objectives", Section 6 "Description of Alternatives" and Section 9 "Mitigation Measures"). These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The National Planning Framework sets out Ireland's planning policy direction until 2040. The National Planning Framework is implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must, as relevant and appropriate, be implemented through the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans, that set out the overarching development strategy for the Counties, and the Local Area Plan.

The Plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing wider planning framework, including the National Planning Framework, the National Climate Action Plans, the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029, the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028, the Leitrim Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the Roscommon Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment.

With respect to the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans, the provisions of these plans take precedence over the Local Area Plan. For the avoidance of duplication, policies/objectives as set out in Volume 1 (Written Statements) of both of the above-mentioned County Development Plans and the Development Management standards as set out in Chapter 13 of the Leitrim County Development Plan and Chapter 12 of the Roscommon County Development Plan have not been repeated in the Local Area Plan. All development proposals put forward in

accordance with the Local Area Plan's provisions must also comply with the relevant County Development Plan.

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

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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.

## Section 3 SEA Methodology

### 3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA are taking place concurrently and the findings of the SEA and AA have informed the Plan.

### 3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

#### 3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for Screening for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The conclusion of the Screening for AA is that the Plan is not foreseen to have any likelihood for any significant effect on any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and Screening for AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the Screening for AA have informed the SEA.

#### 3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

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

##### Scoping

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

##### Baseline

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

##### Alternatives

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

##### Impact assessment

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

##### Mitigation and monitoring

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

##### Reporting

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

##### Communication and consultation

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

### 3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Area Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The SFRA has informed both the land use zoning and the written provisions of the Local Area Plan.

### 3.4 Scoping

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive<sup>3</sup>.

All relevant environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Councils indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Councils<sup>4</sup>.

As the Plan 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.

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<sup>3</sup> These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

<sup>4</sup> The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Cavan County Council; Sligo County Council; Longford County Council; Mayo County Council; Galway County Council; Offaly County Council; Westmeath County Council; and Donegal County Council.

## 3.5 Alternatives

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

## 3.6 Environmental Report

This SEA Environmental Report predicts and evaluates the likely environmental effects of implementing the Plan and relevant alternatives. The Environmental Report provides the Councils, stakeholders and the public with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of the Plan.

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

An earlier version of this report was report was updated in order to take account of relevant recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of changes that were made to the Draft Plan that was placed on public display earlier in the process.

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

No significant difficulties have been encountered during the undertaking of the assessment.

## 3.7 SEA Statement

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

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan, highlighting the main changes to the Plan that resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in

consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;

- The reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as adopted was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Plan.



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

## Section 4 Environmental Baseline

### 4.1 Introduction

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

This description includes information that is relevant to lower tier planning, environmental assessments and decision-making<sup>5</sup>.

### 4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

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

#### Environmental Policy Position

A national policy position for Ireland's Environment.

#### Full implementation

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

#### Health and Wellbeing

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

#### Climate

Systemic change is required for Ireland to become the climate-neutral and climate resilient society and economy that it aspires to be.

#### Air Quality

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

#### Nature

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

#### Water Quality

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

#### Marine

Reduce the human-induced pressures on the marine environment.

#### Clean Energy

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

#### Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

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

#### Water Services

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

#### Circular Economy

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

#### Land Use

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

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

### 4.3 Sustainable Development Goals

Implementation of the Plan will contribute towards efforts to achieve a number of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which were adopted by world leaders in 2015 at a United Nations Summit and came into force in 2016. These Goals include:

<sup>5</sup> Article 5 of the SEA Directive, in accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, requires that the Environmental Report includes the information that may reasonably be required taking into account, inter alia, the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

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

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

In the absence of a new Local Area Plan, the framework for development across the Plan area would be provided by the County Development Plans and other related documents. There would be no Local Area Plan to provide additional detail beyond that provided already through the existing planning framework as how to achieve sustainable development and environmental protection and management in the town.

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

- Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.
- Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of

natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.

- Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.
- Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.
- Contribution towards the protection of soils and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation.
- Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.
- Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.
- Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.
- Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.

- Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.
- Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.
- Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:
  - Sustainable compact growth;
  - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
  - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
  - Sectors including transport, energy, buildings and agriculture;
  - Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the Plan area by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.
- Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area.

Furthermore, and as a result, there would be an increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of the adverse environmental effects identified by this assessment occurring, including:

- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
  - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
  - Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
  - Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
- Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
- Potential for riverbank erosion.
- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of

Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.

- Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Increases in waste levels.
- Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
- Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.
- Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.
- Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.
- Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
- Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

## 4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

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

Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing. There are four main types; provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Provisioning services are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines. Regulating services are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification and waste management, pollination or pest control. Support services highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools. Cultural services include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values<sup>6</sup>.

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

- Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function.
- Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation, resources for food, fibre or fuel, or for recreation, culture and quality of life.
- Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them.

The following natural capital and ecosystem services issues are relevant to this SEA and have been taken into account in the provisions of the Local Area Plan and associated higher-tier Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans:

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

- Natural resources supporting energy production and recreation.

## 4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

### 4.6.1 Overview

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

Key ecological sensitivities within and surrounding the Plan area include:

- **Lough Drumharlow proposed Natural Heritage Area designated partially within/adjacent to the north-western parts of the Plan area.** Sensitive features of this site include a lake with extensive areas of wet grassland (callows), woodland, raised bog and improved pasture. The site is utilised by a flock of Greenland white-fronted goose (a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive).
- **Aquatic and riverine ecology associated with the River Shannon,** including its tributaries and riparian buffer zones, and **Lough Corry;**
- **Locally important habitats within the Plan area,** including various woodlands, trees, parks, gardens, hedgerows, old buildings/stone walls, railway lines, pollinator sites and lands used for agriculture within and surrounding the Plan area, providing habitats for flora and fauna and facilitating linkages and corridors to the surrounding countryside for the wildlife.

The following information is relevant to ecological networks and connectivity and non-designated habitats:

- CORINE land cover mapping (including areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive)<sup>7</sup>;
- Watercourses, wetlands and peatlands;

<sup>7</sup> The CORINE land cover mapping classifies land cover under various headings. This dataset allows for the identification of lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity including those which are likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive e.g., natural grasslands, peat bogs, salt marshes. 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.

<sup>6</sup> <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/ecosystem-services>

- Other relevant County Development Plans designations;
- The EPA's Framework National Ecological Network for Ireland<sup>8</sup>; and
- Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance as identified by, for example, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (badger sets), relevant datasets from the National Biodiversity Data Centre and BirdWatch Ireland's 'Important Bird Areas' (Crowe et al., 2009)<sup>9</sup>.

Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as 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 urban areas.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained.

Man-made habitats within the Plan area can also include important biodiversity features. Gardens provide habitats for a range of wildlife including various bird species, invertebrates such as bees and butterflies and mammals such as hedgehogs, mice, rats and foxes. These species move around between gardens using hedgerows and vegetated areas. These urban green spaces are of importance as they form part of a network of green spaces across the Plan area including gardens, parks, graveyards, amenity walks, railway lines and patches of woodland and scrub within which animals and plants continue to thrive.

Ecological islands or areas of habitat that are not connected to surrounding ecologically valuable habitats can also be important.

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

#### 4.6.2 European Sites

European sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation<sup>10</sup> (SACs) and Special Protection Areas<sup>11</sup> (SPAs). Such sites within 15 km buffer around the Plan area are mapped on Figure 4.1). There are a total of three European sites (three SACs) designated within 15 km of the Plan boundary (as listed below and shown on Figure 4.1):

- Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC (Site Code: 000584)<sup>12</sup>;
- Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC (Site Code: 001626)<sup>13</sup>; and
- Lough Arrow SAC (Site Code: 001673)<sup>14</sup>.

There are ten additional hydrologically connected European sites within the wider region beyond 15 km buffer zone (i.e.

<sup>10</sup> SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

<sup>11</sup> SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

<sup>12</sup> Sensitive features comprise: oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains; natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; European dry heaths; alpine and boreal heaths; species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas; blanket bogs; transition mires and quaking bogs; petrifying springs with tufa formation; siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels; siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; and slender green feather-moss.

<sup>13</sup> Sensitive features comprise: alkaline fens; and geyser's whorl snail.

<sup>14</sup> Sensitive features comprise hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp.*

<sup>8</sup> The EPA's Framework National Ecological Network provides a classification of the relative importance of areas by virtue of the biodiversity and flora that they contain and the connectivity they provide. Many of the areas identified are corridors.

<sup>9</sup> Including: available habitats mapping at a suitable scale; trees; groups of trees and woodlands; and hedgerows.

downstream of the Plan boundary), as shown on Figure 4.2, namely:

- River Shannon Callows SAC (Site Code: 000216)<sup>15</sup>;
- Lough Ree SAC (Site Code: 000440)<sup>16</sup>;
- Lough Forbes Complex SAC (Site Code: 001818)<sup>17</sup>;
- Lower River Shannon SAC (Site Code: 002165)<sup>18</sup>;
- Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC (Site Code: 002241)<sup>19</sup>;
- Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (Site Code: 004058)<sup>20</sup>;
- Lough Ree SPA (Site Code: 004064)<sup>21</sup>;
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (Site Code: 004077)<sup>22</sup>;
- Middle Shannon Callows SPA (Site Code: 004096)<sup>23</sup>; and
- Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA (Site Code: 004101).<sup>24</sup>

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

<sup>15</sup> Sensitive features comprise: *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; lowland hay meadows; alkaline fens; limestone pavements; alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*; and otter.

<sup>16</sup> Sensitive features comprise: natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation; semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; alkaline fens; limestone pavements; bog woodland; alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*; and otter.

<sup>17</sup> Sensitive features comprise: natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation; active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; depressions of peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*; and alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*.

<sup>18</sup> Sensitive features comprise: sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time; estuaries; mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; coastal lagoons; large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; perennial vegetation of stony banks; vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; water courses of the plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation; *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*; freshwater pearl mussel; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; salmon; common bottlenose dolphin; and otter.

<sup>19</sup> Sensitive features comprise: *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; alkaline fens; limestone pavements; alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*; and *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles.

<sup>20</sup> Sensitive features comprise: cormorant; tufted duck; goldeneye; common tern; and wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>21</sup> Sensitive features comprise: little grebe; whooper swan; wigeon; teal; mallard; shoveler; tufted duck; common scoter; goldeneye; coot; golden plover; lapwing; common tern; and wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>22</sup> Sensitive features comprise: cormorant; whooper swan; light-bellied brent goose; shelduck; wigeon; teal; pintail; shoveler; scaup; ringed plover; golden plover; grey plover; lapwing; knot; dunlin; black-tailed godwit- bar-tailed godwit; curlew; redshank; greenshank; black-headed gull; and wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>23</sup> Sensitive features comprise: whooper swan; wigeon; corncrake; golden plover; lapwing; black-tailed godwit; black-headed gull; and wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>24</sup> Sensitive features comprise Greenland white-fronted goose.

### 4.6.3 Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

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

There are a total of five NHA and 18 pNHAs designated within a 15 km buffer of the Plan area (as mapped on Figure 4.3 and listed on Table 4.1)<sup>25</sup>, out of which one site, namely Lough Drumharlow pNHA (Site Code: 001643), is partially situated within/adjacent to the north-western parts of the Plan area (as mapped on Figure 4.4).

<sup>25</sup> Some of these areas include peatlands.

**Table 4.1 NHAs and pNHAs within and within 15 km of the Plan area**

NHAs and pNHAs		
Designation	Site Code	Site Name
<b>NHA</b>	000422	Aghnamona Bog
	000617	Kilronan Mountain Bog
	001405	Cashel Bog (Leitrim)
	001420	Corracramph Bog
	001652	Tullaghan Bog (Roscommon)
<b>pNHA</b>	001643	Lough Drumharlow
	000427	Lough Allen, South End and Parts
	000584	Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands
	000596	Corrigeenroe Marsh
	000608	Kilglass and Grange Loughs
	001402	Annaghealy Lough
	001412	Drumhierny Wood
	001417	Lough Rinn
	001421	Sheemore Wood
	001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon)
	001631	Drum Bridge (Lough Key)
	001633	Drumman's Island (Lough Key)
	001636	Fin Lough (Roscommon)
	001638	Hog's Island (Lough Key)
	001642	Lough Boderg and Lough Bofin
	001651	Tawnytaskin Wood (Lough Key)
	001673	Lough Arrow
	001920	Carrickaport Lough

Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are priority habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues.

Cutover bog is a variable habitat, or complex of habitats, that can include mosaics of bare peat and re-vegetated areas with woodland, scrub, heath, fen and flush or grassland communities. It occurs where part or all of the original peat has been removed through turf cutting, by the traditional hand method or mechanically, for either domestic or commercial purposes. This habitat is widespread surrounding industrially and traditionally cutover raised bogs across the country. Cutaway bogs have the potential to facilitate land uses such as employment, renewable energy generation, waste

management, industrial, and tourism and recreation.

#### 4.6.4 Land Cover

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.

The CORINE 2018<sup>26</sup> mapping (shown on Figure 4.5) identifies the land cover of central parts of the Plan area as urban fabric and surrounding lands identified as pastures and land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation. Areas of watercourse, water body and inland marsh follow the route of the River Shannon, that flows from the north-west to the south-east through the centre of the Plan area.

Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for Annex I habitats (Figure 4.6) partially within and adjacent to the Plan area comprise water body and inland marsh (a low-lying land usually flooded in winter, and with ground saturated by fresh water all-year round).

#### 4.6.5 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies that must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the Plan area, designated by virtue of their value to biodiversity include a number of water-dependent habitats within the area that have been listed on RPAs relating to biodiversity – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.2) and associated surface and groundwaters.

<sup>26</sup> The CORINE (Co-ordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type, covering almost one-fifth of the country. While forested areas cover about one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural.



RPA's designated by virtue of their value to humans are addressed under Section 4.9.7.

#### **4.6.6 Existing Problems**

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

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

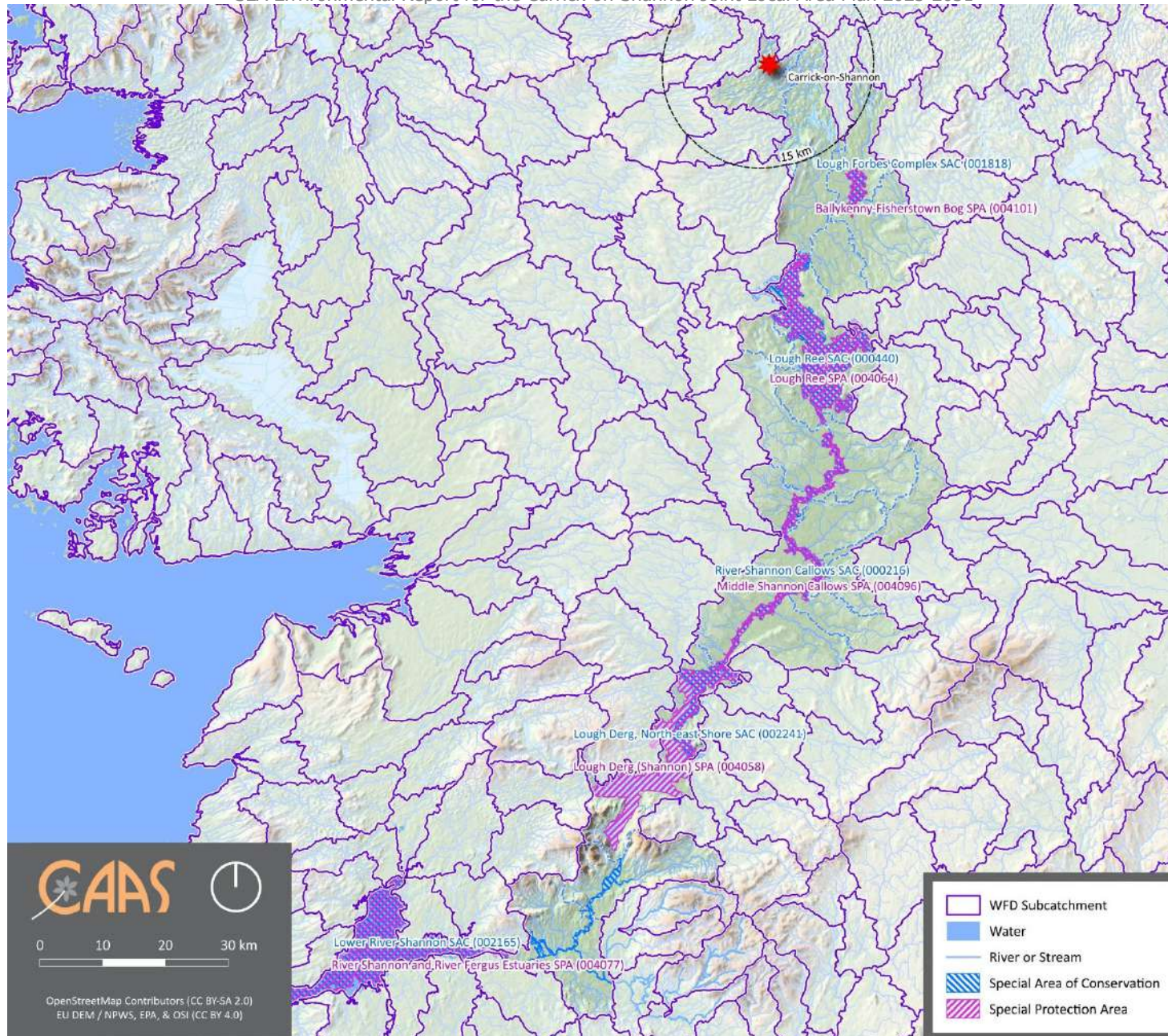
Ireland's Article 12 Birds Directive Reports and the 6<sup>th</sup> National Report under the Convention of Biological Diversity identify similar issues.

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

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

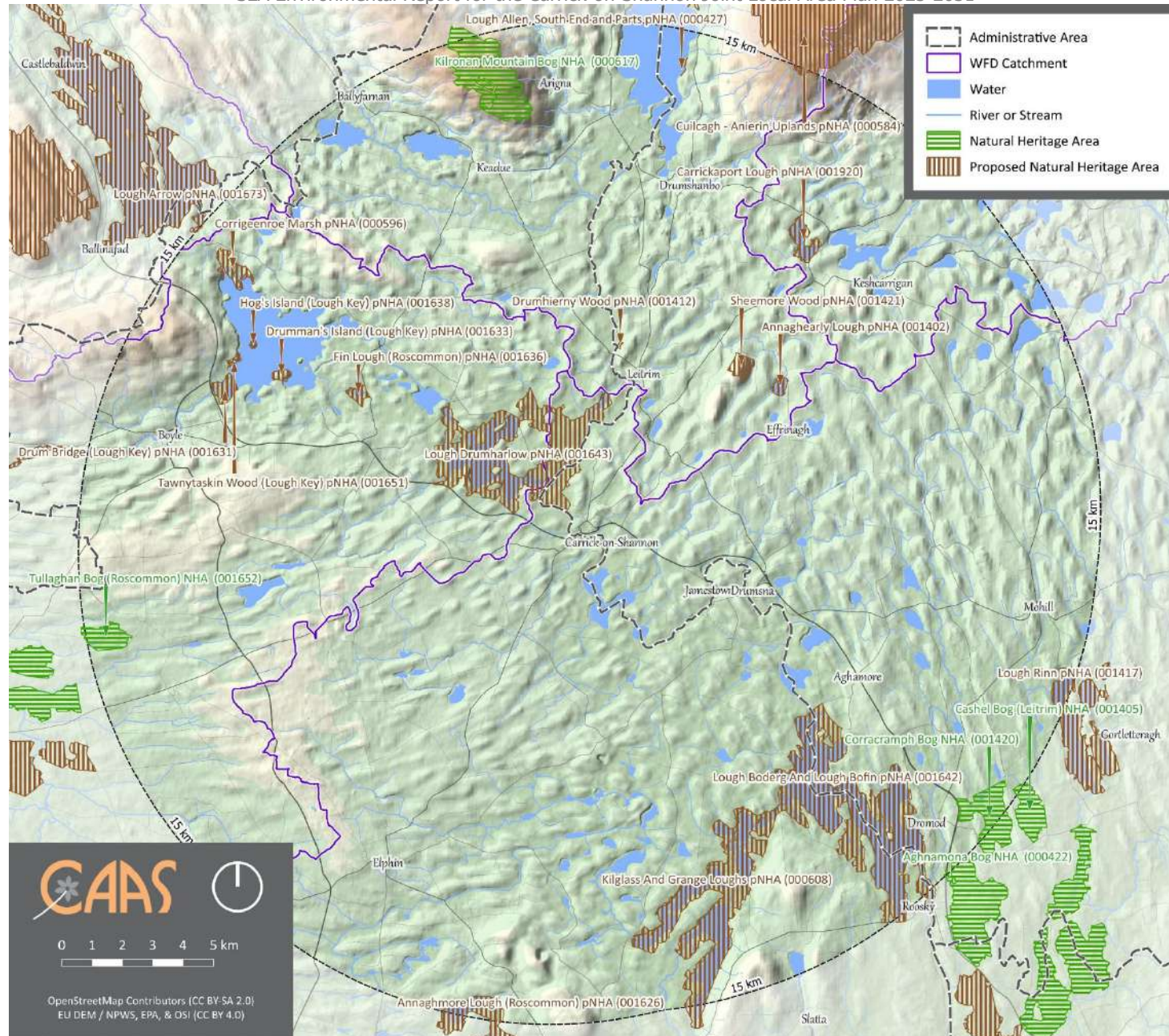
CAAS for Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council





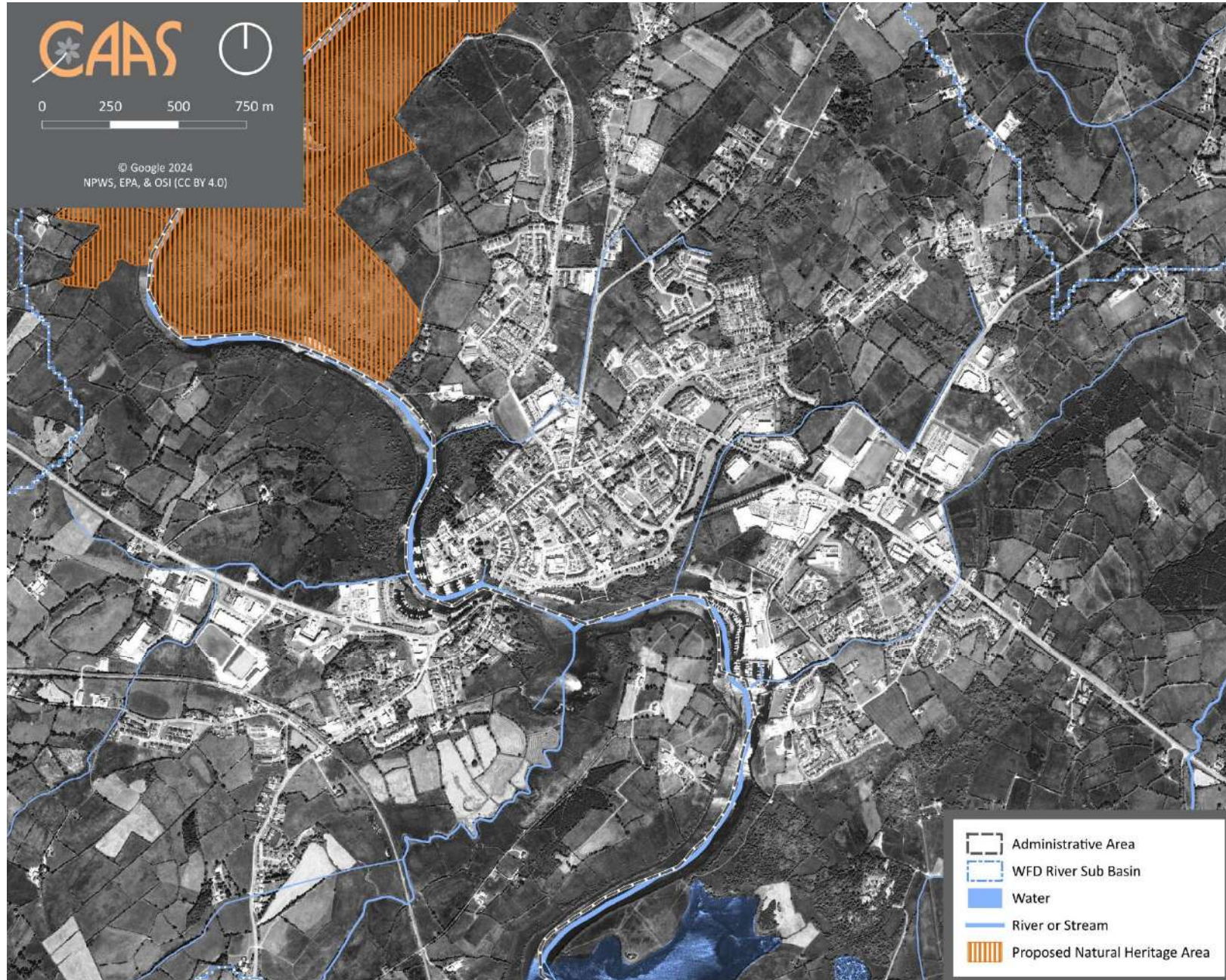
**Figure 4.2 European sites hydrologically connected to the Plan area**





**Figure 4.3 NHAs and pNHAs within and within a 15 km buffer of the Plan area**

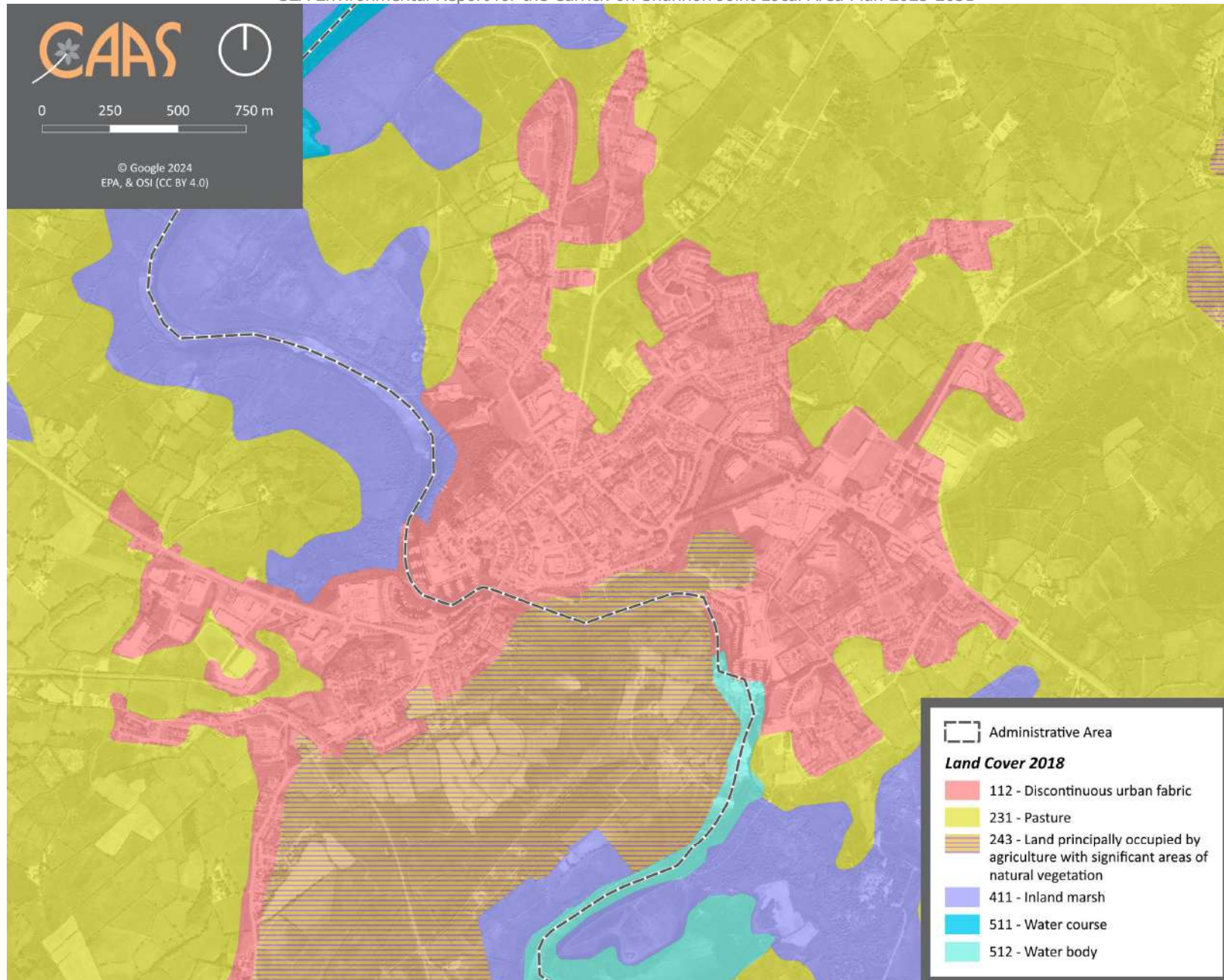




**Figure 4.4 pNHAs within and adjacent to the Plan area**

CAAS for Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council





**Figure 4.5 CORINE Land Cover Mapping 2018**



CAAS for Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council

- Potential effects on water quality.

## 4.7 Population and Human Health

### 4.7.1 Population<sup>27</sup>

The results of Census 2022 within the CSO settlement boundary of Carrick-on-Shannon recorded a population of 4,743 persons.

The Plan reflects the population projections for Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober as set out in the Core Strategies outlined in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028. The Core Strategies outline the housing allocation for each settlement in their respective administrative areas. The number of housing units allocated to both Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober allow for approximately 430 new homes to be provided for in the town as a whole with approximately 130 units to be provided on infill/brownfield lands.

The Plan area straddles the River Shannon with the administrative area to the east of the river falling under the remit of Leitrim County Council and that to the west of the River (Cortober) falling under the remit of Roscommon County Council. Carrick-on-Shannon is the largest town in Leitrim and the County Town and has important administrative, commercial and service functions for the county of Leitrim. Key Towns are large economically active towns with a strong employment base and good transport links and capacity for continued sustainable growth acting as catalysts for the wider sub region. The settlement of Cortober, in County Roscommon, forms part of the wider Carrick-on-Shannon settlement and it supports the overall future development of the town.

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

- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Contribution towards increase in demand for waste water treatment at the municipal level;
- Contribution towards increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and

### 4.7.2 Human Health

With regard to human health, impacts relevant to the SEA are those which arise as a result of interactions with 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 e.g. interactions with human health that could occur in urban locations that experience high-levels of traffic congestion and associated particulate matter and noise emissions to air.

Emission limits for discharges to air, soil and water are set with regards to internationally recognised exposure limit values. These are generally set to be many times the safe exposure limit - in order to provide protection. In the event that a plan or programme began to have adverse health effects on surrounding populations it is likely that it would have been identified as being in breach of such emission standards at a very early stage - and long before the manifestation of any adverse health effects in the population.

These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

### 4.7.3 Soil

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

As is the case with other historically developed areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at local sites within the Plan area, especially where land uses occurred in the past in the absence of the high standards of today's environmental protection legislation.

### 4.7.4 Existing Problems

The number of homes within the Plan area with radon levels above the reference level is

<sup>27</sup> Carrick-on-Shannon JLAP 2025-2031



within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country<sup>28</sup>.

Parts of the Plan area are vulnerable to adverse effects from changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events and associated flooding from surface water. Flooding in certain circumstances could pose a risk to human health. There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding within the Plan area (4.9.8).

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

## 4.8 Soil

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

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. However, the EU Soil Strategy for 2030 sets out a framework and concrete measures to protect and restore soils, and ensure that they are used sustainably. It sets a vision and objectives to achieve healthy soils by 2050, with concrete actions by 2030. In 2023, the EU proposed a new Soil Monitoring Law to

protect and restore soils and ensure that they are used sustainably.

### 4.8.1 Soil Types

Main soil types<sup>29</sup> (Figure 4.7) surrounding the built-up areas<sup>30</sup> of Carrick-on-Shannon are: surface water gleys (wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging), luvisol soils (generally fertile, widely used for agriculture and associated with significant accumulation of clay) and alluvial soils (associated with alluvial clay, silt or sand river deposits of the River Shannon).

Other soil types (also shown on Figure 4.7) include peat soils (these often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues) underlying areas within the north and south of the Plan area, to the east of the Shannon.

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

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

### 4.8.2 County Geological Sites

Geological Survey Ireland coordinate the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, whereby an objective has been set to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. County Geological Sites (CGSs) do not receive statutory protection like Natural Heritage Areas but receive an effective protection from their inclusion in the planning system. The audit of CGSs in County Leitrim was completed in 2020, which identified 33 CGSs. The audit of CGSs in County Roscommon was completed in 2012, which identified 29 CGSs. There are no designated

<sup>28</sup> The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. It accounts for more than half of the total radiation dose received by the Irish population. As a known carcinogen, in the same category as tobacco smoke and asbestos it is a cause of lung cancer. Exposure to radon for long periods or at high concentrations can lead to lung cancer. Mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

<sup>29</sup> All soil types belong to a Sub-Group and so in turn to one of the 11 soil Great Groups. Great Groups and Sub-Groups are a hierarchical arrangement of soils used for taxonomical classification (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/soilguide.php>).

<sup>30</sup> The built-up areas are mainly made up of urban soils. Urban soils are soils, which have been disturbed, transported or manipulated by human activity in the urban environment and are often overlain by a non-agricultural, man-made surface layer that has been produced by mixing, filling or by contamination of land surfaces in urban and suburban areas.

County Geological Sites occurring within the Plan area. The closest designated CGS to Carrick-on-Shannon is located c. 3 km to the south of the Plan area (in County Roscommon), namely Mid Roscommon Ribbed Moraines CGS (Site Code: RO022).

### **4.8.3 Landslides**

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

There are no landslide events recorded within the Plan area. The GSI have identified<sup>31</sup> the Plan area as having mainly low levels of landslide susceptibility (mapped on Figure 4.8).

### **4.8.4 Potentially Contaminated Lands and Landfill Sites**

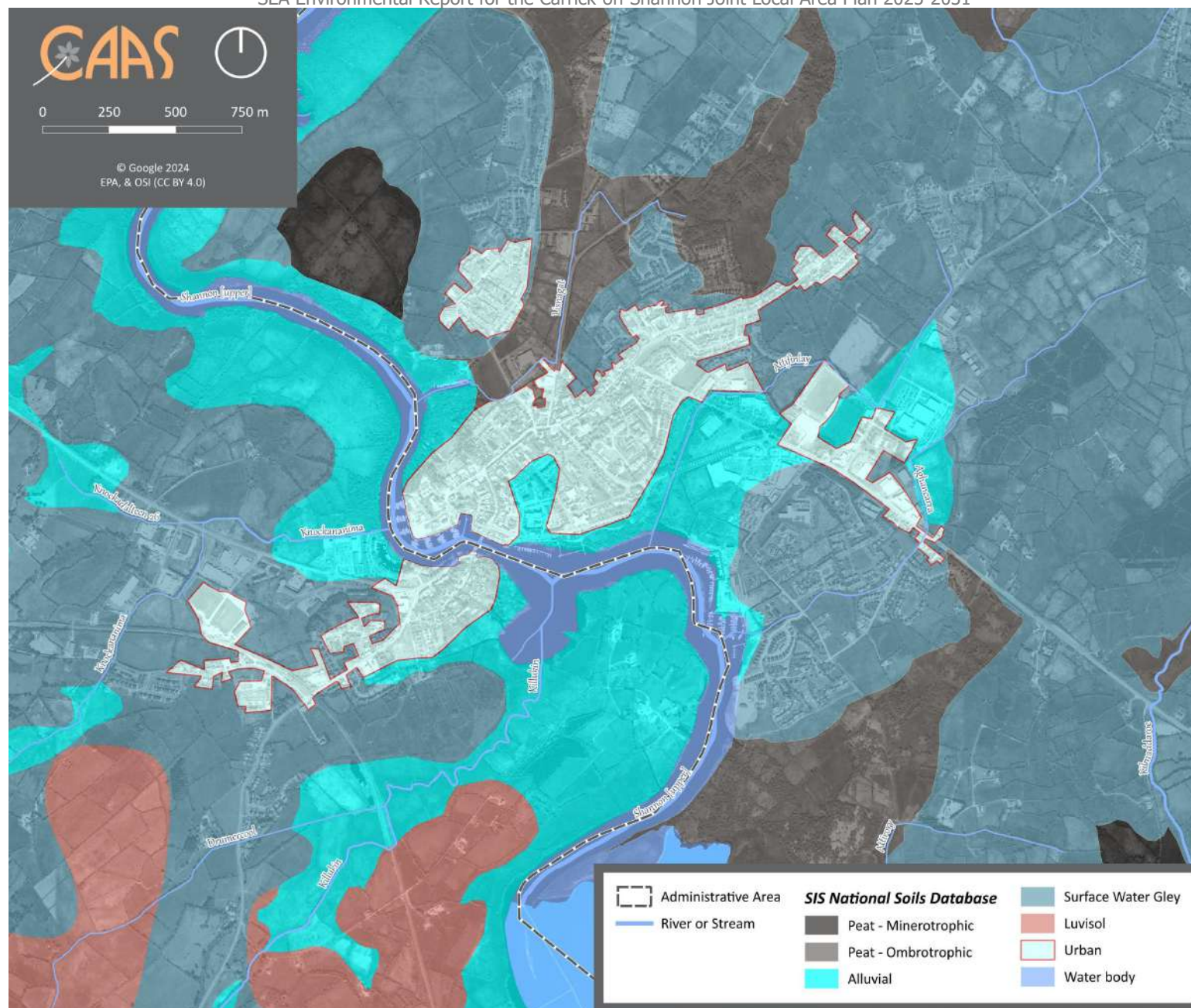
In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact upon human health, water quality and habitats and species. As is the case with other urban and semi-urban areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at sites within the Plan area, especially where land uses occurred in the past, in the absence of environmental protection legislation.

### **4.8.5 Existing Problems**

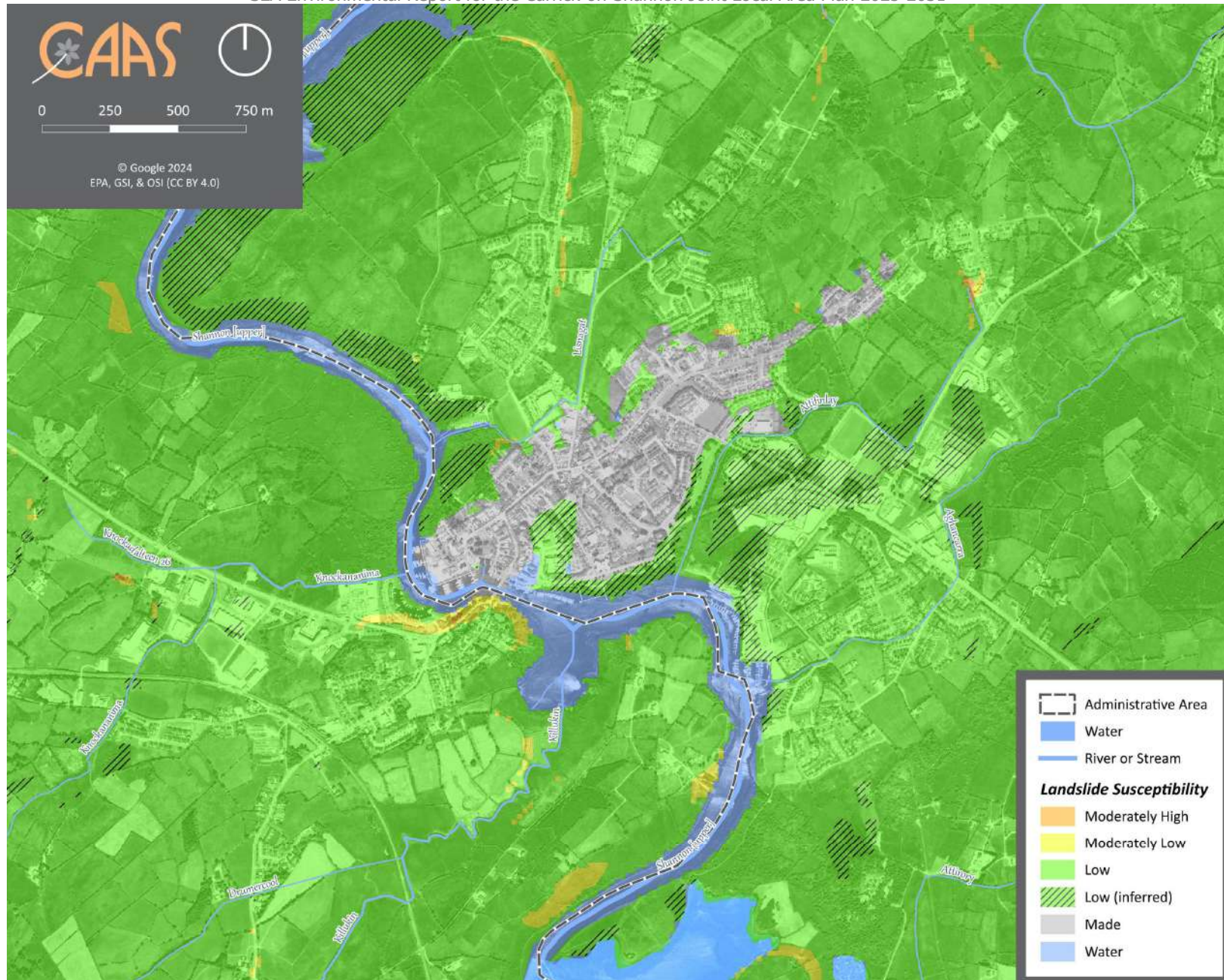
Legislative objectives governing soil were not identified as being conflicted with.

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/geohazards/projects/Pages/Landslide-Susceptibility-Mapping.aspx>

**Figure 4.7 Soil Types**





**Figure 4.8 Landslide Susceptibility**

## 4.9 Water

### 4.9.1 The Water Framework Directive

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

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

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

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

### 4.9.2 Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence of the Plan beyond the Carrick-on-Shannon Plan area with respect to impacts upon waters can be estimated to be all groundwater and surface water bodies that are downstream of catchments which drain the Plan area.

### 4.9.3 Surface Water Drainage

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

### 4.9.4 Surface Water Status

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

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

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

The current WFD (2016-2021) status<sup>32</sup> of the rivers and streams draining the Plan area is *moderate* (identified by the EPA as 'Shannon Upper\_050' and 'Shannon Upper\_060'). The current WFD status (2016-2021) of lakes Eiding and Corry adjacent to the Plan area is *poor*. Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, these water bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD. Figure 4.9 illustrates the WFD surface water status within and surrounding the Plan area. The River Shannon

<sup>32</sup> As per EPA's WFD Status 2016-2021 classification (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>).

Upper intersecting the Plan area, is currently identified in the combined 2016-2021 data as being at risk of not meeting the WFD's objectives due to damage caused by significant pressures related to:<sup>33</sup>

- **Agricultural pressures**, which can include issues related to farming including loss of excess nutrients and sediment loss to surface waters from diffuse sources such as spreading of fertilisers and manures. Excess phosphorous and sediment are typically issues for rivers and lakes, and too much nitrogen is the main issue for estuaries and coastal waters;
- **Domestic wastewater pressures**, which can include septic-tank systems associated with one-off housing and small unlicensed private urban waste-water treatment plants. If not correctly installed and well maintained, these systems can result in leakage of untreated effluent to waters; and
- **Hydromorphological pressures**, which can include modifications to the physical habitat conditions or the natural functioning of a waterbody which can impact on ecology, caused by dredging and straightening of rivers (chanellisation), land drainage or hard infrastructure such as dams, weirs, culverts or other obstructions.

#### 4.9.5 Groundwater Status

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

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

The WFD status (2016-2021) of all groundwater underlying the Plan area (mapped on Figure 4.10) is currently identified as being of *good* status.

#### 4.9.6 Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

The GSI rates groundwaters according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution.

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The aquifers underlying most of the Plan area (mapped on Figure 4.11) are classified mainly as being of "low" and "moderate" vulnerability, while "extreme", "extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)" and "high" vulnerability are identified in some parts within and adjacent to the Plan area.

The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4.12. Aquifers in the vicinity of the Plan area are classified as being 'Regionally Important Aquifer Karstified (conduit)'.

#### 4.9.7 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

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

The WFD requires that these RPAs contain: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g. Salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and, Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Also refer to Section 4.6.5.

The surface and groundwater bodies within and surrounding the Plan area are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 278/2007) and are identified as the RPAs for Drinking Water Groundwater and Drinking Water Rivers, as mapped on Figure 4.13.

<sup>33</sup> <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>

### **4.9.8 Flooding**

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) document accompanies this SEA Environmental Report and the Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014.

Flood risk management and drainage provisions are already in force through the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 and related provisions have been integrated into the LAP. In addition, land use zoning contained within the Plan has been informed by the SFRA process and associated delineation of flood risk zones.

Historical flooding is documented by the Office of Public Works (see Figure 4.14). Predictive flood risk mapping is also available from the Office of Public Works and is included in the SFRA document that accompanies the Plan.

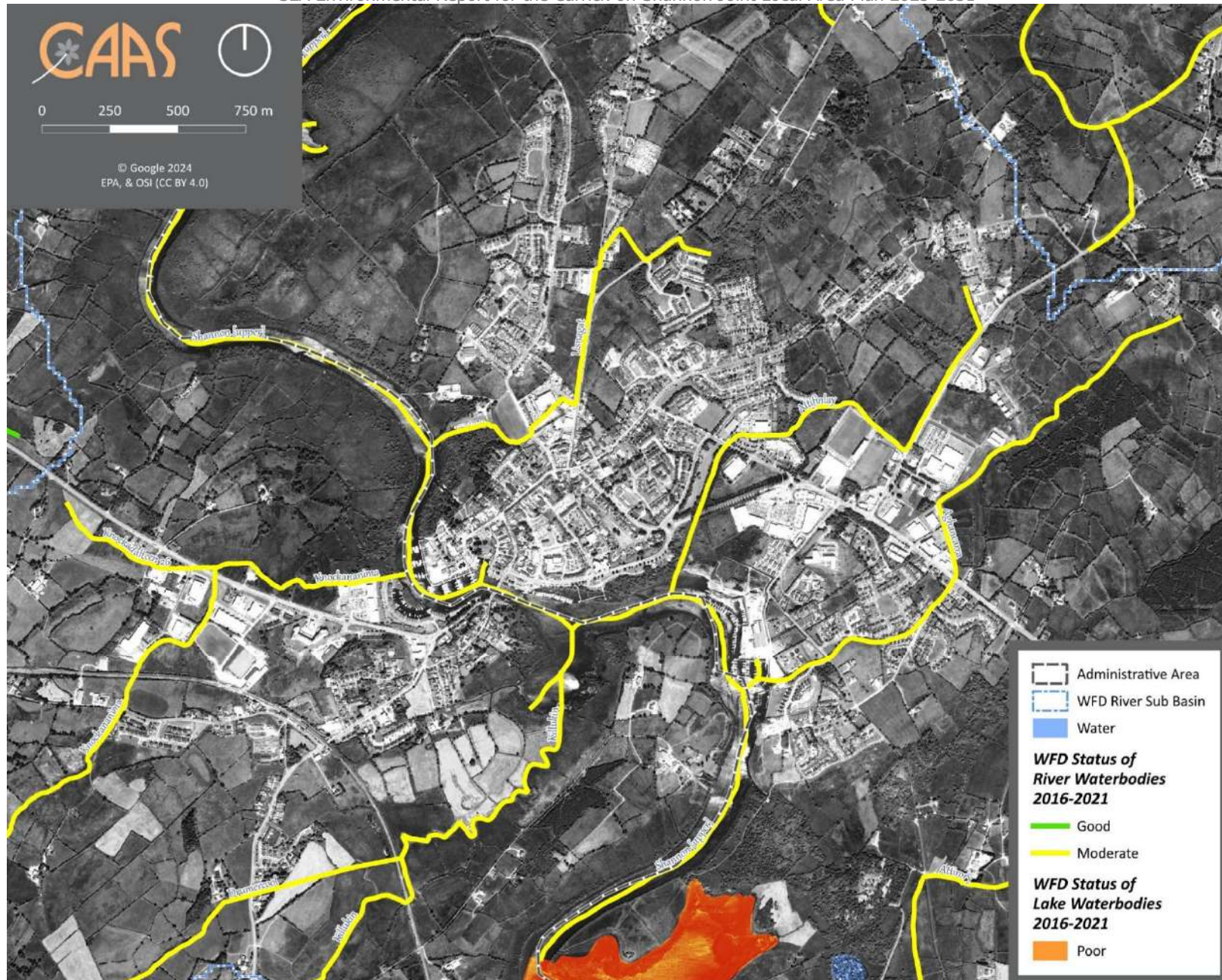
The most significant source of flood risk within the Plan area is from fluvial (from rivers and streams). There are also other sources of flooding present including from pluvial (rainwater) and surface drainage systems sources.

### **4.9.9 Existing Problems**

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, based on available water data, the recorded status of certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD. The Plan includes provisions that will contribute towards improvements in the status of waters.

There is elevated levels of flood risk from fluvial sources at various locations across the Plan area. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.



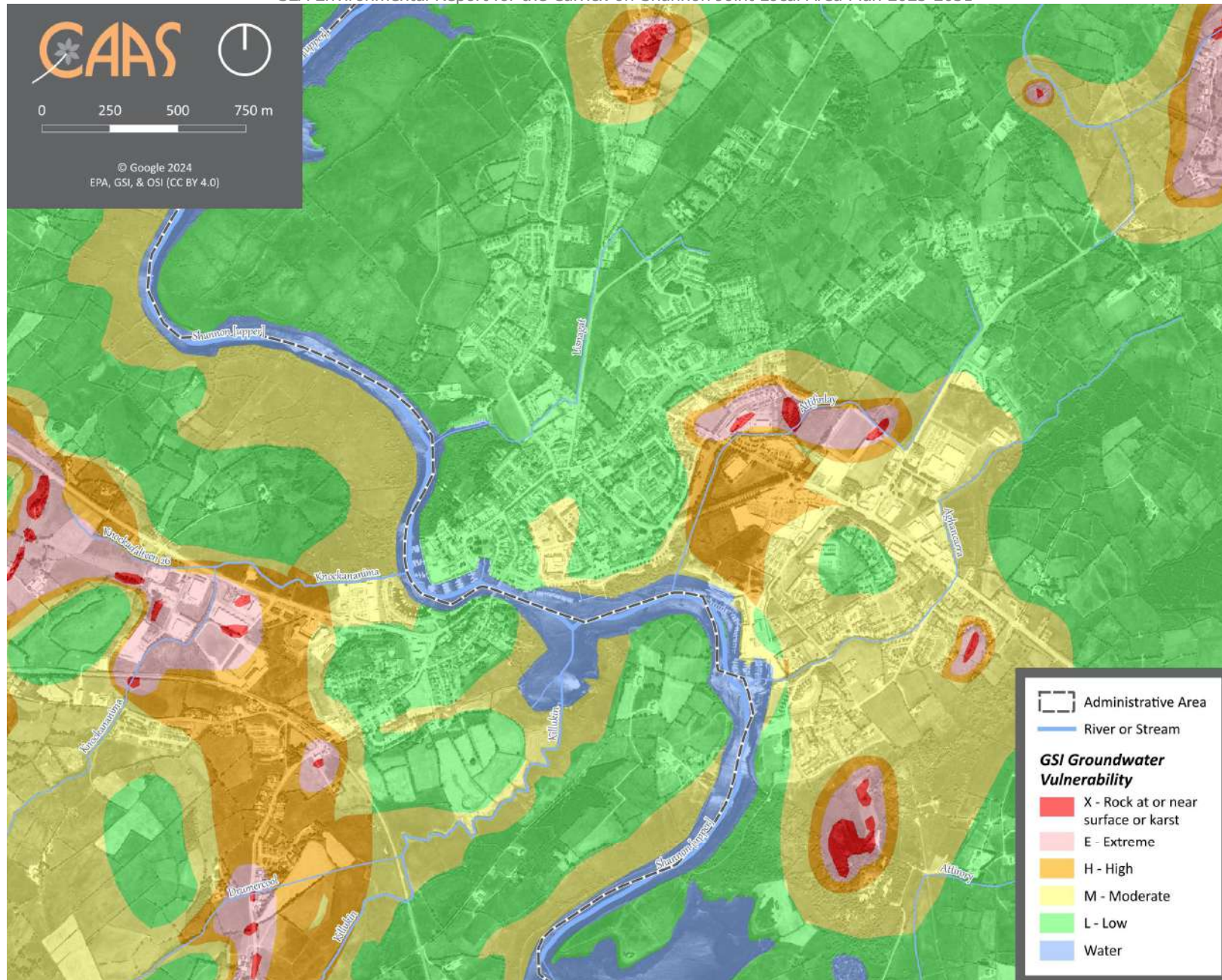


**Figure 4.9 WFD Status of Surface Waterbodies (2016-2021)**



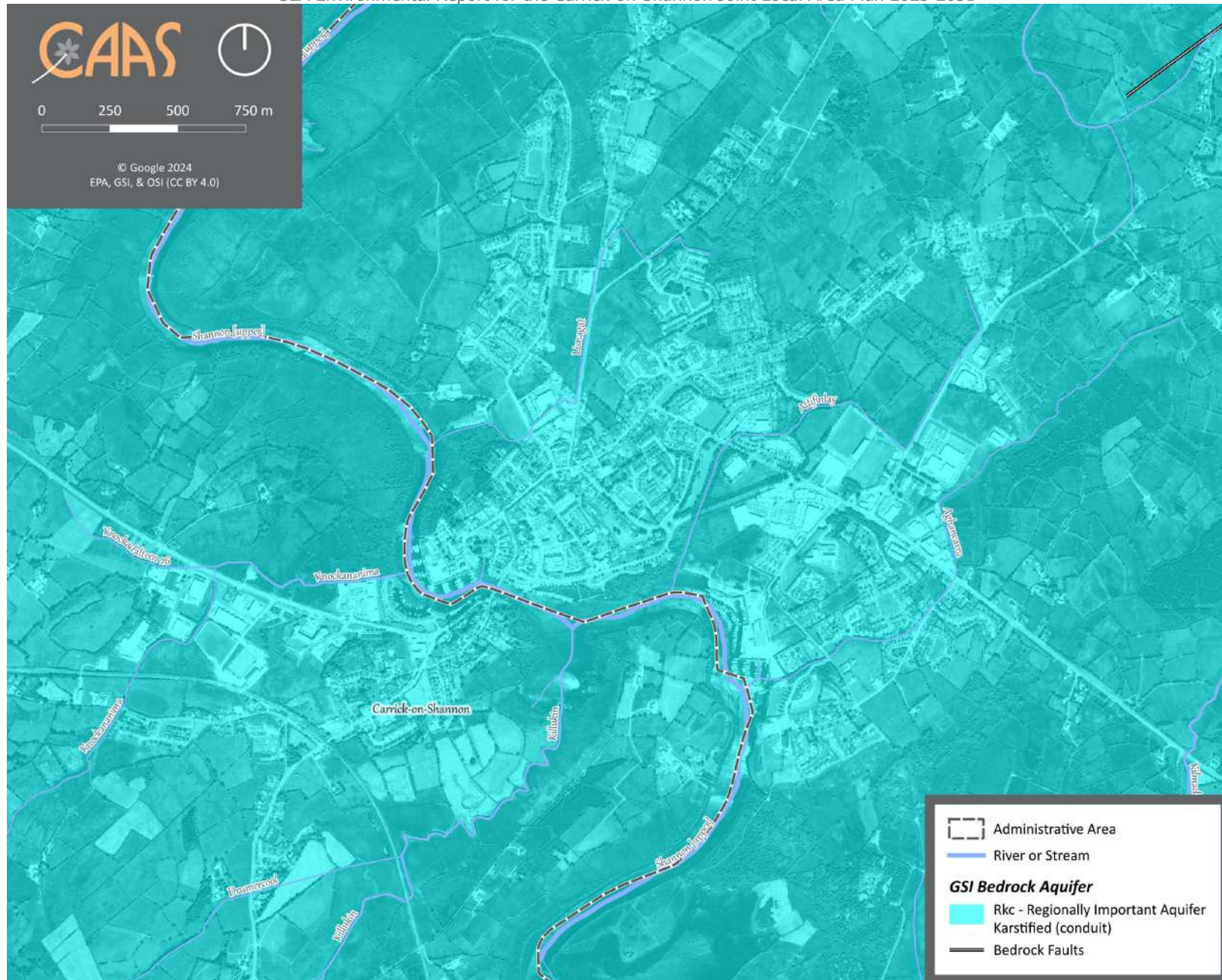
CAAS for Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council





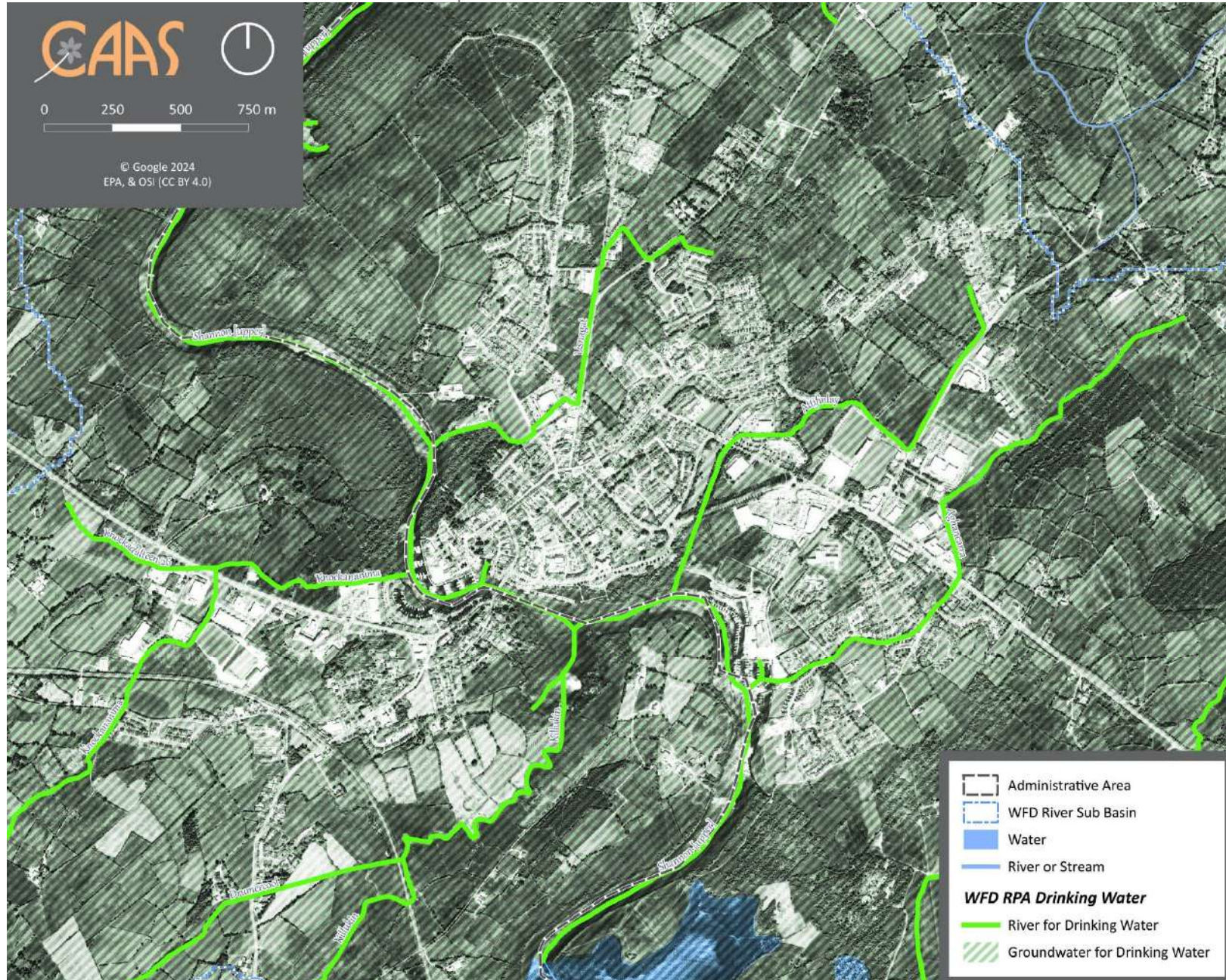
**Figure 4.11 Groundwater Vulnerability**





**Figure 4.12 Aquifer Productivity**





**Figure 4.13 WFD RPA Drinking Water**



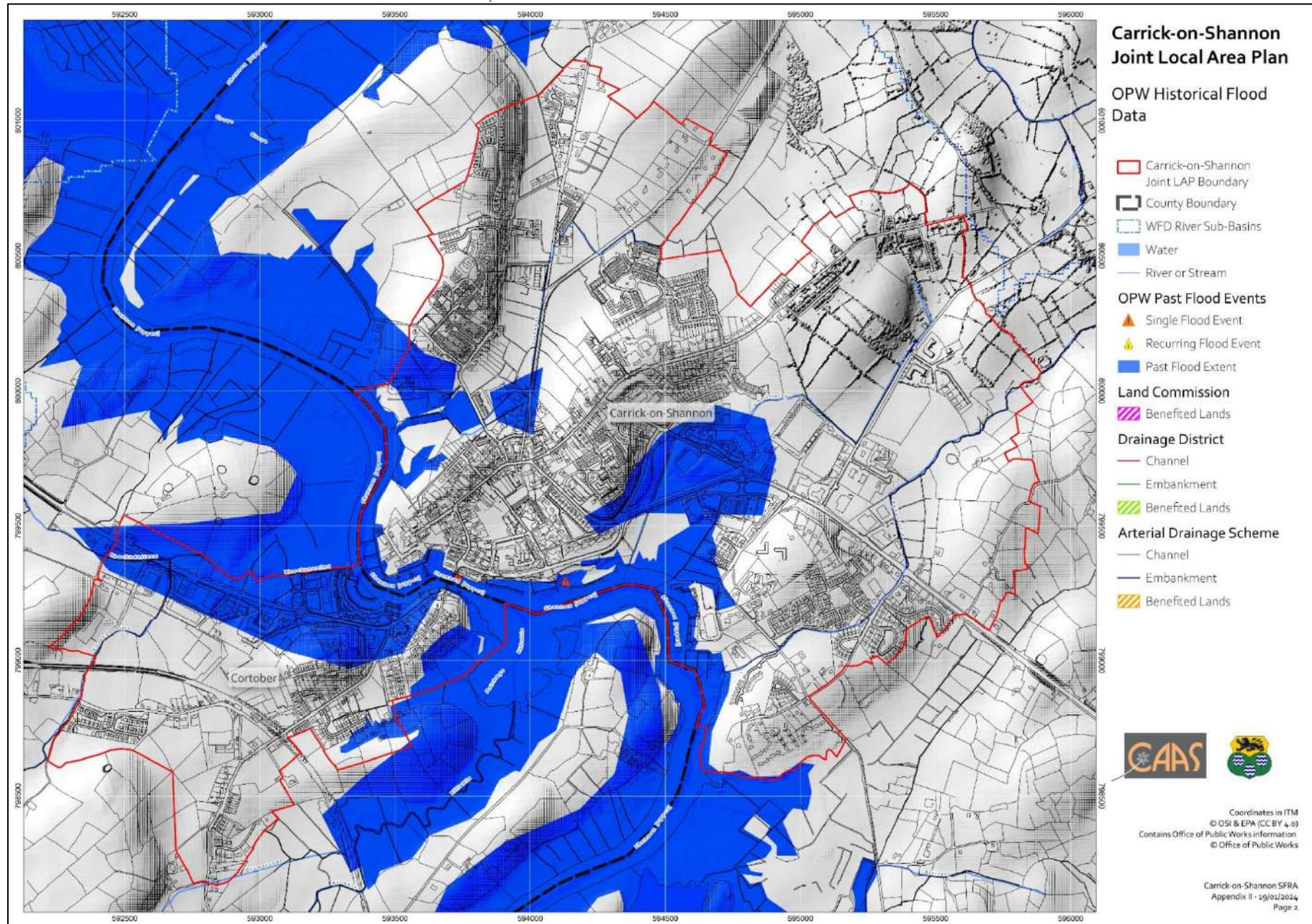


Figure 4.14 OPW Past Flood Events

## 4.10 Air and Climatic Factors

### 4.10.1 Climatic Factors

Interactions with climatic factors are also present with other environmental components including water/flooding (see Section 4.9.8).

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

Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2020 (EPA, 2021) report details provisional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990-2020. In 2020 total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to have declined by 3.6% on 2019 levels to 57.70 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq). This reduction in total emissions was driven by the COVID impact on transport and less peat used for electricity generation. The report highlights that further, transformative measures will be needed to meet national climate ambitions.

Greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector decreased by 15.7% or 1.92 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2020. This decrease was largely driven by the impact of COVID restrictions on passenger car and public transport usage. International aviation, not included in the national total emissions, declined by 65% in 2020 or by 2.17 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq.

The EPA's 2024 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2023-2050* provides an assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions out to 2050, which includes an assessment of progress towards achieving its National ambitions under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and EU emission reduction targets for 2030 as set under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation<sup>34</sup>.

<sup>34</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/842 of on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030

Key findings identified as part of the report are that:

- Ireland is not on track to meet the 51% emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections, which include most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures.
- The first two carbon budgets (2021-2030), which aim to support the achievement of the 51% emissions reduction goal, are projected to be exceeded by a significant margin of between 17% and 27%.
- Sectoral emissions ceilings for 2025 and 2030 are projected to be exceeded in almost all cases, including agriculture, electricity, industry, and transport.
- Ireland will not meet its non-ETS<sup>35</sup> EU targets of a 42 per cent emissions reduction by 2030 under the With Additional Measures Scenario .
- Emissions in the 'Planned Additional Measures' scenario are projected to be 29% lower in 2030 (compared with 2018) whereas in the 'Implemented Existing Measures' scenario the emissions reduction is projected to be 11%. There has been no improvement in these figures since EPA projections published in 2023.
- Faster implementation of measures is necessary to meet both National and EU targets. The pace at which planned policies and measures are implemented needs to be accelerated.
- Total emissions from the agriculture sector are projected to decrease by between 1% and 18% over the period 2022 to 2030. Savings are projected from a variety of measures including limiting usage and switching to different fertilisers, methane reductions measures and water table management.
- Transport emissions are projected to decrease by 5% to 26% over the period 2022-2030. Measures that are projected to contribute to greater emissions reductions include 945,000 EVs by 2030, a 20 per cent biodiesel blend rate by 2030 and avoid/shift measures such as 50% increase in daily active travel journeys and a 130% increase in daily public transport journeys.
- Emissions from the Energy Industries sector are projected to decrease by between 57% to 62% over the period 2022 and 2030. Renewable energy generation at the end of the decade is projected to range from 69% to 80% of electricity generation as a result of a projected rapid expansion in wind energy and other renewables.
- Emissions from the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector have been revised significantly to reflect new science. Total emissions from the LULUCF sector are projected to increase over the period 2022 to 2030. It is

contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement.

<sup>35</sup> Any company or body within the EU that emits a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions is included in the Emissions Trading System, commonly known as the ETS for short. This includes large industries, electricity generators, and the aviation industry. All greenhouse gas emissions that are not from companies in the ETS are called non-ETS emissions. Non-ETS emissions include greenhouse gas emissions from homes, cars, small businesses and agriculture. These are often collectively called the non-ETS sector.

unlikely with the currently planned measures that the target set under the EU LULUCF Regulation and included in the Climate Action Plan 2024 will be met.

## 4.10.2 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

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

The National Climate Action Plan 2024 is the second statutory update to the plan since the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was signed into law, committing Ireland to 2030 and 2050 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It builds on Climate Action Plan 2023, outlining how Ireland will accelerate the actions required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development.

The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action Plan. Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

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

The National Adaptation Framework (2024) aims to create a unified approach involving both government and society to adapt to climate change. It outlines how various sectors and local authorities can implement adaptation measures to minimise Ireland's vulnerability to climate change's adverse effects while taking advantage of any beneficial impacts. The Framework emphasises the importance of integrating adaptation strategies into all levels of policy making, infrastructure development, and local planning.

In 2018, four Climate Action Regional Offices were established for the purpose of coordinating climate action at regional and local levels. As specified in its Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly supports the work of the Climate Action Regional Offices.

The Leitrim Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and Roscommon Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 will contribute towards addressing the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change adaptation, and strengthening the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of local climate action. The local objectives of Leitrim County Council's Climate Action Plan Roscommon County Council's Climate Action Plan are grouped under five thematic areas as follows:

- Governance and Leadership;
- Built Environment and Transport;
- Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure;
- Communities: Resilience and Transition; and
- Sustainability and Resource Management.

Carrick-on-Shannon has been identified as a designated Decarbonising Zone within County Leitrim and will be a focus for sustainable place-based climate opportunities.

## 4.10.3 Alternative Fuels and Renewable Electricity Generation Targets

The use of alternative fuels, including electricity, forms a significant part of government policy to reduce transport emissions. The Plan facilitates a mode shift away from the private car to public transport, walking and cycling and provisions relating to electric vehicles. This will contribute towards reductions in the consumption of non-



renewable energy sources and achievement of legally binding renewable energy targets.

The first Renewable Energy Directive (RED)<sup>36</sup> was the most important legislation influencing the growth of renewable energy in the EU and Ireland for the decade ending in 2020. From 2021, RED was replaced by the second Renewable Energy Directive (REDII)<sup>37</sup>, which continues to promote the growth of renewable energy out to 2030. RED set out two mandatory targets for renewable energy in Ireland to be met by 2020, while REDII sets new targets and criteria to be met by Ireland in 2030 and the interim.

The overall renewable energy share is referred to as the overall RES target. REDII introduced a binding EU-wide target for overall RES of 32% in 2030 and requires Member States to set their national contributions to the EU-wide target. As per the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030, Ireland's overall RES target is 34.1% in 2030. The sectoral targets are referred to as RES-E (electricity), RES-T (transport) and RES-H (heat). Ireland's NECP 2021-2030 set targets for RES-E of 70%, RES-H of 24% and RES-T of 14%, by 2030.<sup>38</sup>

#### 4.10.4 Energy Security

Greater use of alternative fuels, including renewable energy, has the potential to further contribute towards energy security.

Indigenous production accounted for 32% of Ireland's energy requirements in 1990. However, since the mid-1990s import dependency had grown significantly, due to the increase in energy use together with the decline in indigenous natural gas production at Kinsale since 1995 and decreasing peat production. Ireland's overall import dependency reached 90% in 2006. It varied between 85% and 90% until 2016 when it fell to 69%. This trend reflects the fact that Ireland is not endowed with significant indigenous fossil fuel resources and has only in recent years begun to harness significant quantities of renewable resources and more recently natural gas from the Corrib field.

<sup>36</sup> Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources.

<sup>37</sup> Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources (recast).

<sup>38</sup> SEAI (2022): *Energy in Ireland 2022 Report*. Available at: <https://www.seai.ie/publications/Energy-in-Ireland-2022.pdf>

#### 4.10.5 Ambient Air Quality

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

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

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

The EPA's (2023) *Air Quality in Ireland 2022 Report* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good, however, there are concerning localised issues.
- Ireland met all of its EU legal requirements in 2022 but it did not meet the more stringent health-based World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality guidelines.
- Fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) from solid fuel combustion and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) from vehicle emissions are the main pollutants.
- It is estimated that there are approximately 1,300 premature deaths annually in Ireland due to poor air quality from PM<sub>2.5</sub>.
- The choices people make in how they heat their homes and how they travel directly impact the quality of the air they breathe.
- Ireland's ambition in the Clean Air Strategy is to move towards the WHO Air Quality guidelines.

The report further identifies the critical role of local authorities in the enforcement and implementation of existing plans and investment in infrastructure to encourage cleaner and healthier air quality choices, including:

- Local authorities must provide more resources to increase air enforcement activities and implement the new solid fuel regulations.



- Investment in clean public transport infrastructure across the country must be maintained and increased.
- More safe footpaths and cycle lanes must be created to continue to increase active travel as a viable and safe alternative to car use and associated NO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country.<sup>39</sup>

No exceedances of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> or O<sub>3</sub> for the Carrick-on-Shannon station were reported by the EPA's Air Quality Bulletin in 2023 and no exceedances have been reported in 2024 to date (up until 30/6).

#### 4.10.6 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing EU policy on noise reduction from source. The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:

- Draw up *strategic noise maps* for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people who may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;
- Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and,
- Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.

In compliance with the Directive and transposing Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006), Noise Action Plans have been prepared for each local authority area within the country, including for Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council. The purpose of Noise Action Plans is to avoid, prevent and reduce, on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance due to the long-term exposure to environmental noise.

<sup>39</sup> For more detail on current daily air quality data for the Plan refer to: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>.

#### 4.10.7 Existing Problems

In the *Annual Review 2023* the Climate Change Advisory Council advised that, at the current rate of policy implementation, Ireland will not meet the targets set in the first and second carbon budget periods unless urgent action is taken immediately and emissions begin to fall much more rapidly.

Air quality and noise can present challenges, especially in urban areas, as detailed under the relevant sub-sections above. With regard to air quality, air pollution from transport is dominated by NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Of these, NO<sub>2</sub> is particularly impactful from a health perspective. The Plan will help to facilitate reductions in emissions and a transition from dependence on fossil fuel combustion powered transport.

### 4.11 Material Assets

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

#### 4.11.1 Public Assets and Infrastructure

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

#### 4.11.2 Land

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

### 4.11.3 Green Infrastructure

Parks and open space promote health and well-being, provide recreational facilities and range of habitats for various species. Green infrastructure is also a crucial component in building resilient communities capable of adapting to the consequences of climate change with trees, woodlands and wetlands providing carbon capture and slowing water flows while improving air quality.

### 4.11.4 Woodland

Woodlands provide recreational opportunities in addition to their heritage and economic benefits. They are a valuable resource in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism, and also important as links in the green infrastructure network.

### 4.11.5 Peatlands

There are areas identified as being underlain by peat soils within parts of the north and south of the Plan area, to the east of the Shannon. Peatlands provide a valuable natural and archaeological resource. Peatlands are also important controllers of water levels in river catchments, providing a source of water in dry conditions and soaking up excess water during wetter periods; they actively capture and hold carbon and are an important natural resource in combatting climate change. Cutaway bogs have the potential to facilitate land uses such as employment, renewable energy generation, waste management, industrial, and tourism and recreation. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues.

### 4.11.6 Transport

Carrick-on-Shannon is strategically located near a number of well-served transport routes, including the N4, which traverses the centre of the town, and links the Plan area to Sligo, Longford and Mullingar. Carrick-on-Shannon is located on the Dublin Connolly-Sligo train line, served by Irish Rail. Carrick-on-Shannon is also served by a number of bus companies, including Bus Éireann, Local Link and private bus companies. Regional and local roads provide vital links between the town and retail,

service and employment centres throughout the County and to adjoining counties.

A Local Transport Plan (LTP) has been integrated into the Plan. The purpose of the LTP is to guide the future transport and mobility needs of Carrick-on-Shannon, taking into account the transport demand from existing and projected development both within the Plan boundary and surrounding area.

### 4.11.7 Minerals and Aggregates

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

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

### 4.11.8 Water Services

#### 4.11.8.1 Wastewater

The EPA's 2023 report '*Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2022*' identified that:

- 15 large urban areas that did not meet European Union treatment standards in 2022 require improvements to comply with these standards;
- 26 towns and villages discharging raw sewage into the environment every day must be connected to wastewater treatment plants;
- 6 collecting systems (sewers) must be upgraded to address the findings of a judgement from the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- 39 priority areas require improvements to protect rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters that are adversely impacted by wastewater; and
- 12 areas need improvements in wastewater treatment to protect endangered freshwater pearl mussels.

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

From January 2014, Irish Water, now Uisce Éireann, became responsible for all public water services, involving the supply of drinking water and the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. Uisce Éireann is also responsible for the treatment and disposal of

the sludge that is generated from both its water and waste water treatment plants. The Council is an agent of Uisce Éireann for operations and remains the designated Water Authority for the assessment and approval of on-site wastewater treatment systems and is responsible for surface water drainage in the town.

The provision of well-maintained quality wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to facilitate sustainable development of the town while also protecting the environment and public health. Uisce Éireann is now responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of waste water where public wastewater facilities exist in towns and villages.

Uisce Éireann, working in partnership with Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council, are making investments to undertake essential upgrade works to waste water treatment plants in towns and villages across the County. The upgrading of infrastructure will contribute towards compliance with the Water Framework Directive, EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Drinking Water Regulations and will help to protect human health and maintain the quality of surface and ground waters.

#### 4.11.8.2 Wastewater Infrastructure

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) serving Carrick-on-Shannon is currently not listed as a priority area<sup>40</sup> (such areas are those where improvements are required to resolve urgent environmental issues).

The Carrick-on-Shannon WWTP has a design capacity of 11,500 Population Equivalent (PE), with current load of 5,900 PE.<sup>41</sup> As indicated by Uisce Éireann, there is spare capacity available.<sup>42</sup>

The Carrick-on-Shannon WWTP (Registration No. D0154-01) is currently fully compliant with

the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence in the most recent available Annual Environmental Report 2023 (published in March 2024).<sup>43</sup>

#### 4.11.8.3 Water Supply

Uisce Éireann is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout County Leitrim and Roscommon.

Carrick-on-Shannon is located within the Carrick-on-Shannon Water Resource Zone<sup>44</sup> and as identified by Uisce Éireann, there is potential capacity available to meet targeted population growth by 2032, although an improvement in level of service is required.<sup>45</sup>

The Water Supply Schemes (WSS) for the Plan area include the South Leitrim Regional Public Water Supply, which sources water from the Carrick-on-Shannon Water Treatment Plant and serves a population of 15,390 persons. The Water Treatment Plant produces approximately 10,500 m<sup>3</sup>/day of water.<sup>46</sup>

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above. The most recent EPA Remedial Action List (Q4 of 2023, published in January 2024)<sup>47</sup>

<sup>43</sup> [https://www.water.ie/docs/aers/2023/D0154-01\\_2023\\_AER.pdf](https://www.water.ie/docs/aers/2023/D0154-01_2023_AER.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> A Water Resource Zone (WRZ) is an independent water supply system serving a region, city, town or village and is governed by topography or the extent of the water distribution network in an area. A WRZ may include multiple Water Treatment Plants and/or sources.

<sup>45</sup> Capacity constraints exist, connection applications will be assessed on an individual basis considering their specific load requirements - Level of service (LoS) improvement required to meet 2032 population targets. Improvement proposals will include but are not limited to leakage reduction and/or capital investment. These proposals will be required to maintain/improve levels of service as demand increases. These proposals will be developed & prioritised through the National Water Resources Plan and investment planning process. Source: <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/water-supply-capacity-register/leitrim/> (Published in June 2023).

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/audit-reports/leitrim/South-Leitrim-Regional-Audit-24012023.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Available at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/annual-drinking-water-reports/Copy-of-Q4-2023-RAL-for-Drinking-Water-Supplies-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/waste-water/priority-areas-list-current.php> (Published in April 2024).

<sup>41</sup> [https://www.water.ie/docs/aers/2023/D0154-01\\_2023\\_AER.pdf](https://www.water.ie/docs/aers/2023/D0154-01_2023_AER.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> Uisce Éireann: Settlements with Waste Water Discharge Authorisations - *Wastewater Treatment Capacity Register*. The register provides an indication of available wastewater treatment capacity based on loads received in 2021 and available treatment plan capacity now or by completion of a project by 2024 (where relevant). Available at: <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/wastewater-treatment-capacity-register/leitrim/> (Published in June 2023).

does not include any water scheme that supplies the Plan area.

#### **4.11.8.4 Surface Water Drainage**

Leitrim County Council and Roscommon County Council are responsible for surface water drainage in the Plan area. Sustainable urban Drainage systems (SuDS) is a method to minimise the quantity and increase the quality of surface water runoff and to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change. SuDS can also provide amenity and biodiversity benefits. The Councils seek to ensure the sustainable management of surface water discharges in urban areas through the use of SuDS.

### **4.11.9 Waste Management**

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, 2024) sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030. The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.

#### **4.11.10 Existing Problems**

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

The provisions of infrastructure and supporting services for development, particularly water and wastewater services, is critical.

## **4.12 Cultural Heritage**

### **4.12.1 Archaeological Heritage**

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

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

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

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts. Monuments of architectural and historical interest also come within the scope of the Acts. Monuments include: any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections; any cave, stone or other natural product, whether or not forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position; any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or, ritual, industrial or habitation site; and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any such cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site, situated on land or in the territorial waters of the State, but excludes 'any building or part of any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes' (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004). A recorded monument is a monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the RMP set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Notification within which requirements for notifications of proposed works apply.

There are 24 sites and monuments located within the Plan area. Figure 4.15 shows the spatial distribution of recorded monuments within and beyond the Plan area. Clusters of monuments are located within the centre of the Plan area and across the town's hinterland, including: the town; earthwork



sites; church sites; ringforts; and enclosures. The largest of these archaeological sites (LE031-005) is found in the town core, with most of the town core lying within a zone of archaeological potential.<sup>48</sup>

The Underwater Archaeology Unit was established within the National Monuments Service to manage and protect Ireland's underwater cultural heritage, including the quantification of the underwater resource and assessing development impacts in order to manage and protect this aspect of Ireland's heritage. The Shipwreck Inventory is principally a desktop survey with information gathered from a broad range of cartographic, archaeological and historical sources, both documentary and pictorial. Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance. Such Orders can also be used to designate areas of seabed or land covered by water to more clearly define and protect wreck sites and archaeological objects. Under the legislation all diving on known protected wreck sites or with the intention of searching for underwater cultural heritage is subject to licensing requirements.

Waterbodies within and surrounding the Plan area may contain many features and finds associated with riverine heritage such as shipwrecks, piers, quay walls, fords, stepping stones and associated archaeological objects and features.

## 4.12.2 Architectural Heritage

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

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as

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

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

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage<sup>49</sup> of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

There are a total of 54 protected structures currently in the town (41 in Carrick-on-Shannon and 13 in Cortober)<sup>50</sup>. Clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within the town's centre, as shown on Figure 4.16 include: St. George's Mausoleum; the Courthouse; Hartley Manor; Old Quay Walls; and remains of a tower/fort.

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. There is currently one ACA designated within the Plan area: Carrick-on-Shannon ACA (St. George's Terrace; Main Street; and Bridge Street).

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a State initiative under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage

<sup>49</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 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.

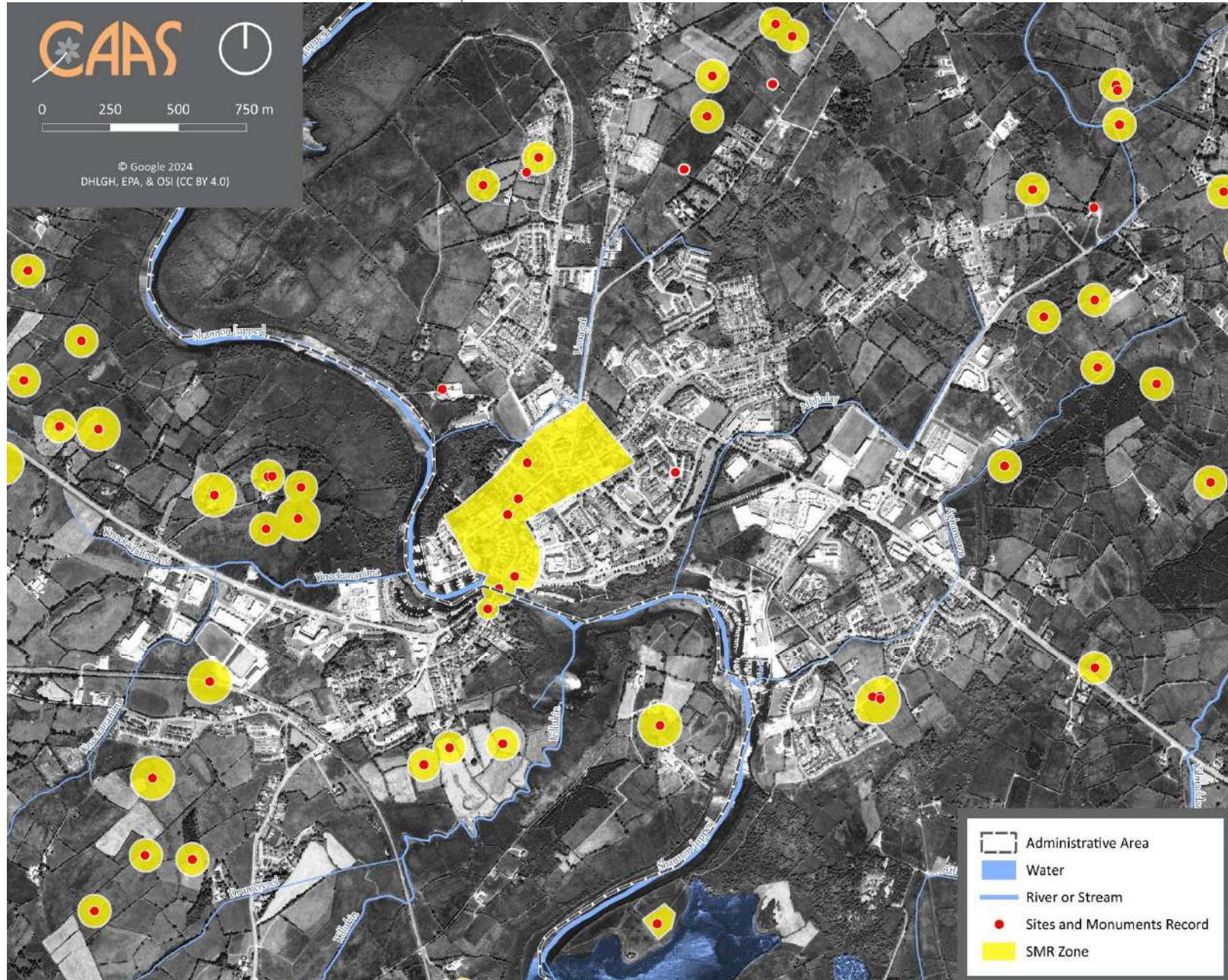
<sup>50</sup> Carrick-on-Shannon JLAP 2025-2031

<sup>48</sup> Carrick-on-Shannon JLAP 2025-2031

(National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the local authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH includes historic gardens and designed landscapes. Figure 4.16 shows entries to NIAH in the Plan area.

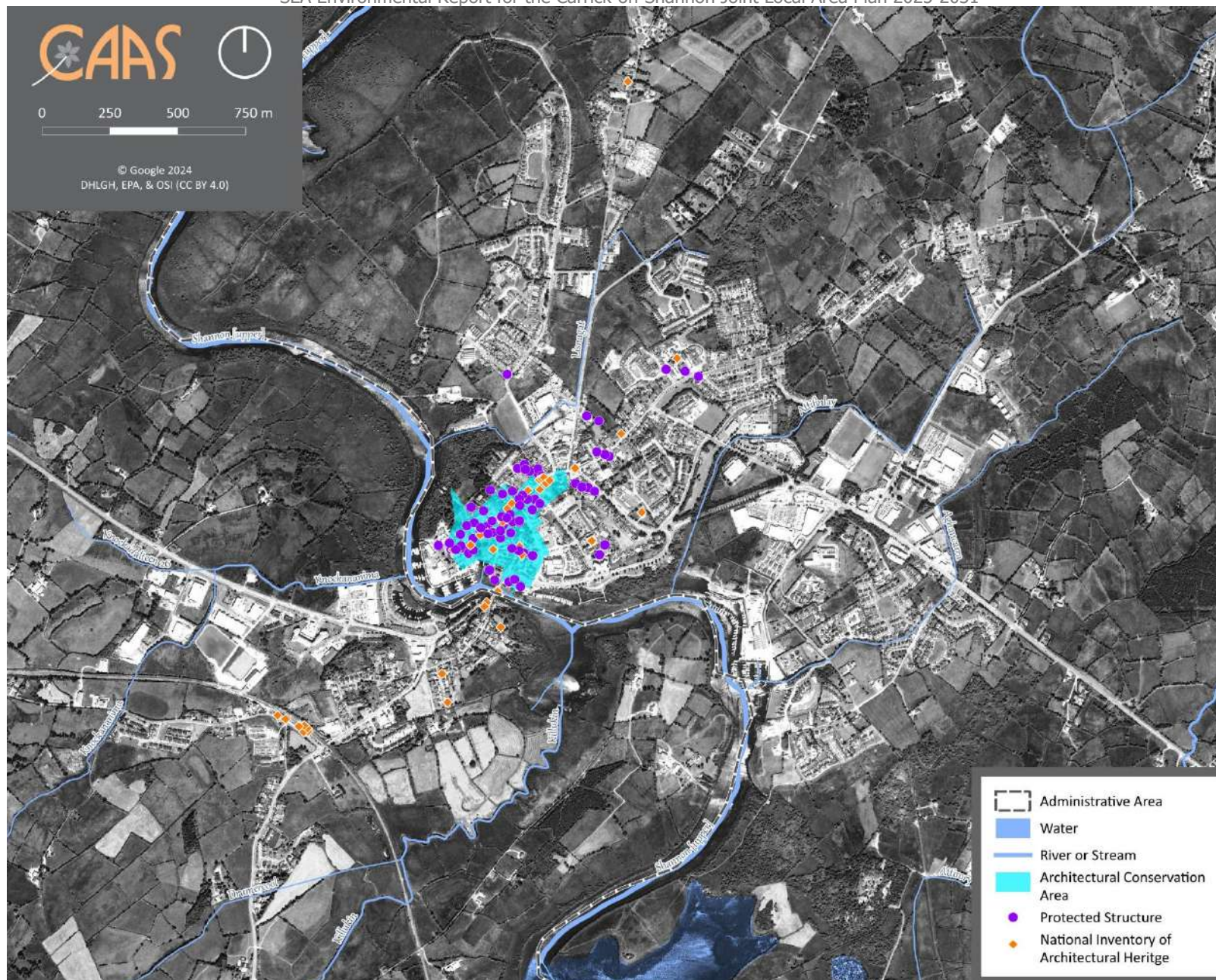
### **4.12.3 Existing Problems**

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



**Figure 4.15 Archaeological Heritage**





**Figure 4.16 Architectural Heritage**



## 4.13 Landscape

### 4.13.1 Introduction

Article 1 (a) of the European Landscape Convention provides a definition of landscape as follows; "Landscape means an area, as perceived by people whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural/or human factors". The European Landscape Convention was ratified in Ireland in 2002, this required EU Member States to adopt national measures to promote landscape, planning, protection and management. The importance of landscape and visual amenity and the role of its protection are recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, which requires that Development Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

Carrick-on-Shannon is located on relatively flat land, with the River Shannon flowing from the north-west to the south-east through the centre of the Plan area. The land surrounding the Plan area is predominantly agricultural with areas of peatlands identified within parts of the north and south of the Plan area, to the east of the Shannon.

### 4.13.2 Landscape Character Assessment

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

There are a range of different landscapes found in the Plan area, each with varying visual and amenity values, topography, exposure levels and each containing a variety of habitats. Each landscape type has varying capacity to absorb development related to its overall sensitivity.

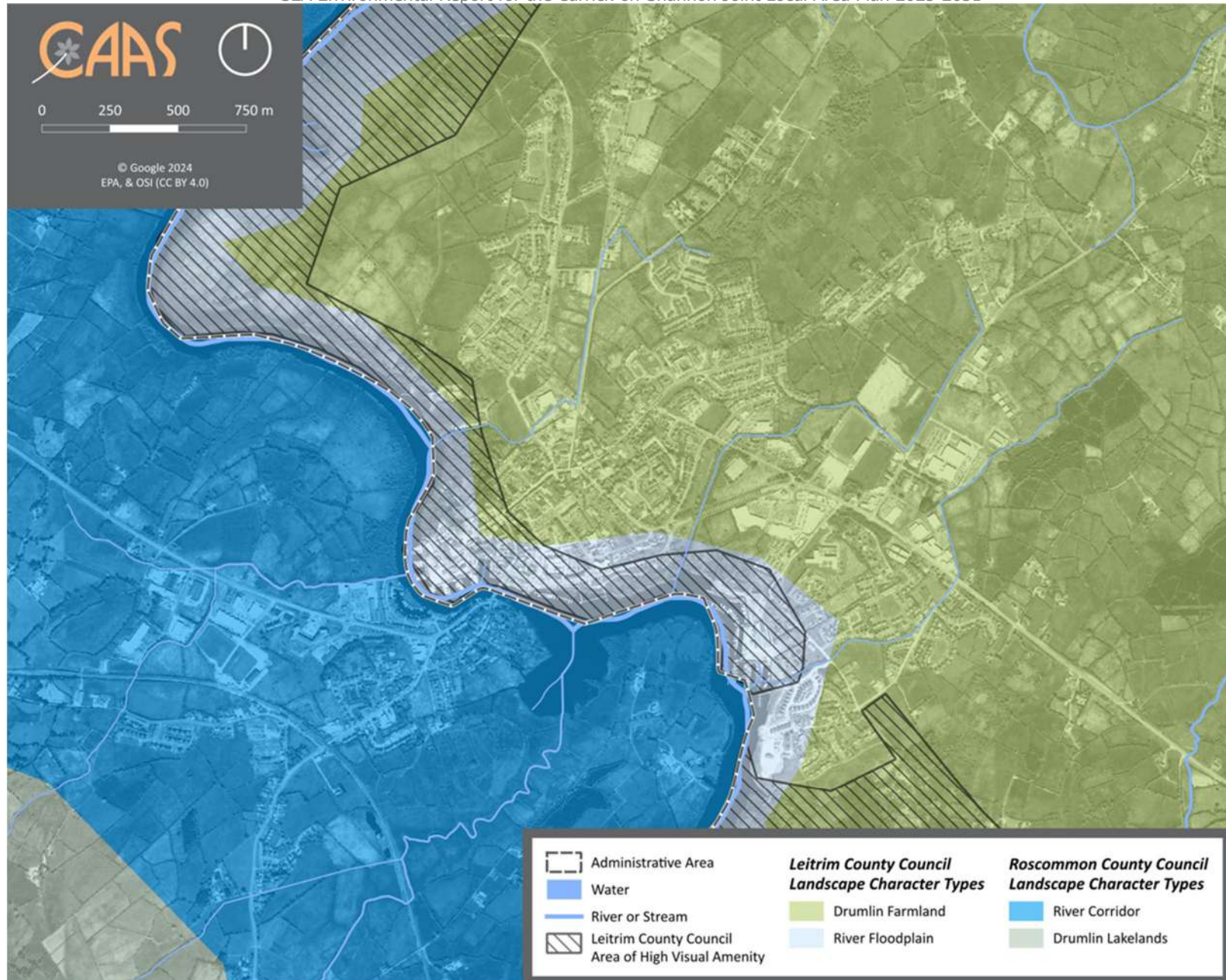
The existing Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 identifies 17 Landscape Character Types, 14 Landscape Character Areas and 29 Scenic Views and Prospects within Leitrim County Council's administrative area. The Plan area is located within the 'Drumlin Farmland with Peat Bogs' and 'River Floodplains' Landscape Character Types (as shown on

Figure 4.17) and 'South Leitrim Drumlins and Shannon Basin' Landscape Character Area (as shown on Figure 4.18). There are no Scenic Views and Prospects within the Plan area situated in County Leitrim.

The existing Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 identifies seven Landscape Character Types, 36 Landscape Character Areas, 26 Scenic Views and nine Scenic Routes within Roscommon County Council's administrative area. The Plan area is located within the 'River Corridor' Landscape Character Type (as shown on Figure 4.17) and Lough Corry Drumlin Basin Landscape Character area (as shown on Figure 4.18). There are no Scenic Views and Routes within the part of the Plan area situated in County Roscommon. There is one Area of High Amenity located within the Plan area, 'River Shannon and Lakes'.

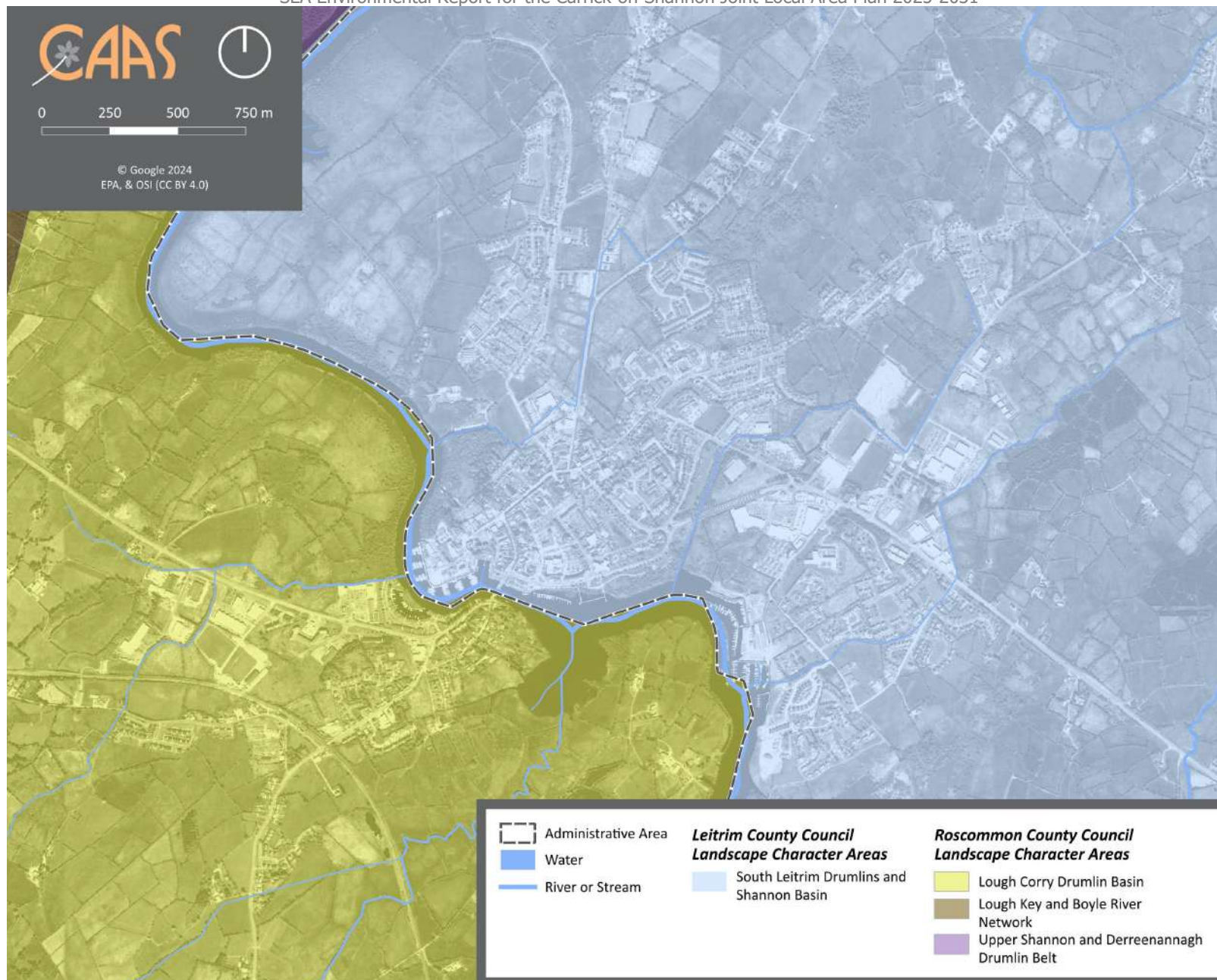
### 4.13.3 Existing Environmental Problems

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



**Figure 4.17 Landscape Character Types**





**Figure 4.18 Landscape Character Areas**



## **Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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

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

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

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

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

Given the position of the Local Area Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans, the measures identified in the SEAs for those County Development Plan SEAs have been used as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

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

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condition of European sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> <li>Status of water quality in water bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 11 “Heritage” and Roscommon County Development Plan Chapter 10 “Natural Heritage”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 11 “Heritage” and Roscommon County Development Plan Chapter 10 “Natural Heritage”</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>Safeguard citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 4 “Economic Development, including Retail” and Roscommon County Development Plan Chapter 6 “Economic Development”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 4 “Economic Development, including Retail” and Roscommon County Development Plan Chapter 6 “Economic Development”</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping/data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping/data</li> </ul>

## SEA Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>• Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield</li> <li>• Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF</li> <li>• In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement</li> <li>• To map brownfield and infill land parcels</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status'</li> <li>• Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals - this includes transport infrastructure</li> <li>• Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>• Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>• Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>• Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated</li> <li>• Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> <li>• Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in-combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure</li> <li>• See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>



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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity.</li> <li>• Reduce average energy consumption per capita</li> </ul>		
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>• Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>• Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>• Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>• NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>• Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors<sup>51</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets</li> <li>• Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets – including the legally binding targets of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, for Ireland to reach a target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels).</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share of renewable energy in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 sectoral target for transport (RES-T) of 14%, by 2030 (this may be increased following a provisional European agreement on 30 March 2023 for a binding overall RES target of at least 42.5% by 2030)</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating</li> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating</li> <li>• Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the using private fossil fuel-based car compared to</li> </ul>

<sup>51</sup> Also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.6.5 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically.

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

## Section 6 Description of Alternatives

### 6.1 Introduction

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

Alternatives for the Plan are identified under a number of types below and assessed in Section 7.

### 6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the existing, already in force, Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are significantly limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region and the County Development Plans. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as land use zoning and the sustainable development of towns, including Carrick-on-Shannon.

### 6.3 Alternatives Already Considered

The preparation of the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans and associated SEA process already considered various different types of alternatives, including those relating to population allocations and settlement roles. The selected alternatives for the County Development Plans set requirements for lower tier planning in the Counties and have been integrated into the Local Area Plan as appropriate.

#### 6.3.1 Compact Development Alternatives

Two alternatives for compact development are identified as follows (there are various alternative components under each alternative):

##### **Compact Development Alternative A: "More Consolidated, More Compact Development"**

- Carrick-on-Shannon to reach population allocation, resulting in balanced orderly development and implementation of the Core Strategies of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028.
- This alternative involves preparing the Plan that is strongly guided by existing and planning infrastructure, including green and blue infrastructure, transport infrastructure and social and community infrastructure.
- The physical infrastructure required to be in place to achieve the growth targets is already in place or planned.
- At least 30% of all new homes to be provided within the existing built-up footprint on infill and/or brownfield sites.
- Development proposals would be developed in a planned and coordinated manner focused within Town and Outer Core areas.
- Opportunity Sites are identified with clear design and proposed uses provided.



### **Compact Development Alternative B “Less Consolidated, Less Compact Development”**

- Carrick-on-Shannon to reach population allocation, resulting in balanced orderly development and implementation of the Core Strategies of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028.
- This alternative involves preparing the Plan that is not strongly guided by existing and planning infrastructure, including green and blue infrastructure, transport infrastructure and social and community infrastructure.
- Additional infrastructure would be required to accommodate sporadic development, more than would be required for Alternative A “More Consolidated, More Compact Development” and some development may have to be serviced by private waste water treatment systems which would have to be properly maintained.
- A greater proportion of new residential development to take place on certain peripheral, outer fringe lands (beyond the existing development envelope) over the lifetime of the Plan, with 30% less likely to be achieved within the existing built-up footprint on infill and/or brownfield sites (in comparison with Alternative A “More Consolidated, More Compact Development”).
- Town centre development would be sporadic and uncoordinated around Town and Outer Core zonings.
- Opportunity Sites are identified, but no clear guidance on the design parameters or uses is provided.

## **6.4 Ecosystem Services Approach Alternatives**

The importance of fulfilling natural capital<sup>52</sup> and ecosystem<sup>53</sup> service obligations has increasingly emerged in recent years. An Ecosystems Services Approach would provide a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. An Ecosystems Services Approach would include the integration of ecological considerations at a local level across the Plan area.

- **Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative A:** A Plan that follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree
- **Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative B:** A Plan that does not follow, or follows to a lesser degree, an Ecosystems Services Approach

## **6.5 Local Transport Plan Alternatives**

A Local Transport Plan would assist in placing sustainable transport considerations to the forefront of land use planning decisions in the formulation of the Plan. It would examine existing and proposed transport infrastructure for all modes of transport, including walking and cycling, and would provide some insight into existing transport patterns and constraints, facilitating the integration of land use and transport provisions.

- **Local Transport Plan Alternative A:** Inform the Plan with a Local Transport Plan, which focuses on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to more sustainable modes.
- **Local Transport Plan Alternative B:** Do not inform the Plan with a Local Transport Plan, which focuses on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to more sustainable modes, relying solely on existing provisions, including those of the County Development Plans.

<sup>52</sup> Renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals).

<sup>53</sup> Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing.

## 6.6 Built Heritage Alternatives

Built heritage in Carrick-on-Shannon includes both architectural and archaeological heritage. These alternatives consider the degree to which built heritage and conservation are provided for at a local level in Carrick-on-Shannon.

- **Built Heritage Alternative A:** A Plan that adds detailed, local-level provisions to the existing planning framework relating to the conservation of built heritage.
- **Built Heritage Alternative B:** A Plan that does not add detailed, local-level provisions to the existing planning framework relating to the conservation of built heritage, relying solely on existing provisions, including those included as part of the County Development Plans.

## Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

### 7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects<sup>54</sup> of implementing available alternatives that are described in Section 6. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve conflict with or have a neutral interaction with the receiving environment.

### 7.2 Methodology

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

The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 7.2 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other in order to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

- Interactions that would be *likely to improve the status* of a particular SEO would be likely to contribute towards a significant positive effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates, including in-combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework.
- Interactions that would *potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated* would be likely to result in potential significant negative effects; however, these effects could be mitigated by integrating measures into the Plan.
- Interactions that would probably *conflict with the status of an SEO and would be unlikely to be mitigated* would be likely to result in a significant residual negative effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.

Effects considered include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

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

**Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>55</sup>**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>• Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>• Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>• Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>• To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital</li> </ul>

<sup>54</sup> These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

<sup>55</sup> See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>Safeguard citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield sites</li> <li>Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and waste water capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion</li> <li>Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals</li> <li>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, and grids</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<b>C</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure).</li> <li>Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets.</li> <li>Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention</li> </ul>

**Table 7.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of the Alternatives on SEOs**

Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs  <b>+</b>	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated  <b>-</b>	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated  <b>-</b>	<b>No</b> Likely interaction with status of SEOs  <b>0</b>
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## 7.3 Detailed Assessment of Alternatives

### 7.3.1 Effects Common to all Alternatives

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

**Table 7.3 Effects Common to All Alternatives**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated</b>
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</li> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of soils and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>Potential for riverbank erosion.</li> </ul>

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated</b>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>

### **7.3.2 Assessment of Type 2: Compact Development Alternatives**

#### **Compact Development Alternative A: “More Consolidated, More Compact Development”**

Under this Compact Development Alternative, the town would reach its population allocation under the core strategies as contained in the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans.

The approach under this alternative would allow for water supply, waste water, compact growth, public transport and co-ordinated development considerations to be integrated into the Plan to the highest degree.

The infrastructure required to be in place to achieve the growth targets is already in place or planned under this alternative.

The development of the Town and Outer Core areas would be more compact and sustainable under this scenario and would better support the longer-term viability of the settlement. 30% of residential units would be expected to take place within the existing built-up footprint on infill and/or brownfield sites, with a greater focus on use of consolidation and regeneration sites, with potential for wider regeneration benefits to the town centre, including housing provision. Regeneration, reuse and redevelopment of more central and brownfield and infill lands and optimising the use of vacant, derelict, and underutilised sites and buildings would be more likely to be achieved.

Giving a strong preference to lands that have both greater capacity to satisfy the principles of active travel and a more realistic opportunity of being developed over the lifetime of the Plan and giving a focus to Opportunity Sites (with clear design and uses identified – making successful applications for the sustainable, compact development of the town more likely) would allow for the proper planning and sustainable development of the town as envisaged by the wider planning framework to the greatest degree.

There would be greater potential and viability for integrated land use and transportation under this alternative, including proximate development patterns linked by active travel infrastructure and public transport. Associated benefits and improvements to the public realm and appearance of the built environment, including liveability and quality of life improvements, would be more likely.

This Compact Development Alternative would make the greatest contribution towards the protection and management of the environment by facilitating development of lands (including those within the Town and Outer Core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. There would be a reduced need for greenfield land consumption under this alternative. This Compact Development Alternative would be considered the most effective out of both Compact Development Alternatives considered in the delivery of a sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient future for the town.

The approach under Compact Development Alternative A ‘More Consolidated, More Compact Development’ would benefit the protection of various environmental components. Although potentially adverse effects associated with land use development would exist, they would be mitigated to a significant degree. Less residual environmental effects would result.

Under this alternative there would be:

- More optimum use of land and resources, with positive role for addressing climate change, such as potential for reduced carbon heavy travel patterns.
- Greater potential for modal shift to sustainable travel such as walking, cycling and public transport, with knock on benefits for climate resilience in the Plan area.

- Use of already serviced lands in more central and built-up urban area could lead to potential reduced costs for delivery of new supporting infrastructure.
- Creation of more liveable built environments, with greater accessibility to services and amenities for local communities.

### **Compact Development Alternative B: "Less Consolidated, Less Compact Development"**

Under this Compact Development Alternative, the Town would reach its population allocation under the core strategies as contained in the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans.

The approach under this alternative would not allow for water supply, waste water, compact growth, public transport and co-ordinated development considerations to be integrated into the Plan to the highest degree.

Additional infrastructure would be required to accommodate sporadic development, more than would be required for Alternative A 'More Consolidated, More Compact Development' and some development may have to be serviced by private waste water treatment systems which would have to be properly maintained.

The development of the Town and Outer Core areas would be less compact and less sustainable under this scenario and would not optimally support the longer-term viability of the settlement. 30% of residential development would be less likely to be achieved within the existing built-up footprint on infill and/or brownfield sites in comparison with Alternative A 'More Consolidated, More Compact Development'. Under this alternative there would be potential for greater proportion of housing to be delivered outside of the built-up area, including on urban fringe and outer suburban areas and on greenfield sites, creating unsustainable travel patterns with a reliance on the private car. Giving less of a preference to lands that have both greater capacity to satisfy the principles of active travel and a more realistic opportunity of being developed over the lifetime of the Plan and giving less of a focus to Opportunity Sites (there would be no clear guidance on the design parameters or uses provided – making successful applications for the sustainable, compact development of the town less likely) would allow for the proper planning and sustainable development of the town as envisaged by the wider planning framework to a lesser degree.

There would be greater potential for negative impacts on the vitality and viability of the built-up area (including Town and Outer Core areas), due to increased and sustained levels of vacancy and dereliction for existing buildings and brownfield lands. This alternative would be likely to result in a more dispersed pattern of low-density urban development, that would be more difficult to serve with active travel infrastructure and public transport.

This Compact Development Alternative would make less of a contribution towards the protection and management of the environment by facilitating development of lands (including those within the Town and Outer Core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services. Demand to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area would be provided for. This Compact Development Alternative would be considered the least effective out of both Compact Development Alternatives considered in the delivery of a sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient future for the town.

The approach under Alternative B 'Less Consolidated, Less Compact Development' would benefit the protection of various environmental components to a lesser degree. Although potentially adverse effects associated with land use development would exist, they would be mitigated to in many cases; however, more residual environmental effects would result.

Under this alternative there would be:

- An increase in car dependency and associated carbon heavy travel patterns, which would undermine efforts aimed at securing climate resilience.



- Increased suburban pattern of residential development with potential for self-contained and disconnected built environments.
- Reduced potential for modal shift to sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- Potential for increased costs associated with the delivery on new supporting infrastructure (roads, footpaths etc.) in more peripheral and outer suburban areas.
- Increased costs for the delivery of necessary supporting infrastructure for urban fringe, outer suburban areas and greenfield sites.

Compact Development Alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.4.

Selected Compact Development Alternative for the Plan: A "More Consolidated, More Compact Development"

**Table 7.4 Assessment of Compact Development Alternatives against SEOs**

Compact Development Alternative (selected alternative indicated in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs		Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated		Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
	<b>+</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>
	to <b>Greater</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Lesser</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Lesser</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Greater</b> degree <sup>a</sup>		
<b>A. "More Consolidated, More Compact Development"</b>	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>			
B. "Less Consolidated, Less Compact Development"		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		

### 7.3.3 Assessment of Ecosystem Services Approach Alternatives

**Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative A "A Plan that follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree"** would integrate a strategy throughout the Plan for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

Principles that would be integrated throughout the Plan, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, would include:

- Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function
- Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation or recreation, culture and quality of life
- Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them.

This would mean that there would be:

- An increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive effects occurring with regard to natural capital<sup>56</sup> and ecosystem service issues, such as the management of air

<sup>56</sup> Renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals)

quality, noise pollution, light pollution, pollination, flood risk, water bodies and river basins and natural resources supporting energy production and recreation; and

- A decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on natural capital and ecosystem services.

Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative A "A Plan that follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree" would, to the greatest extent:

- Underpin the requirement for nature-based solutions, green and blue infrastructure to be incorporated into development proposals at the detailed design stage, with corresponding recognition of the role natural environment in moderating and adapting to the effects of climate change.
- Contribute to flood prevention and storage capacity measures for development proposals in the Plan area.
- In the formulation of the layout and design of development proposals, contribute to a focus on the conservation, protection and restoration of the natural environment in the Plan area.
- Encourage the use of SuDS for development proposals in the Plan area, offering a more sustainable approach to the management of urban storm water runoff than impermeable surfaces, and conventional underground pipe and storage-based solution. This would contribute to offsetting the impacts of climate change and increase climate resilience.
- Provide more benefits for recreation, amenity, and biodiversity.
- Promote more healthy living environments for local communities.
- Contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improve health and wellbeing.

**Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative B: "A Plan that does not follow, or follows to a lesser degree, an Ecosystems Services Approach"** would not integrate a strategy throughout the Plan for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. This approach would be less coordinated and comprehensive than would be the case under an Ecosystems Services Approach.

This would mean that there would be:

- A decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive effects occurring with regard to natural capital and ecosystem service issues; and
- An increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on natural capital and ecosystem services.

Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative B: "A Plan that does not follow, or follows to a lesser degree, an Ecosystems Services Approach" would result in:

- Greater potential for focus and reliance on conventional less sustainable surface water drainage methods in the Plan area, such as single function piped drainage and attenuation/storage measures.
- Reduced climate resilience in the built environment.
- Reduced scope for introduction of nature-based flood alleviation measures in development proposals.
- Greater potential for increased costs in the delivery of conventional surface water drainage infrastructure.
- Greater potential for biodiversity and habitat fragmentation.
- Reduced potential for urban greening measures in the built environment.

Ecosystem Services Approach Alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.5.

Selected Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative for the Plan: A "A Plan that follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree"

**Table 7.5 Assessment of Ecosystem Services Approach Alternatives against SEOs**

Ecosystem Services Approach Alternatives (selected alternative indicated in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs  <b>+</b>		Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated  <b>-</b>		Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated  <b>-</b>	No <b>Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs  <b>0</b>
	to <b>Greater</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Lesser</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Lesser</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Greater</b> degree <sup>a</sup>		
<b>A. "A Plan that follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree"</b>	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>			
B: "A Plan that does not follow, or follows to a lesser degree, an Ecosystems Services Approach"		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		

### 7.3.4 Assessment of Local Transport Plan Alternatives

Informing the Plan with a Local Transport Plan, which focuses on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to more sustainable modes, (**Local Transport Plan Alternative A**) would provide a more coordinated and more orderly provision of transport infrastructure and services, with delivery of projects, and associated benefit with respect to sustainable mobility and compact development, more likely. This approach would be more likely to improve the potential for meeting important objectives relating to emissions and energy use. Potentially adverse impacts on environmental components including ecology and water would need to be adequately mitigated at project level.

Local Transport Plan Alternative A would:

- Support greater alignment between and integration of land use planning and transport planning.
- Ensure the assessment of transport demand and its associated impact informs the scale of development proposals, including location, density, required transport infrastructure etc.
- Facilitate a greater shift towards a more sustainable, healthy, and low carbon-built environment.
- Prioritise of active travel measures and considerations in the formulation of development proposals, including the consideration of suitable land for development.
- Promote and encourage a modal shift from the private car to walking and cycling, particularly for short to medium distance trips.
- Prioritise walking, cycling and public transport accessibility.
- Result in improvements in the built environment for the safety and security of those walking and cycling.
- Potentially reduce traffic congestion at peak traffic times, improving road network reliability.

Alternative A would be more likely to result in more connected and accessible built environments, with associated positive benefits for the health and wellbeing of local communities. Alternative A would contribute to the transition of the Plan area to a more low-carbon, climate resilient and healthy urban environment, with reduced car dependency and an increase in sustainable travel such as walking and cycling.

Not informing the Plan with a Local Transport Plan, which focuses on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to more sustainable modes, (**Local Transport Plan Alternative B**) would provide a less coordinated and less orderly provision of transport infrastructure and services, with delivery of projects, and associated benefit with respect to sustainable mobility and compact development, less likely. This approach would be less likely to improve the potential for

meeting important objectives relating to emissions and energy use. Potentially adverse impacts arising from more coherently planned transport developments on environmental components, including ecology and water, could be mitigated at both Plan and project level.

Local Transport Plan Alternative B would:

- Increase the potential for land use planning and developments aspects of the Plan to be considered in isolation of transport planning considerations.
- Mean that the assessment of existing traffic, transport, and movement conditions within the Plan area would not be taken into account in the formulation of policies and objectives.
- Undermine ability to plan for efficient movement of people and services within the Plan area.
- Limit the ability and scope to plan for required transport interventions in the Plan area.
- Not inform site specific transport assessment for development proposals with a Local Transport Plan.
- Reduce support for modal shift from private car travel to active travel, including walking and cycling.

There would be greater potential for the existing pattern of car dependency to continue and increase under Alternative B. Alternative B would undermine policies and objectives supporting climate action and the transition to a more low-carbon urban environment. There would be potential for negative impacts on the health and wellbeing of local communities due to absence of measures for targeted active travel infrastructure.

Local Transport Plan Alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.6.

Selected Local Transport Plan Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A

**Table 7.6 Assessment of Local Transport Plan Alternatives against SEOs**

Ecosystem Services Approach Alternatives (selected alternative indicated in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs		Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated		Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
	<b>+</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>
	to <b>Greater</b> degree	to <b>Lesser</b> degree	to <b>Lesser</b> degree	to <b>Greater</b> degree		
<b>A. Inform the Plan with a Local Transport Plan</b>	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>			
B. Do not inform the Plan with a Local Transport Plan		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		



### 7.3.5 Assessment of Built Heritage Alternatives

A Plan that adds detailed, local-level provisions to the existing planning framework relating to the conservation of built heritage (**Built Heritage Alternative A**) would further contribute the protection of existing heritage that is already contributed towards by the existing planning framework. By integrating heritage considerations into the Plan, Alternative A would be most likely to ensure that new development respects the historic grain of the built environment and archaeology that currently exists.

Built Heritage Alternative A would:

- Provide a focus for heritage-led regeneration in the existing built environment including conservation, restoration and reuse of built heritage assets.
- Ensure that the conservation of built heritage, including architectural heritage (protected structures) and archaeology is a key consideration, in the formulation of development proposals, as appropriate.
- Promote and support the conservation of the special character and setting of designated Architectural Conservation Areas in the Plan area.
- Promote the protection, retention, and public awareness of vernacular architecture in the Plan area not listed as protected structures or located in ACAs.
- Promote and support the importance of climate-proofing built heritage assets and by reference to Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht 'Built and Archaeological Heritage, Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan' (2019).

Increased opportunities would be presented for economic vitality, tourism, urban regeneration and placemaking under Alternative A. Under Alternative A, there would be potential to involve local communities in heritage projects, with the aim of improving the socio-economic profile of places, attracting new visitors, business, and residents. Alternative A would result in a reduced need for greenfield land consumption.

A Plan that does not add detailed, local-level provisions to the existing planning framework relating to the conservation of built heritage, relying solely on existing provisions, including those included as part of the County Development Plans (**Built Heritage Alternative B**) would not further contribute the protection of existing heritage that is already contributed towards by the existing planning framework. By not integrating heritage considerations into the Plan, Alternative B would be least likely to ensure that new development respects the historic grain of the built environment and archaeology that currently exists.

Built Heritage Alternative B would:

- Not provide for sufficient consideration of the built heritage in the Plan area at detailed design stage for development proposals.
- Increase the potential for loss of and/or negative impacts on the character and setting of historic built fabric in the Plan area, including protected structures and vernacular architecture.
- Increase the potential to undermine the special character and setting of the designated ACAs in the Plan area.

Under Alternative B, the role of built heritage in the Plan area would not be capitalised on in terms of tourism potential, and the delivery of urban regeneration and placemaking projects.

Built Heritage Alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.7.

Selected Built Heritage Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A

**Table 7.7 Assessment of Built Heritage Alternatives against SEOs**

<b>Built Heritage Alternatives</b> (selected alternative indicated in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs  <b>+</b>		Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated  <b>-</b>		Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated  <b>-</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs  <b>0</b>
	to <b>Greater</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Lesser</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Lesser</b> degree <sup>a</sup>	to <b>Greater</b> degree <sup>a</sup>		
<b>A. A Plan that adds detailed, local-level provisions</b>	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>			
B. A Plan that does not add detailed, local-level provisions		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		

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

Selected alternatives for the Plan from each of the types of alternatives that emerged from the planning/SEA process are indicated above.

Alternatives were selected for the Plan having regard to both:

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

## Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

### 8.1 Introduction

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

The Plan provisions (and, in Section 7, the alternatives) are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 8.2 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the Plan provisions (and, in Section 7, the alternatives) are arrayed against each other in order to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

- Interactions that would be *likely to improve the status* of a particular SEO would be likely to contribute towards a significant positive effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates, including in-combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework.
- Interactions that would *potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated* would be likely to result in potential significant negative effects; however, these effects will be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan, or associated County Development Plans, and residual effects would not be significant (see Table 8.3 of this report).
- Interactions that would probably *conflict with the status of an SEO and would be unlikely to be mitigated* would be likely to result in a significant residual negative effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.

Effects considered include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

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

**Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>57</sup>**

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

<sup>57</sup> See also Section 5



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors<sup>58</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)</li> <li>Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets</li> <li>Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

**Table 8.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of the Plan provisions on SEOs**

Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs  <b>+</b>	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated  <b>-</b>	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated  <b>-</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs  <b>0</b>
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<sup>58</sup> Also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.6.5 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically.

## 8.2 Cumulative Effects<sup>59</sup>

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

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

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

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those which are identified under Table 8.3.

Other policies, plans and programmes that have been considered by the assessment of effects include those which are detailed under Section 2.4 (and associated Appendix I "Relationship with Legislation, Plans and Programmes"), Section 4 and Section 5. Plans and programmes from various sectors will interact with the Plan, including those relating to land use planning. These plans and programmes are subject to their own environmental assessment requirements as relevant. Examples include:

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans and adjoining County Development Plans)
- Leitrim and Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plans of adjoining counties;
- Energy policy, plans and programmes (e.g. Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1, Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010, Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020, National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 and the Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework);
- Climate related policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Climate Policy Position and Climate Action 2014, Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, Climate Action Plans, the National Adaptation Framework 2024, the Leitrim Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the Roscommon Climate Action Plan 2024-2029);
- Water services, waste management, transport and energy infrastructure plans (e.g. Uisce Éireann's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan, National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024 and Transportation Policies and Strategies); and
- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans).

Potential cumulative/in combination effects include:

- Contributions towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, reductions in consumption from non-renewables and associated achievement of legally binding targets (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including energy, transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating:

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<sup>59</sup> The EPA's guidance note 'Good Practice Guidance note on cumulative effects assessment in SEA' has been considered in the assessment.

- Sustainable compact growth;
- Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
- Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
- Sectors including transport, energy, buildings and agriculture; and
- Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green and blue infrastructure.
- Contributions towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating development which must be accompanied by road capacity;
- Facilitation of new development that is accompanied by appropriate levels of water services thereby contributing towards environmental protection;
- Need for and use of water and waste water treatment capacity arising from new developments and associated potential adverse effects;
- Potential cumulative effects upon surface and ground water status as a result of housing, employment, agricultural and forestry – loadings and abstractions;
- Potential cumulative effects (habitat damage, enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to green infrastructure, including beyond the Plan boundary;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands or obstruction of flood paths; and
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, economic, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects are consistent with those described on Table 8.3. These plans and programmes are required to comply with environmental legislation and undergo SEA and AA as relevant comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant.

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

A variety of the issues covered by the Plan provisions are regional and county issues which are considered: at Regional Assembly level, in the Northern and Western RSES and by planning authorities across the Region; and at County level, including through the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans. The solutions to these issues are often regional solutions which are subject to their own consenting procedures. Works arising outside of the Plan area as a result of providing for new development within the Plan area, including works arising as a result of the cumulative provision of development in the wider Counties and region, would potentially conflict with a number of environmental components, across the wider Counties and region and beyond, including: ecology, soil function, the status of water bodies and the landscape. Some of these conflicts would be mitigated by measures which will be integrated into the Plan while some will be mitigated by measures arising out of separate consent procedures.

### 8.3 Overall Evaluation

Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils have integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA process into the Plan (see Section 9). Table 8.3 provides a detailed overall evaluation of the environmental effects arising from the Plan. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation integrated into both the Plan and the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans – see Section 9.

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

**Table 8.3 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Plan**

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



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

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

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Northern and Western RSES, the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> <li>• In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>○ Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</li> <li>○ Sectors including transport, energy, buildings and agriculture;</li> <li>○ Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality<sup>60</sup>.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors<sup>61</sup>.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility.</li> <li>• Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</li> </ul>	<b>AC</b>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the Plan area by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>	<b>CH</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>	<b>L</b>

<sup>60</sup> Although road transport interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within the Plan area and beyond.

<sup>61</sup> Although road transport interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within the Plan area and beyond.

## **8.4 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for Screening for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The conclusion of the Screening for AA is that the Plan is not foreseen to have any likelihood for any significant effect on any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and Screening for AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the Screening for AA have informed the SEA.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Area Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The SFRA has informed both the land use zoning and the written provisions of the Local Area Plan.

## **8.5 Interrelationship between Environmental Components**

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

Likely significant effects on environmental components which are identified include those which are interrelated; implementation of the Plan will not affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.4.



**Table 8.4 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components**

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

## 8.6 Detailed Evaluation

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **BFF**, **PHH**, **S**, **W**, etc. refer to Table 8.1 on page 72.

The following applies to each of the sub-sections 8.6.1 to 8.6.10 below:

The Plan is situated in a hierarchy of documents setting out public policy setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management, such as the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the National Climate Action Plans, the National Adaptation Framework 2024, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region, the Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans, the Leitrim Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the Roscommon Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (for additional detail please refer to Section 2.4 "Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes" in this report).

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

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

### 8.6.1 Chapter 1: Introduction and Context

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Chapter 1 sets out the Vision and the Statutory Context for the Plan. The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>The Vision for the Plan is to "respond positively to the distinct setting and built form of the area and to continue to create an environment that the local community and visitors can relate to and identify with in terms of its scale and quality"</p> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p>	+	-	-	0
	<b>BFF PHH</b> <b>S W MA A</b> <b>C CH L</b>	<b>BFF PHH S</b> <b>W MA A C</b> <b>CH L</b>		

<p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>				
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## 8.6.2 Chapter 2: Town Centre First and Regeneration

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Chapter 2 sets out the Plan's provisions on issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Centre Development</li> <li>The Carrick-on-Shannon Town Centre First Plan</li> <li>Placemaking</li> <li>Active Land Management</li> <li>Opportunity Sites</li> </ul> <p>Primary Goals and opportunities of the Town Centre First Plan comprise: improving the connection to the river; improving arrival gateways; and promoting town centre vitality and activity.</p> <p>Key Opportunity Sites comprise: Opportunity Site 1: Lands to the rear of Bridge Street and Main Street; Opportunity Site 2: Site Adjacent to Carrick-on-Shannon Post Office; Opportunity Site 3: Lands to the rear of Main Street, accessed off Church Lane; Opportunity Site 4: Lands on Leitrim Road (adjacent to Leitrim Hardware) Opportunity Site 5: Lands adjacent to Carrick-on-Shannon Fire Station; Opportunity Site 6: Lands to rear of Cortober Heights; Opportunity Site 7: Former Factory Site, St. Patrick's Park; Opportunity Site 8: Lands across from Carrick-on-Shannon Train Station; and Opportunity Site 9: Men's Shed Site and adjoining Dwelling House.</p> <p>The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p>	+	-	-	0
	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		

<p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>				
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### 8.6.3 Chapter 3: Economic Development and Tourism

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 3 sets out the Plan’s provisions on economic development and tourism.</p> <p>An area 39 Ha of lands have been identified in the plan area for appropriate employment development. Lands zoned Industrial and Enterprise are located on the outskirts of the town, mainly to the eastern and western edges of the town. The areas identified are easily accessible to the N4. The zoning of land to the east of the town facilitates one of the key future priorities for the town of Carrick-on-Shannon as identified in the RSES which is facilitate the sustainable development of a new regionally significant opportunity site. Phase 2 Industrial and Enterprise is included in the Plan to identify lands that will be developed over the period of the next Plan.</p> <p>The town’s Core Retail Area and two Outer Retail Park areas are identified as are key tourism interventions, the Blueway Project, the Greenway Project, Public Realm Works and Night-time economy. Green and blue infrastructure are often developed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas associated with rivers and streams.</p> <p>This Chapter contributes towards the provision of land use activities and developments relating to tourism – and would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors and associated potential adverse effects. Such effects would include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, including tourism. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, energy, access or accommodation. Mobility has the potential to impact upon emissions, energy usage and infrastructural capacity. Accommodation and hospitality has the potential to impact upon land-take, water service capacity and water resources, energy usage. Tourism activities and products, especially in semi natural areas, have the potential to impact upon ecology, heritage, water and the landscape.</p> <p>The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO’s BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p>	<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>	<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>		



<p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>				
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## 8.6.4 Chapter 4: Homes and Communities

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 4 sets out the Plan's provisions on homes and communities, under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating Sustainable Communities</li> <li>Compliance with Core Strategies</li> <li>Compact Growth</li> <li>Tiered Approach to Land Zoning</li> </ul> <p>A Settlement Capacity Audit has been prepared alongside the Plan to assess the suitability of lands for future development and has been carried out utilising a standardised Tier 1 and Tier 2 methodology termed in the National Planning Framework as a Tiered Approach to Zoning. Together with the application of density ranges, this has resulted in a number of different sites around the town, with varying densities being applied, being zoned for residential purposes. There is a total of 21.05 Ha proposed for residential purposes on 12 sites and it is considered that there are sufficient lands zoned to meet the housing targets outlined in both County Development Plan Core Strategies.</p> <p>The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc.</p>	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		

<p>Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>				
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## 8.6.5 Chapter 5: Climate Action and Flood Risk

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 4 sets out the Plan’s provisions on climate action and flood risk.</p> <p>This Chapter integrates climate action into the Local Area Plan in support of national, regional and local targets and objectives, covering both climate adaptation and mitigation. The Local Area Plan will contribute towards climate action in combination with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Climate Action Plan that identifies various climate mitigation and/or adaptation actions.</li> <li>• The National Planning Framework, which has identified National Strategic Outcome Objectives 8 “Build Climate Resilience” and 9 “Support the transition to low carbon and clean energy” under National Strategic Outcome 8 “Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society”.</li> <li>• The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that includes various provisions relating to climate action;</li> <li>• The Leitrim County Development Plan (throughout, including at Chapter 12: “Climate Action and Renewable Energy”);</li> <li>• The Roscommon County Development Plan (throughout, including at Chapter 8: “Climate Action, Energy and Environment”); and</li> <li>• The Leitrim Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and Roscommon Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.</li> </ul> <p>As part of the Leitrim Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, the Carrick-on-Shannon Decarbonising Zone was established. This Zone will be a focus for sustainable place-based climate action opportunities including mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity enhancement, to deliver the National Climate Objective at local and community levels to provide a test bed of learning and understanding on the scale of the challenge, that can be applied elsewhere in County Leitrim (Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029).</p> <p>A number of decarbonisation opportunities have been identified for Carrick-on-Shannon which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting Carrick-on-Shannon as a hub for greener tourism and natural heritage,</li> <li>• Harnessing blue infrastructure,</li> <li>• Transforming energy efficiency,</li> <li>• Promoting active travel and greener transport,</li> <li>• Encouraging green action among businesses,</li> <li>• Enhancing awareness among the community.</li> </ul> <p>The Plan supports both Council’s Climate Action Plans and contributes towards the framework for the transition of Carrick-on-Shannon town towards a low</p>	<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>	<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>		

<p>carbon and climate resilient settlement as identified in Leitrim's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.</p> <p>Sustainable drainage and flood risk management provisions would contribute towards the protection and management of human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, water status and existing infrastructure and services. Flood risk management infrastructure (if required) has the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas and adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems can contribute towards the maintenance and improvement in the status of water bodies and flood risk management and positively interact with other environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <p>The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>				
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## 8.6.6 Chapter 6: Movement and Transport

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs  +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated  -	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated  -	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs  0
<p>Chapter 6 sets out the Plan's provisions on movement and transport, under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use Planning and Transportation</li> <li>• Strategic Function of the N4</li> <li>• N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project</li> <li>• Carrick-on-Shannon Local Transport Plan</li> </ul>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

- Public Transport

Sustainable transport and movement related provisions, including those from the Local Transport Plan that accompanies the Plan, would contribute towards the planning framework for the future development of sustainable transport and movement, in combination with the implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans and programmes. Many of these provisions would primarily contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air (including noise and greenhouse gas emissions), energy usage, air quality and human health.

The development of new, and enhancement of existing, walking and cycling routes has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components, including habitats, at certain locations.

The development of sustainable transport and travel related infrastructure, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams.

The facilitation of journeys by car, in particular, would give rise to emissions to air. Although interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases in traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels.

As identified in the Plan: "The detail associated with new transport infrastructure projects referred to in this Plan and associated LTP, including locations and any associated mapping, that are not already permitted or provided for by existing plans / programmes / etc. is non-binding and indicative. Such new projects shall be subject to feasibility assessment, taking into account the environmental constraints and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for such projects where appropriate. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements."

Projects would need to comply with the provisions of the Development Plans as relevant, including those relating to corridor and route selection.

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

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

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

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:

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

## 8.6.7 Chapter 7: Social and Community Infrastructure

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 7 sets out the Plan's provisions on social and community infrastructure. A Social Infrastructure Audit was carried out as part of the Plan preparation process to ascertain the level and type of existing services and facilities, and facilitate the development of appropriate provisions that are detailed in this chapter.</p> <p>The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>	<b>BFF PHH</b> <b>S W MA A</b> <b>C CH L</b>	<b>BFF PHH S</b> <b>W MA A C</b> <b>CH L</b>		



## 8.6.8 Chapter 8: Built and Natural Heritage

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 8 sets out the Plan's provisions that focus on protecting the built and natural heritage of the Plan area, including under the following topics: Protected Structures &amp; Sites &amp; Monuments; Architectural Conservation Area; Designated Sites; Protected Species; Invasive Species; Green Infrastructure; and Urban Habitats.</p> <p>The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

## 8.6.9 Chapter 9: Land Use Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 9 sets out the Plan's land use strategy.</p> <p>Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach.</p> <p>Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Northern and Western RSES.</p> <p>The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that provide for flood risk management and ecological protection and management at project level.</p> <p>Also considered were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water.</p> <p>The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO's BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>	<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>	<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>		

## 8.6.10 Implementation and Monitoring

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 9 sets out details on implementation and monitoring. The assessment of this chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and</li> <li>Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the town to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils are helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>	<b>BFF PHH</b> <b>S W MA A</b> <b>C CH L</b>	<b>BFF PHH S</b> <b>W MA A C</b> <b>CH L</b>		

## Section 9 Mitigation Measures

### 9.1 Introduction

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

Mitigation was achieved through:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Councils to ensure evidence-based planning;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan;
- The integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan;
- The integration of individual provisions into the text of the Plan; and
- The integration of individual provisions into the text of the existing, already in force, County Development Plans.

### 9.2 Strategic work undertaken by the Councils to ensure evidence-based planning

The Plan has been prepared to deliver a collaborative and integrated framework for the future development of the town.

It is the first such joint plan for the town and it has a strong focus on the development of both the Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober areas of the town.

In preparing the Plan, information relating to various sectors, from different Departments within the Councils and from different bodies and organisations, was gathered and analysed, contributing towards the development of evidence-led Plan provisions. This work included undertaking a Settlement Capacity Audit, undertaking a Social Infrastructure Audit and preparing a Local Transport Plan.

The undertaking of the SEA process was part of this strategic work and contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed under Table 9.1.

### 9.3 Consideration of Alternatives

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

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

## **9.4 Integration of individual provisions into the zoning provisions of the Plan**

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

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

The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that provide for flood risk management and ecological protection and management at project level.

## **9.5 Integration of individual provisions into the text of the Plan and the County Development Plans**

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

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

In addition to the individual provisions integrated into the text of the Local Area Plan, individual provisions relating to environmental protection and management have already been integrated into the existing, in force, Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans. These measures, which must be complied with by development under the Local Area Plan, are identified alongside the Local Area Plan measures on Table 9.1.



**Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan<sup>62</sup>**

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
<b>Various – see below</b>	Various – see below	<b>Carrick-on-Shannon Local Transport Plan (LTP)</b> Such new projects shall be subject to feasibility assessment, taking into account the environmental constraints and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for such projects where appropriate. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements.	<b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b> Development Management Standards from Chapter 13 of the Plan ILU POL 6 New transport infrastructure projects, including blueways and greenways, that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes, which have been subject to environmental assessment, or are not already permitted, will be subject to feasibility assessment, considering need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report, and objectives relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken, where appropriate, in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. This Corridor and Route Selection Process will not be applicable to national roads schemes which are required to be progressed in accordance with statutory processes and TII Publications, including the Project Management Guidelines and Project Appraisal Guidelines. <b>Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 7</b> Where projects for new infrastructure, including green infrastructure, are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects should be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process should be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. Continued investment in improvements to the road network is vital to maintain the carrying capacity of the network. In order to ensure that the investment, as well as the function of the national road network is not undermined, all development proposals involving access onto National Primary and National Secondary roads will be assessed having regard to the provisions of Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012).
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	BNH 5 Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity value of the River Shannon, and associated tributaries, and ensure that all development proposals, individually or cumulatively, do not negatively impact on the status of waterbodies, subject to Water Framework Directive exemptions, and river access. BNH 6 Protect existing ecological assets, and enhance where appropriate, the provision of biodiversity features in urban areas through the development management process, including in pre-planning application discussions, and in Local Authority own developments. BNH 7 Support and work with all relevant bodies/stakeholders/local communities in the development of and protection of Green Infrastructure in the town. BNH 8 Ensure that any proposals for the lighting/flood lighting of waterways infrastructure, buildings or pedestrian/cycling routes along waterways within the Plan area incorporate bat friendly lighting schemes as set out in <i>Bats and Lighting, Guidance Notes for: Planners, engineers, architects, and developers</i> (Bat Conservation Ireland, December 2010). BNH 9 Encourage and enhance ecological features by making provision for local biodiversity (e.g. through provision of swift boxes, bat roost sites, green roofs etc) as part of development management proposals. BNH 10 Explore the potential for the development	<b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b> BG OBJ 4 To deliver a Blueway linking Carrick-on-Shannon to Leitrim Village and onwards to Battlebridge subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives. WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive. PL POL 1 To control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance. TOUR POL 6 To seek to sustainably manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects, such as blueways and greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones. TOUR POL 7 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving consent for development shall seek to sustainably manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects to sensitive habitats, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate. ADV TOUR OBJ 4 To prepare Habitat and Visitor Management Plans for the protection of areas which are particularly sensitive to visitors subject to the availability of funding. The first such plan will be developed for Sheemore. RUR ECON POL 5 The Council will provide for the sustainable development of fisheries, where this is in compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and other ecological protection objectives. Where new infrastructure is being provided, it should be positioned at already modified locations where feasible and sedimentation and siltation issues should be considered, with floating infrastructure used where feasible. Fishery related developments may necessitate the preparation of a Visitor/Habitat Management Plan that includes requirements in relation to sustainable fishing practices that would not affect the ecological site integrity and invasive species. AGR OBJ 1 To facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution. <b>Natural Heritage Policies</b> NH POL 1 To protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. NH POL 2 To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, including to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects with the potential to impact European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or

<sup>62</sup> Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>of a new wetland ecology park off the Leitrim Road, Carrick-on-Shannon.</p> <p>BNH 11 Require, where the presence of invasive species is identified on any proposed development site, that robust treatment measures are detailed to demonstrate how these species will be appropriately managed and controlled.</p> <p>ED 12 Explore the provision of additional marina facilities to include public mooring berths in conjunction with Waterways Ireland on lands south of the existing marina owned by The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland. Any such proposals shall require ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive as part of the development management consent process.</p>	<p>in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, and the Planning and Development Act, as relevant.</p> <p>NH POL 3 To protect designated Natural Heritage Area (NHA) sites, including proposed Natural Heritage Area sites (pNHA) and seek to develop linkages between designated sites and other non-designated sites of ecological importance, where feasible and as resources permit.</p> <p>NH POL 4 To consult with relevant prescribed bodies, such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoHLGH), and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law.</p> <p>NH POL 5 To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law, subject to satisfactory mitigation measures.</p> <p>NH POL 6 To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.</p> <p>NH POL 8 To protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within the County, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>NH POL 9 To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.</p> <p>NH POL 10 To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.</p> <p><i>Natural Heritage Objectives</i></p> <p>NH OBJ 1 To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site(s), having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or 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 alone or in combination with other plans or projects) .</p> <p>NH OBJ 2 To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current SACs is contained in Table 1 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 3 To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Protection Areas during the lifetime of this plan. There is current one SPA in Co. Leitrim which is contained in Table 2 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 4 To protect and conserve Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) that become designated and notified to the Local Authority during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current NHAs and proposed NHAs are contained in Table 3 and 4 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 5 To protect the character, appearance and quality of the habitats and semi-natural features in County Leitrim such as woodlands, hedgerows, peatlands, wetlands and artificial waterways of historic or ecological importance.</p> <p>NH OBJ 6 To promote, in partnership with the relevant agencies, the development and implementation of codes of best practice through initiatives such as the Local Floral Pride initiatives, Community Environmental Action and the Green Schools projects.</p> <p>NH OBJ 7 To encourage appropriate management of landscape features, particularly through the development management process and using planning agreements with landowners and developers, where appropriate.</p> <p>NH OBJ 8 To identify and map over the lifetime of the Plan habitats and green infrastructure / sites of local biodiversity value of county importance and to raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity.</p> <p>NH OBJ 9 To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p> <p>NH OBJ 10 To support the implementation of the actions contained in the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025 when finalised, or any successor plan, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and subject to the availability of the necessary funding sources.</p> <p><i>Peatlands Policies</i></p> <p>PEAT POL 1 To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the County.</p> <p>PEAT POL 2 To seek hydrological reports for significant developments within and close to peatlands, to assess potential impacts on the integrity of the peatland ecosystems.</p> <p><i>Trees, Woodlands &amp; Hedgerows Policies</i></p> <p>TWH POL 1 To discourage the felling of healthy mature trees to facilitate development and to encourage the retention of healthy mature trees within developments to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>TWH POL 2 To require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments as appropriate. (See Table 5 in this regard).</p> <p>TWH POL 3 To support the Native Woodland and Neighbourhood schemes and other initiatives that aim to establish and enhance woodlands for recreational and wildlife benefits, in partnership with local communities.</p> <p>TWH POL 4 To protect and preserve existing hedgerows and minimise their removal. Where their removal is necessary, to seek their replacement with new hedgerow material native to the area (See Table 5 in this regard).</p> <p>TWH POL 5 To retain distinctive boundary treatment such as stone walls, when undertaking, authorising or approving development. Where the loss</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>of the existing boundary is unavoidable as part of development, to ensure that the wall is re-built using local stone and local vernacular design.</p> <p><i>Objectives</i></p> <p>TWH OBJ 1 To use Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands, as appropriate which may be at risk or have an amenity, biodiversity or historic value during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p><i>Pollinators Objective</i></p> <p>POLL OBJ 1 To manage and restore semi-natural habitats and their native plants on Council land in as far as is practicable and affordable.</p> <p><i>Invasive Species Policy</i></p> <p>IS POL 1 To require relevant development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 and the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species 1143/2014.</p> <p><i>Nature-Based Approaches and Green Infrastructure – Policies</i></p> <p>NBGI POL 1 To actively promote and encourage nature-based approaches and green infrastructure solutions as viable mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce GHG emissions, increase the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and optimise the multifaceted benefits through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation, promotion, and restoration of the natural environment;</li> <li>• Integrating an ecosystem services approach and promote healthy living environments through enhanced connection with nature and recreation/amenity;</li> <li>• Enhancing biodiversity in urban and rural settings;</li> <li>• Assist with water and flood risk management; and</li> <li>• Carbon storage or sequestration.</li> </ul> <p><b>Roscommon County Development Plan</b></p> <p><i>Overarching Planning Principles - Assessments</i></p> <p>Specific assessments may be required to enable the Planning Authority to make a decision on a planning proposal having regard to legislative requirements and/or to ensure compliance with the Development Plan. Assessments that may be required as part of planning proposals, in certain instances, include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natura Impact Statement (in order to inform the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process)</li> <li>• Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)</li> <li>• Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Traffic and Transport Assessment</li> <li>• Architectural Assessment</li> <li>• Archaeological Assessment</li> <li>• Landscape Appraisal and Visual Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Ecological Assessment</li> <li>• Design Statement</li> </ul> <p>Proposals for development will be assessed in terms of potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures should be included in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level. Proposals shall also ensure that investigations are carried out in relation to the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed. The EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant.</p> <p><i>Natural Heritage</i></p> <p>NH 10.1 Ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.</p> <p>NH 10.2 Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan, including no net loss in biodiversity, and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p> <p>NH 10.3 Implement the County Roscommon Heritage Plan and the Biodiversity Action Plan, or any subsequent plans, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>NH 10.4 Proposals where woodland, tree or hedgerow removal is proposed will be required to demonstrate a sufficient level of protection to Annex IV species, such as Bats and Otter, in accordance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>NH 10.5 Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) will be required for proposed developments likely to significantly impact on natural habitats and/or species, and which are not subject to Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>NH 10.6 Require all new developments in the early pre-planning stage of the planning process to identify, protect and enhance ecological features by making provision for local biodiversity (e.g. through provision of swift boxes, bat roost sites, green roofs, etc.) having regard to the recommendations outlined in the Habitat Mapping in Co. Roscommon, 2011 and the County Roscommon Swift Survey, 2020.</p> <p>NH 10.7 Implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>in relation to works, plans and projects likely to impact on European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.</p> <p>NH 10.8 Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects are permitted that give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects, (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects)<sup>63</sup>.</p> <p>NH 10.9 Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted unless in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>NH 10.10 Actively promote the conservation and protection of areas designated as an NHA (including proposed sites) and to only consider proposals for development within or affecting an NHA where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposed development will not have a significant adverse effect on the NHA or pNHA.</p> <p>NH 10.11 Preserve and protect sites of county geological importance from inappropriate development where they comprise designated sites or national heritage areas;</p> <p>NH 10.12 Promote and facilitate the development of geo-tourism in County Roscommon where it does not have a detrimental impact on designated sites or features of geological interest.</p> <p>NH 10.13 Encourage the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where practically possible. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be required.</p> <p>NH 10.14 Promote and encourage planting of native hedgerow species in new developments.</p> <p>NH 10.15 Ensure that hedgerows that are required to be removed in the interests of traffic safety or where breaches to hedgerows occur in compliance with relevant legislation, are replaced by the applicant/developer with suitable native species to the satisfaction of the Council.</p> <p>NH 10.18 Manage, enhance and protect the wetlands of the county having regard to the County Roscommon Wetland Survey (2017) and ensure that there is an appropriate level of assessment in relation to proposals which would involve draining, reclaiming or infilling of wetland habitats. The Council shall be available to engage with the NPWS with the objective of facilitating the monitoring and surveying of wetland sites in Roscommon.</p> <p>NH 10.19 Ensure that the county's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and to conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county. The Council shall be available to engage with the NPWS with the objective of facilitating the monitoring and surveying of wetland sites in Roscommon.</p> <p>NH 10.20 Protect waterbodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. To this effect, consideration should be given to Inland Fisheries Ireland's guidance document Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment (2020).</p> <p>NH 10.21 Support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>NH 10.22 Encourage and enhance, where appropriate, the provision of biodiversity features in urban areas through the preparation of local area plans/settlement plans, green infrastructure strategies and through the development management process.</p> <p>NH 10.23 Require all development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to 2015.</p> <p>NH 10.24 Ensure, where the presence of invasive species is identified on any proposed development site, that robust treatment measures are detailed to demonstrate how these species will be appropriately managed and controlled.</p> <p>NH 10.25 Minimise visual impacts on areas categorised within the County Roscommon Landscape Character Assessment including "moderate value", "high value", "very high value" and with special emphasis on areas classified as "exceptional value" and where deemed necessary, require the use of Visual Impact Assessment where proposed development may have significant effect on such designated areas.</p> <p>NH 10.26 Protect important views and prospects in the rural landscape and visual linkage between established landmarks, landscape features and views in urban areas.</p> <p>NH 10.27 To co-ordinate with all adjoining Local Authorities in reviewing Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) to ensure consistency in classification and policy in adjoining areas of similar character. A targeted review of the LCA shall be undertaken following the completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment, and any associated statutory Guidelines as well as the Regional Landscape Character Assessment to be</p>

<sup>63</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>completed by the Regional Assembly.</p> <p>NH 10.28 Create an integrated and coherent green infrastructure network to enhance biodiversity and quality of life, provide sustainable water management and a green setting for urban areas.</p> <p>NH 10.29 Facilitate the on-going development and improvement of green infrastructure in the Plan area, including green networks, green amenities and linked green corridors which ensure the provision of recreational amenities, natural areas for the growth of wildlife and biodiversity, and a network of infrastructure which results in a better quality of life for visitors and inhabitants alike.</p> <p>NH 10.30 Prepare and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the county in partnership with key stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>NH 10.31 Support the development of strategic greenways, blueways and peatways in the county in accordance with the Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018).</p> <p><i>Sustainable design</i></p> <p>Sustainable design elements are essential and should be considered at the initial design stage of the development process. These elements will influence and help determine the layout, siting and the orientation of building(s), height, form, materials, density and overall functionality as well as the aesthetics of the proposed development. Lighting fixtures should be designed so as to avoid creating glare and should have minimum environmental impact.</p> <p><i>Section 12.18 (Tourism and Recreation Facilities):</i></p> <p>Proposed developments should seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Proposals should also ensure that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/habitat management plans may be required. Considerations should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p>
<b>Population and human health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>ED 1 Support and enhance the sustainable economic growth of Carrick-on-Shannon, consistent with its role as a Key Town through the provision of designated areas for high quality employment, through the expansion and protection of its tourism product and through the enhancement and expansion of its role as a retail destination.</p> <p>ED 2 Promote and facilitate Carrick-on-Shannon town as a destination for enterprise and new economic growth opportunities in the town core and on appropriately zoned land and to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, land- owners, and relevant agencies to attract investment.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p><b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b></p> <p><i>Major Accident Directive Policies</i></p> <p>SEV POL 1 To comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents.</p> <p>SEV POL 2 To have regard to the advice of the Health &amp; Safety Authority when considering proposals for new SEVESO sites.</p> <p>SEV POL 3 To permit new Seveso development only in low risk locations within acceptable distances from vulnerable residential, retail and commercial development.</p> <p><i>Air Quality Policies</i></p> <p>AQ POL 1 To 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 (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>AQ POL 2 To promote air quality improvements, where practicable, through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reduced use of fossil fuels and a resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p><i>Noise Pollution Policies</i></p> <p>NP POL 1 To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>NP POL 2 To require individual development proposals to be assessed against the Noise Assessment Criteria contained in Section ** of Chapter 12, Development Management Standards.</p> <p>NP POL 3 To have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential amenity and public health.</p> <p>NP POL 4 Development proposals should identify and implement noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for development proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads. The costs of implementing mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer, as the Authority will not be responsible for the provision of additional noise mitigation.</p> <p><i>Noise Pollution Objective</i></p> <p>NP OBJ 1 To implement the actions contained in the Leitrim Noise Plan 2018-2023 (or any replacement Plan) which seeks to address environmental noise from major roads in the county and which endeavours to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist.</p> <p><b>Roscommon County Development Plan</b></p> <p><i>Major Accidents Directive Policy Objectives</i></p> <p>ITC 7.67 Liaise with the Health and Safety Authority, notified site operators and other statutory bodies with regard to safety regulations and safety zones when assessing proposals for a new Seveso establishment or modifications to an establishment, and when assessing proposals for development in the vicinity of existing Seveso establishments and implement the provision of land use planning advice and/ or detailed advice as outlined by the H.S.A.</p> <p><i>Overarching Planning Principles - Assessments</i></p> <p>Proposals for development will be assessed in terms of potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures should be included in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p>



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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>Potential for riverbank erosion.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>TC 3 Reinforce the role of the town centre as a primary location for commercial, civic, social, cultural and heritage development through the promotion of new high-quality infill and backland development that consolidates the existing urban core.</p> <p>TC 6 Develop and improve areas in need of regeneration, renewal and redevelopment and to apply, where appropriate, the provisions of the Finance Act, Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, Derelict Sites Act, and use Compulsory Purchase Orders to enable regeneration, reduce vacancy, increase housing supply, employment opportunities and provide community facilities.</p> <p>TC 7 Support and facilitate the role of regeneration schemes in delivering the refurbishment of vacant properties in Carrick-on-Shannon for residential use and as a means of encouraging town centre living in the joint urban area, and subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>TC 9 Facilitate and promote the appropriate development of the Opportunity Sites identified in Carrick-on-Shannon for appropriate uses that will contribute to the renewal, enhancement and regeneration of the town.</p> <p>HC 4 Require that an appropriate mix of housing type, tenure, density and size is provided to ensure the delivery of compact residential growth that aligns with the growth ambitions and density ranges for Carrick-on-Shannon, in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024).</p> <p>HC 5 Implement the land use zoning objectives, and standards in a manner which takes account of and is consistent with the Core Strategies in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028, in order to deliver compact growth and sustainable development.</p> <p>HC 6 Require all residential development proposals to demonstrate compliance with Chapter 13 (Development Management Standards) of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Chapter 12 (Development Management Standards) of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028.</p> <p>HC 7: Implement the density ranges for centre and suburban areas of Key Towns as set out in the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, subject to refinement, in the Opportunity Sites identified in Section 2.5 of the JLAP.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p><b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b></p> <p>WQ POL 10 To assess proposals for development in terms of their impact on human health to include, inter alia, the potential impact on existing adjacent developments, on existing land uses and / or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be introduced in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>WQ POL 11 Where brownfield redevelopment is proposed, adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work.</p> <p>WE POL 2 To ensure that the assessment of wind energy development proposals will have regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sensitivities of the county's landscapes;</li> <li>visual impact on protected views, prospects, designated landscapes, as well as local visual impacts;</li> <li>impacts on nature conservation designations, archaeological areas, county geological sites, historic structures, public rights of way and walking routes;</li> <li>local environmental impacts, including those on residential properties, such as noise and shadow flicker;</li> <li>visual and environmental impacts of associated development, such as access roads, plant and grid connections from the proposed wind farm to the electricity transmission network;</li> <li>scale, size and layout of the project and any cumulative effects due to other projects;</li> <li>the impact of the proposed development on protected bird and mammal species.</li> </ul> <p><i>Areas of Geological Interest Policies</i></p> <p>AGI POL 1 To recognise the need to identify sites of geological interest in the County and to protect these sites in the interest of protecting our geological heritage.</p> <p>AGI POL 2 To protect County Geological Sites from inappropriate development, as outlined in Appendix ** of this Plan.</p> <p><i>Aggregate Resources</i></p> <p>AGG RES POL 8: To ensure that the extraction of minerals and aggregates protects to the maximum practicable extent the visual quality of the receiving landscape and do not adversely affect the environment or adjoining existing land uses.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 9: The use of the following chemicals as a processing agent shall not be permitted as part of any proposed processing operation located above or adjacent to surface or ground waters, or which could potentially impact such waters regardless of their location - mercury, cyanide or cyanide compounds, breakdown products of cyanide, or sulfuric acid. These present an unreasonable risk of environmental harm due to the toxicity of such chemicals and their demonstrated potential to cause damage to the environment.</p> <p><b>Roscommon County Development Plan</b></p> <p>NH 10.11 Preserve and protect sites of county geological importance from inappropriate development where they comprise designated sites or national heritage areas;</p> <p>NH 10.12 Promote and facilitate the development of geo-tourism in County Roscommon where it does not have a detrimental impact on designated sites or features of geological interest.</p> <p><i>Overarching Planning Principles - Assessments</i></p> <p>Proposals shall also ensure that investigations are carried out in relation to the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>HC 8 Implement active land management measures in the redevelopment of buildings and land in Carrick-on-Shannon identified as in need of regeneration, including the use of statutory powers available through the Derelicts Sites Act, Housing Act, Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, and Residential Zoned Land Tax, together with the role of the Town Centre First Policy, Town Regeneration Officers, Croí Cónaithe (Towns), and Vacant Homes Officers.</p> <p>HC 9 Encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for residential uses within the footprint of the existing built-up area.</p> <p>HC 10 Facilitate the development of serviced sites on appropriately zoned lands within the settlement boundary subject to the availability of the necessary funding and resources being available and the confirmation of the availability of necessary services.</p> <p>HC 11 Facilitate additional residential development in established residential areas, in keeping with the existing residential character of the area and adequately protecting the amenity of existing residential properties in the area.</p> <p>HC 12 Encourage and facilitate the restoration and reoccupation of dilapidated and vacant dwellings and other suitable properties in this area, to deliver new housing and regeneration into the area.</p>	
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Section 5.3 "Flood Risk Management":</p> <p>"The Development Framework of the Plan informed by the SFRA ensures a precautionary approach to flood risk management and greenfield lands at risk of flooding is zoned only for agricultural or open space &amp; amenity purposes. The Councils will require all developments within areas identified to be at flood risk to comply with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines (2009). Proposals for development where there is an identified or potential flood risk will be required to carry out a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Justification Test in accordance with these guidelines and the standards of the respective County Development Plans. Such assessments shall apply the precautionary approach and shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures, including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures. The SFRA datasets and the most up to date CFRAM Programme climate scenario mapping, together with the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management provided in the OPW's (2019) Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan and the guidance on potential</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p><b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b></p> <p><i>Water Quality Policies</i></p> <p>WQ POL 1 To protect existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the county and to manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources.</p> <p>WQ POL 2 To support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the current and future cycles of River Basin Management Plans. In this regard, the Council supports mitigation and protection measures for all protected areas, including Drinking Water Protected Areas.</p> <p>WQ POL 3 In conjunction with Irish Water, to have regard to the EPA 2019 publication "Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018" (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p>WQ POL 4 To ensure that the delivery and phasing of water services are subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and avoid impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>WQ POL 5 To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and to comply with the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>WQ POL 6 To discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in any given area to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>WQ POL 7 To seek to protect water quality in areas of high groundwater vulnerability in the consideration of development proposals which rely on individual wastewater treatment systems and which would increase effluent loading from such systems within a concentrated area.</p> <p>WQ POL 8 To provide guidance and advice regarding the protection of water supply to private wells with the overall responsibility remaining with the householder.</p> <p>WQ POL 9 To permit new development only in instances where it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of Irish Water that there is sufficient capacity (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal of waste water to cater for the anticipated loading arising from the proposed development.</p> <p>WQ POL 10 To assess proposals for development in terms of their impact on human health to include, inter alia, the potential impact on existing adjacent developments, on existing land uses and / or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be introduced in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>future scenarios contained therein, should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard.</p> <p>Applications for minor developments such as small-scale infill, small extensions to houses or the rebuilding of houses, and most changes of use of existing uses to existing buildings (residential, commercial or industrial) within flood risk areas will be supported, provided they do not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– obstruct important flow paths;</li> <li>– introduce a significant number of people into flood risk areas;</li> <li>– entail the storage of hazardous substances;</li> <li>– increase the risk of flooding elsewhere or</li> <li>– have adverse impacts or impede access to a water- course, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals of this nature shall be accompanied by a commensurate assessment of the risks of flooding in accordance with The Planning Systems Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 and any future amendments.</p> <p>A Constrained Land Use Strategy is also being used to facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk areas while recognising that existing development uses within these zones may require modifications and/or extensions (Refer to Section 9.3 Constrained Land Use)."</p> <p>CA 12 Protect the flood zones identified in Map 3 of this Local Area Plan from inappropriate development and direct developments/ land uses in accordance with <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (2009) and any revisions thereof.</p> <p>CA 13 Manage flood risk in Carrick-on-Shannon in conjunction with the OPW and in accordance with the requirements of <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (2009) document and any revisions thereof.</p> <p>CA 14 Minimise flood risk arising from surface water flooding in Carrick-on-Shannon by promoting the use of natural flood risk management measures including sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), minimising extent of hard surface/paving, and smart solutions such as innovative green infrastructure. (Refer also to Section 3.5 of the accompanying SFRA "Sustainable Drainage Systems and Surface Water Guidance and Strategy")</p> <p>CA 15 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</p>	<p>WQ POL 11 Where brownfield redevelopment is proposed, adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work.</p> <p><i>Water Quality Objectives</i></p> <p>WQ OBJ 1 To promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect surface water, coastal and transitional waters and groundwater bodies from inappropriate and damaging development.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 2 To achieve our targets of attaining and maintaining a minimum of 'good status' in all water bodies in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and to co-operate with the implementation of the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and subsequent replacement plans. This includes contributing towards the protection of blue dot catchments and drinking water resources whilst having cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 3 To implement the measures of the River Basin Management Plan, including continuing to work with communities thought the Local Authority Waters Programme to restore and improve water quality in the identified areas of action.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 4 To ensure that development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on water quality including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 5 To request the Geological Survey of Ireland to complete a Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Leitrim to assist in decision making by the Local Authority on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 6 To promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation measures in existing and new development within the County and encourage demand management measures among all water users.</p> <p><i>Flood Risk Management Policies</i></p> <p>FRM POL 1 To adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. In accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, the avoidance of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response.</p> <p>FRM POL 2 To ensure that a flood risk assessment is carried out for any development proposal, in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and Circular PL2/2014. This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development.</p> <p>FRM POL 3 To consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto. In addition, to promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>FRM POL 4 To protect and enhance the County's floodplains and wetlands as 'green infrastructure' which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>FRM POL 5 To protect the integrity of any formal flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defense infrastructure or compromise any proposed new defense infrastructure.</p> <p>FRM POL 6 To ensure that where flood risk management works take place that the natural, cultural and built heritage, rivers, streams and watercourses are protected and enhanced to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>FRM POL 7 To ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>FRM POL 8 To consult, where necessary, with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies in the provision of flood alleviation measures in the County.</p> <p>FRM POL 9 To ensure that in assessing applications for developments, that consideration is had to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p>FRM POL 10 Development proposals will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test when required by the Guidelines. Where only a small proportion of a site is at risk of flooding, the sequential approach shall be applied in site planning, in order to seek to ensure that no encroachment onto or loss of the flood plain occurs and/or that only water compatible development such as 'Open Space' would be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site.</p> <p>FRM POL 11 To require proposals for development to comply with requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines including providing detailed design specifications as may be required to facilitate the impact of development.</p> <p>a) Extensions of existing uses or minor development within flood risk areas shall not: obstruct important flow paths; introduce a number of people into flood risk areas; entail the storage of hazardous substances; have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities; or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>b) Applications for development within Flood Zones A or B, and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works, shall be subject to site specific flood risk assessment. Such assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures and shall provide details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following:</p>

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		<p>Zone in accordance with the requirements of <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (2009) document and any revisions thereof.</p> <p>CA 16 Support and co-operate with the OPW in delivering the Carrick-on-Shannon Flood Relief Scheme and ensure that development proposals support and do not impede or prevent the progression of this scheme’.</p>	<p><b>Floor Levels</b> In areas of limited flood depth, the specification of the threshold and floor levels of new structures shall be raised above expected flood levels to reduce the risk of flood losses to a building, by raising floor heights within the building structure using a suspended floor arrangement or raised internal concrete platforms.</p> <p>When designing an extension or modification to an existing building, an appropriate flood risk reduction measure shall be specified to ensure the threshold levels into the building are above the design flood level. However, care must also be taken to ensure access for all is provided in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations.</p> <p>Where threshold levels cannot be raised to the street for streetscape, conservation or other reasons, the design shall specify a mixing of uses vertically in buildings - with less vulnerable uses located at ground floor level, along with other measures for dealing with residual flood risk.</p> <p><b>Internal Layout</b> Internal layout of internal space shall be designed and specified to reduce the impact of flooding [for example, living accommodation, essential services, storage space for provisions and equipment shall be designed to be located above the predicted flood level]. In addition, designs and specifications shall ensure that, wherever reasonably practicable, the siting of living accommodation (particularly sleeping areas) shall be above flood level.</p> <p>With the exception of single storey extensions to existing properties, new single storey accommodation shall not be deemed appropriate where predicted flood levels are above design floor levels. In all cases, specifications for safe access, refuge and evacuation shall be incorporated into the design of the development.</p> <p><b>Flood-Resistant Construction</b> Developments in flood vulnerable zones shall specify the use of flood-resistant construction aimed at preventing water from entering buildings - to mitigate the damage floodwater caused to buildings.</p> <p>Developments shall specify the use of flood resistant construction prepared using specialist technical input to the design and specification of the external building envelope – with measures to resist hydrostatic pressure (commonly referred to as “tanking”) specified for the outside of the building fabric.</p> <p>The design of the flood resistant construction shall specify the need to protect the main entry points for floodwater into buildings - including doors and windows (including gaps in sealant around frames), vents, air-bricks and gaps around conduits or pipes passing through external building fabric.</p> <p>The design of the flood resistant construction shall also specify the need to protect against flood water entry through sanitary appliances as a result of backflow through the drainage system.</p> <p><b>Flood-Resilient Construction</b> Developments in flood vulnerable zones that are at risk of occasional inundation shall incorporate design and specification for flood resilient construction which accepts that floodwater will enter buildings and provides for this in the design and specification of internal building services and finishes. These measures limit damage caused by floodwater and allow relatively quick recovery.</p> <p>This can be achieved by specifying wall and floor materials such as ceramic tiling that can be cleaned and dried relatively easily, provided that the substrate materials (e.g. blockwork) are also resilient. Electrics, appliances and kitchen fittings shall also be specified to be raised above floor level, and one-way valves shall be incorporated into drainage pipes.</p> <p><b>Emergency Response Planning</b> In addition to considering physical design issues for developments in flood vulnerable zones, the developer shall specify that the planning of new development also takes account of the need for effective emergency response planning for flood events in areas of new development.</p> <p>Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details that the following measures will be put in place and maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of flood warnings, evacuation plans and ensuring public awareness of flood risks to people where they live and work;</li> <li>• Coordination of responses and discussion with relevant emergency services i.e. Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána through the SFRA; and</li> <li>• Awareness of risks and evacuation procedures and the need for family flood plans.</li> </ul> <p><b>Access and Egress During Flood Events</b> Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall include details of arrangements for access and egress during flood events. Such details shall specify that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flood escape routes have been kept to publicly accessible land;</li> <li>• such routes will have signage and other flood awareness measures in place, to inform local communities what to do in case of flooding;</li> <li>• this information will be provided in a welcome pack to new occupants.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further Information</b> Further and more detailed guidance and advice can be found at <a href="http://www.flooding.ie">http://www.flooding.ie</a> and in the Building Regulations.</p> <p>c) In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required and the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Development Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date information on flood risk, including that relating to climate scenarios, should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council.</p>

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			<p>FRM POL 12 To require that Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and site-specific Flood Risk Assessments shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>FRM POL 13 To require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A &amp; B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works. These Flood Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events.</p> <p>FRM POL 14 To require the undertaking of site-specific flood risk assessments for applications for development on land identified as benefitting land which may be prone to flooding</p> <p>FRM POL 15 To ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.</p> <p>FRM POL 16 Any potential future variations to and review of the Plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data relating to flood risk.</p> <p><i>Objectives</i></p> <p>FRM OBJ 1 To implement and comply fully with the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared as part of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029.</p> <p>FRM OBJ 2 To implement in conjunction with the Office of Public Works the recommendations contained in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk, subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and undertaking the required environmental assessments.</p> <p><i>Storm Water Management Policies</i></p> <p>SWM POL 1 To implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments to encourage a more sustainable approach to storm water management.</p> <p>SWM POL 2 To resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems, where practicable.</p> <p>SWM POL 3 To require that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>SWM POL 4 To limit the rate of surface water run off to pre development levels for all green-field developments.</p> <p><i>Storm Water Management Objectives</i></p> <p>SWM OBJ 1 To require the use of SuDS to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>SWM OBJ 2 To encourage the use of Green Roof technology particularly on apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings.</p> <p><b>Roscommon County Development Plan</b></p> <p>ITC 7.34 Support Irish Water in the implementation of their capital investment programme to ensure the timely delivery of water and waste-water infrastructure for the county.</p> <p>ITC 7.35 Collaborate with Irish Water in relation to the preparation of their Investment Plans in order to accommodate the target population and employment potential of the county in accordance with the statutory obligations set out in EU and national policy and in line with the Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy set out in this Plan.</p> <p>ITC 7.36 Protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, support the implementation of the Rural Water Programme and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan</p> <p>ITC 7.37 Ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment.</p> <p>ITC 7.38 Work with all stakeholders to promote water conservation and sustainable water usage.</p> <p>ITC 7.39 Ensure that new development proposals connect into the existing public water mains, where available. These will be subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water.</p> <p>ITC 7.40 Ensure that all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer. These will be subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water.</p> <p>ITC 7.41 Support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on sewage treatment works.</p> <p>ITC 7.42 Ensure that adequate storm water infrastructure is provided in order to accommodate planned levels of growth in the county and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>ITC 7.43 Require all new development to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm.</p>



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			<p>ITC 7.44 Prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>ITC 7.46 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (2009), as may be amended.</p> <p>ITC 7.47 Support the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>ITC 7.48 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans. Furthermore, the Council will undertake its obligations under the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>ITC 7.49 Ensure that developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding Risks.</p> <p>ITC 7.50 Require the provision of separate foul and surface water drainage systems.</p> <p>ITC 7.51 Have regard to the EU Flood Risk Directive, the Flood Risk Regulations (S.I. No. 122 of 2010) and the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management and Circular PL2/2014, through the use of the sequential approach and application of the Justification Tests in Development Management.</p> <p>ITC 7.52 Ensure that a flood risk assessment is carried out for development proposals impacting on flood risk areas, in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management. This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development.</p> <p>ITC 7.53 Protect and enhance the county's turloughs, lake/river floodplains and wetlands as strategically important green infrastructure which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater and enables flood risk to be more effectively managed, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>ITC 7.54 Ensure that where flood risk management works take place that the natural and cultural heritage, rivers, streams and watercourses are protected and enhanced.</p> <p>ITC 7.55 Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.</p> <p>ITC 7.56 Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p>
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>CA 1 Support the designated Decarbonising Zone in Carrick-on-Shannon through the compact growth advocated and the recommendations outlined in the Local Transport Plan, to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and improve general environmental conditions in this area.</p> <p>CA 2 Encourage, support and promote the wetlands surrounding Carrick-on-Shannon as a hub for nature-based tourism whilst ensuring that the biodiversity of the wetlands is both maintained and protected.</p> <p>CA 3 Harness and protect the existing Blue Infrastructure in the town and the surrounding area and attract water-based recreation.</p> <p>CA 4 Protect both existing natural and developed Green and Blue Infrastructure from inappropriate development which could negatively impact upon the quality of these areas.</p> <p>CA 5 Encourage and promote the integration of energy efficient systems and renewable technologies in all new development proposals, as well as the retrofitting of existing developments (to include social housing units and commercial and public buildings), in order to increase energy efficiency throughout the built environment in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>CA 6 Encourage and promote the use of Blue and</p>	<p><b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b></p> <p><i>Air Quality Policies</i></p> <p>AQ POL 1 To 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 (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>AQ POL 2 To promote air quality improvements, where practicable, through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reduced use of fossil fuels and a resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p><i>Noise Pollution Policies</i></p> <p>NP POL 1 To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>NP POL 2 To require individual development proposals to be assessed against the Noise Assessment Criteria contained in Section 13.12.2 of Chapter 13, Development Management Standards.</p> <p>NP POL 3 To have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential amenity and public health.</p> <p>NP POL 4 Development proposals should identify and implement noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for development proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads. The costs of implementing mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer, as the Authority will not be responsible for the provision of additional noise mitigation.</p> <p><i>Noise Pollution Objective</i></p> <p>NP OBJ 1 To implement the actions contained in the Leitrim Noise Plan 2018-2023 (or any replacement Plan) which seeks to address environmental noise from major roads in the county and which endeavours to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist.</p> <p><i>Climate Action</i></p> <p>Climate Action Measures from the Plan, and in particular Chapter 12, encompass sectors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Transport</li> <li>Renewable Heat</li> <li>Energy Storage</li> <li>Energy Efficiency and Conservation</li> <li>Agriculture and Forestry</li> <li>Climate Action – Adaptation Measures for Leitrim</li> </ul>

# SEA Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>Green Infrastructure as a mechanism for surface water management and improving public realm.</p> <p>CA 7 Facilitate and encourage the use of and provision of the necessary facilities to encourage public transport, cycling and walking in and around the town to encourage a healthier community.</p> <p>CA 8 Facilitate the provision of additional Electric Vehicle charging stations in the town.</p> <p>CA 9 Require new developments to incorporate best practice in low-carbon and energy efficient planning and techniques as reflected by the policies and objectives in the current Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans and this JLAP, and in accordance with both the Leitrim and Roscommon Climate Action Plans.</p> <p>CA 10 Support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrate land use and transportation, and maximise opportunities through development location, form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon dioxide and greenhouse emissions.</p> <p>CA 11 Support and facilitate the installation of district heating systems as a decarbonising technology in new developments in Carrick-on-Shannon, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>TC 3 Reinforce the role of the town centre as a primary location for commercial, civic, social, cultural and heritage development through the promotion of new high-quality infill and backland development that consolidates the existing urban core.</p> <p>TC 4 Provide high-quality public realm and urban spaces in Carrick-on-Shannon through support for and the promotion of good urban design and placemaking that reinforces a people centred approach to the creation of the built environment.</p> <p>TC 5 Ensure that all public and private development proposals make a positive contribution to the built environment of Carrick-on-Shannon, through adherence to the best practice principles for urban design and placemaking as outlined in Chapter 13 of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023- 2029 and in Chapter 12 of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028.</p> <p>TC 6 Develop and improve areas in need of regeneration, renewal and redevelopment and to apply, where appropriate, the provisions of the Finance Act, Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, Derelict Sites Act, and use Compulsory Purchase Orders to enable regeneration, reduce vacancy, increase housing supply, employment opportunities and provide community facilities.</p> <p>TC 7 Support and facilitate the role of regeneration schemes in delivering the refurbishment of vacant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated Land Use and Transport</li> <li>• Urban and Rural Regeneration</li> <li>• Nature-Based Approaches and Green Infrastructure</li> </ul> <p><i>Overarching Policies</i></p> <p>CA POL 1 To support the implementation of the European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation detailed in the EU Green Deal, Programme for Government 2020, Climate Action Plan 2019, National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2018, Climate Adaptation Strategy, any Regional Decarbonisation Plan, relevant sectoral adaptation plans prepared to comply with the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, the Leitrim Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, or any replacement plans or strategies.</p> <p>CA POL 2 To support the transition of the County towards a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 by providing for consolidated development forms which facilitate the reduction of energy demand and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CA POL 3 To co-operate with and support the role of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).</p> <p>CA POL 4 To provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated development forms in settlements in Co. Leitrim.</p> <p>CA POL 5 To promote and encourage positive community and / co-operative led climate action initiatives and projects that seek to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, enhance green infrastructure and encourage awareness on climate change issues.</p> <p>CA POL 6 To encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p><i>Climate Action – Overarching Objectives</i></p> <p>CA OBJ 1 To work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and relevant stakeholders to deliver and support a number of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) throughout the county.</p> <p>CA OBJ 2 To develop a Decarbonisation Zone in Carrick on Shannon in accordance with Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019. (see also CS OBJ 10 for further detail in this regard).</p> <p>CA OBJ 3 To review the outcomes of the forthcoming update to the Development Plan Guidelines when finalised and to consider reasonable steps to align with the approach to climate change advocated in the guidelines over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>CA OBJ 4 To support the development of both climate mitigation and climate adaptation initiatives and seek funding for the implementation of these initiatives from available sources including the Climate Action Fund administered by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).</p> <p><b>Roscommon County Development Plan</b></p> <p>Specific and detailed commitments for climate action are provided under headings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roscommon Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) Electricity Generation;</li> <li>• Built Environment and Green Spaces;</li> <li>• Transport;</li> <li>• Agriculture;</li> <li>• Nature Based Solutions;</li> <li>• Land Use;</li> <li>• Peatlands and Wetlands;</li> <li>• Forestry; and</li> <li>• Roscommon County Council Climate Action Initiatives.</li> </ul> <p>ITC 7.1 Support and facilitate the integration of land use with transportation infrastructure, through the development of sustainable compact settlements within the hierarchy of settlements as identified within the Core Strategy and which are well served by public transport.</p> <p>ITC 7.2 Promote sustainable land use planning measures which facilitate transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the greater use of public transportation throughout the county.</p> <p>ITC 7.3 Ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.</p> <p>ITC 7.6 Support the continued integration of national, regional and local bus and rail services to ensure the delivery of a fully integrated public transport service.</p> <p>ITC 7.7 Support and encourage public transport providers and rural community transport initiatives to enhance the provision of public transportation services linking the rural villages to the main towns within Roscommon.</p> <p>ITC 7.8 Facilitate the expansion and development of existing and any future proposed rail facilities and supporting infrastructure within the county.</p> <p>ITC 7.9 Collaborate with the National Transport Authority in the preparation and implementation of the Connecting Ireland programme.</p> <p>ITC 7.10 Support the operation of existing bus services and facilitate the provision of improved facilities for bus users in towns and villages. Such provision is particularly required in towns and villages not served by national routes.</p> <p>ITC 7.11 Investigate the potential to develop integrated public transport hubs in the county during the lifetime of this Plan, in order to facilitate improved public transport connectivity and encourage increased usage.</p> <p>ITC 7.12 Provide a safe and modern road network throughout the county, having regard to national and regional policies and guidelines as well as</p>

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		<p>properties in Carrick-on-Shannon for residential use and as a means of encouraging town centre living in the joint urban area, and subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>TC 9 Facilitate and promote the appropriate development of the Opportunity Sites identified in Carrick-on-Shannon for appropriate uses that will contribute to the renewal, enhancement and regeneration of the town.</p> <p>HC 4 Require that an appropriate mix of housing type, tenure, density and size is provided to ensure the delivery of compact residential growth that aligns with the growth ambitions and density ranges for Carrick-on-Shannon, in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024).</p> <p>HC 5 Implement the land use zoning objectives, and standards in a manner which takes account of and is consistent with the Core Strategies in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022- 2028, in order to deliver compact growth and sustainable development.</p> <p>HC 6 Require all residential development proposals to demonstrate compliance with Chapter 13 (Development Management Standards) of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023- 2029 and Chapter 12 (Development Management Standards) of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022- 2028.</p> <p>HC 7: Implement the density ranges for centre and suburban areas of Key Towns as set out in the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, subject to refinement, in the Opportunity Sites identified in Section 2.5 of the JLAP.</p> <p>HC 8 Implement active land management measures in the redevelopment of buildings and land in Carrick-on-Shannon identified as in need of regeneration, including the use of statutory powers available through the Derelicts Sites Act, Housing Act, Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, and Residential Zoned Land Tax, together with the role of the Town Centre First Policy, Town Regeneration Officers, Croí Cónaithe (Towns), and Vacant Homes Officers.</p> <p>HC 9 Encourage the appropriate redevelopment of brownfield and infill sites for residential uses within the footprint of the existing built-up area.</p> <p>HC 10 Facilitate the development of serviced sites on appropriately zoned lands within the settlement boundary subject to the availability of the necessary funding and resources being available and the confirmation of the availability of</p>	<p>liaising with national agencies.</p> <p>ITC 7.13 Support and provide for improvements to the national road network, including reserving corridors for proposed routes, free of development, so as not to compromise future road scheme.</p> <p>ITC 7.14 Maintain and protect the safety, capacity and efficiency of national roads and associated junctions in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012).</p> <p>ITC 7.15 Protect the national road network from inappropriate new access points and the intensification of existing accesses onto or adjacent to National Roads in accordance with the requirements of Section 2.5 of Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG,2012) in order to maintain traffic capacity, minimise traffic hazard and protect and maximise public investment in such roads.</p> <p>ITC 7.16 Require all applications for significant development proposals to be accompanied by a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audit (RSA), carried out by suitably competent persons, in accordance with the TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines.</p> <p>ITC 7.17 Limited direct access onto national roads may be permitted in transitional zones approaching or exiting towns and villages i.e. between the 60kmh and 50kmh speed limits only, in order to facilitate orderly urban development. Any such proposal will be subject to a Road Safety Audit. A proliferation of such entrances will not be permitted.</p> <p>ITC 7.18 New accesses onto Regional roads will not be permitted where access to a lower category road is available.</p> <p>ITC 7.19 Seek to implement the Road Improvement Schemes indicated in Table 7.2.</p> <p>ITC 7.20 Encourage the development of service and link roads within towns and village areas to open up lands within settlements and reduce the necessity for ribbon development.</p> <p>ITC 7.21 To implement the recommendations of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) in relation to urban streets and roads within the 50/60 kph zone. ITC 7.22 Facilitate the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electric vehicles both on street and in new developments, in accordance with car parking standards prescribed in Chapter 12 (Development Management Standards).</p> <p>ITC 7.23 Liaise and collaborate with relevant agencies to support the growth of EVs, with support facilities and infrastructure through a roll-out of additional electric charging infrastructure at appropriate locations.</p> <p>ITC 7.24 Support the prioritisation of parking for Electric Vehicles (EVs) in town centre locations.</p> <p>ITC 7.25 Promote walking and cycling as efficient, healthy and environmentally friendly modes of transport by securing the development of a network of direct, comfortable, convenient and safe cycle routes and footpaths, particularly in urban areas and in the vicinity of schools.</p> <p>ITC 7.26 Identify and implement a strategic, coherent and high-quality cycling and walking network across the county that is integrated with public transport and interconnected with cultural, recreational, retail, educational and employment destinations and attractions.</p> <p>ITC 7.27 Design pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in accordance with the principles, approaches and standards set out in the National Cycle Manual, the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, the TII publication 'The Treatment of Transition Zones to Towns and Villages on National Roads' and any subsequent revisions with a focus on a high level of service and encourage a modal shift from the private car to cycling and walking.</p> <p>ITC 7.28 Improve the streetscape environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and people with special mobility needs by providing facilities to enhance safety and convenience, including separation for pedestrian infrastructure from vehicular traffic.</p> <p>ITC 7.29 Provide for safer routes to schools within the county and promote walking and cycling as suitable modes of transport as part of the Green Schools Programme and other local traffic management improvements.</p> <p>ITC 7.30 To support the retrospective provision of walking and cycling infrastructure in existing settlements, where feasible, to achieve growth in sustainable mobility and strengthen and improve the walking and cycling network.</p> <p>CAEE 8.1 Support European and national objectives for climate action, adaptation and mitigation which address land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage as detailed in the Climate Action Plan (2019), the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018) and The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) and any subsequent versions of any of the aforementioned.</p> <p>CAEE 8.2 Support the National Climate Change Strategy by actively seeking to implement the policy objectives throughout this Plan which contribute to positive climate actions, including those related to renewable energy, sustainable transport, air quality, flooding and the promotion of urban and rural green initiatives.</p> <p>CAEE 8.3 Support developments and actions that assist in achieving the national targets for energy from renewable energy, from renewable resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production.</p> <p>CAEE 8.4 Encourage and facilitate the various forms of renewable energy development detailed in the Renewable Energy Strategy that accompanies this Plan (as well as any other new forms of renewable energy which may be developed during the lifetime of this Plan), subject to satisfying the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>CAEE 8.5 Facilitate wind energy developments primarily in areas designated in the Renewable Energy Strategy as "Most Favoured" and secondarily in areas designated as "Less Favoured" in the Renewable Energy Strategy, subject to normal planning criteria and having regard to the Wind Energy Guidelines (DECLG, 2006) and any update to the Guidelines that may issue during the lifetime of this Plan. This will include consideration of carbon benefit analysis, as appropriate.</p> <p>CAEE 8.6 Facilitate proposals for energy storage systems and infrastructure, which support energy efficiency and reusable energy systems, provided such proposals accord with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p>CAEE 8.7 Ensure that proposals for renewable energy developments are considered in the context of relevant EU and national legislation, including</p>

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		<p>necessary services.</p> <p>HC 11 Facilitate additional residential development in established residential areas, in keeping with the existing residential character of the area and adequately protecting the amenity of existing residential properties in the area.</p> <p>HC 12 Encourage and facilitate the restoration and reoccupation of dilapidated and vacant dwellings and other suitable properties in this area, to deliver new housing and regeneration into the area.</p> <p>MT 1 Facilitate the Councils' Active Travel Teams in the promotion and delivery of sustainable and active travel infrastructure and options in Carrick-on-Shannon, including the provision of new and enhanced walking and cycling routes, widened footpaths, and pedestrian crossings.</p> <p>MT 2 Identify the preferred means of providing access to lands zoned as Industrial and Enterprise to the east of Carrick-on-Shannon so as to develop a regionally scaled employment campus.</p> <p>MT 3 Support and facilitate additional improvements relating to national roads identified at a local level in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII. Any such improvement shall be developed subject to an appropriate evidence base in accordance with the requirements of Section 2.7 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012).</p> <p>MT 4 Support and facilitate the planning, design, and completion of the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project including a new bridge crossing over the River Shannon.</p> <p>MT 5 Give priority to the reservation of the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project designed strategic road corridor, as shown on Map 1: Land Use Objectives Map, and any associated land requirements over other land uses and objectives in the J LAP and prohibit developments within the designed strategic road corridor which could potentially prejudice the development of this strategic road and river crossing.<sup>64</sup></p> <p>MT 6 Support development proposals on lands to the southeast of the Summerhill Road, and identified with a 'New Residential' land use zoning objective, subject to the proposed roads layout for this area having been determined and successfully brought through the appropriate planning consent process and demonstrating that the development proposed provides for the approved roads layout for this area, to include the Summerhill Road junction with the Drummagh link road to include any localised realignment and with the Drummagh</p>	<p>in respect of environmental protection. No renewable energy developments will be considered in designated Natura 2000 sites or their surrounding buffer areas.</p> <p>CAEE 8.8 Ensure that renewable energy developments do not undermine the preservation and conservation of the natural and built environment and that an appropriate balance is achieved between renewable energy development and preservation of the natural environment.</p> <p>CAEE 8.9 Work in collaboration with EirGrid and other service providers and statutory bodies to facilitate a modern electricity network within the county, including the 'North Connacht Project', in line with recognised best practice. The Council will require comprehensive studies to be undertaken for all technical and environmental considerations, to inform the assessment of proposed transmission routes.</p> <p>CAEE 8.10 Support the development of facilities within the county dedicated to the exploration and advancement of renewable energy technologies, recognising that such facilities could assist in expanding public awareness of the sustainable benefits of renewable energy, provide training, research and development facilities for renewable energy.</p> <p>CAEE 8.11 Encourage and facilitate research and development proposals for renewable energies in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>CAEE 8.12 Facilitate renewable energy proposals that bring about a direct socio-economic benefit to the local community.</p> <p>CAEE 8.13 Promote the continued growth of the Sustainable Energy Community network by collaborating with SEAI and local communities to increase the number of Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) in County Roscommon to at least 50 by 2030.</p> <p>CAEE 8.14 Promote the integration of energy efficient systems in all new development proposals, as well as the retrofitting of existing development, in order to increase energy efficiency throughout the built environment in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>CAEE 8.15 Engage proactively with developers for proposals within the built environment, which could provide opportunities to integrate with existing green infrastructure networks and contribute to the protection and enhancement of green assets.</p> <p>CAEE 8.16 Support the ongoing preservation, maintenance and enhancement of green areas and green infrastructure within the built environment, to reduce carbon dioxide and mitigate against the risk of flooding.</p> <p>CAEE 8.17 Support and facilitate initiatives that will improve sustainable modes of transport within the county, including public transport, electric and hybrid vehicles, improved pedestrian and cycling facilities, as appropriate.</p> <p>CAEE 8.18 Ensure that land use and transportation infrastructure are integrated as part of settlement strategies in order to develop more sustainable and compact settlements which are well served by public transport.</p> <p>CAEE 8.19 Encourage the provision of EV charging points in development proposals that are considered to provide a level of car communal parking spaces which could reasonably accommodate space(s) for EV charging.</p> <p>CAEE 8.20 Support agri-sector enterprises that demonstrate they promote positive climate change through, for example reduced levels of greenhouse gas emissions and/or protection or enhancement natural, semi-natural or managed eco-systems.</p> <p>CAEE 8.21 Engage with all stakeholders within the farming community who seek to transition from traditional farming enterprises, into more sustainable agricultural initiatives, identified as being more environmentally sustainable.</p> <p>CAEE 8.22 Work with all stakeholders to increase awareness of nature based solutions, which can help to develop more sustainable and climate resilient urban and rural communities.</p> <p>CAEE 8.23 Encourage the integration of nature based solutions into public and private development initiatives, such as amenity areas, ecological corridors and attenuation ponds, which can support carbon absorption and provide flood mitigation.</p> <p>CAEE 8.24 Ensure land use plans provide the appropriate framework to deliver consolidated development within the established settlements throughout County Roscommon, in order to support the delivery of lower carbon, more walkable urban centres.</p> <p>CAEE 8.25 Protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecological value of wetlands and other landscape features such as semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams and turloughs which support the ecological network throughout County Roscommon.</p> <p>CAEE 8.27 Ensure that peatland areas, including those designated or proposed for designation (including NHA, pNHA or Natura 2000 sites), are protected so as to allow their continued role as carbon sinks, which contribute towards reducing CO2 emissions.</p> <p>CAEE 8.28 Facilitate forestry related proposals which can support reduction in CO2 emissions, where it can be demonstrated they will not have significant adverse the Natura 2000 network and accord with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.</p>

<sup>64</sup> This LAP is not providing for the N4 Scheme and is merely reflecting the plans for it as part of a separate process.

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		<p>link road.</p> <p>MT 7 Support development proposals on lands to the south of Cortober identified with a 'New Residential' land use zoning objective, subject to the proposed N4 project route having been determined and successfully brought through the appropriate planning consent process and where it is demonstrated that the development proposal does not infringe or impact upon the N4 strategic road layout.</p> <p>MT 8 Progress the delivery of the appropriate measures and interventions as outlined in the Carrick-on-Shannon <i>Local Transport Plan</i> (LTP) on a phased basis and subject to the availability of funding, in order to support the shift towards sustainable travel and transport throughout the joint urban area and to accommodate anticipated transport demand due to planned population growth.</p> <p>MT 9 Undertake a route selection process within the life of the JLAP which would seek to provide a link road connecting the Leitrim Road (R280) to the Summerhill Road (L-3413) and onto the Castlecara Road (L-3408). Following the completion of this route selection process, to progress the design of the link road through the statutory planning consent process and associated environmental assessments and when this has been completed, to reserve this route free from development and to seek to deliver this link road.</p> <p>MT 10 Progress the delivery, in conjunction with the NTA and the Department of Transport, a Public Transportation Hub in Carrick-on-Shannon to accommodate national, regional and local bus services.</p> <p>MT 11 Seek the expansion and improvement of car parking, taxi and bus set down facilities at Carrick-on-Shannon train station.</p> <p>SC 1 Support and facilitate the provision of community, cultural, recreational, and social infrastructure facilities at a scale and range that meets the need of communities of all ages, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds in the town of Carrick-on-Shannon and its wider catchment.</p> <p>SC 2 Support and facilitate the provision of civic spaces, performance spaces, green amenity areas and quality public realm that provide an attractive setting for future residents and visitors.</p> <p>SC 3 Support the provision of recreational facilities (public and private) within the town, including active recreational facilities/areas such as playgrounds/outdoor gyms/ skateboard park/MUGA, which are universally designed, in appropriate locations in the town.</p> <p>SC 4 Promote optimum use of community and social infrastructure facilities and encourage</p>	



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		<p>shared/dual use of existing and future facilities.</p> <p>SC 5 Support the development of a community centre/town hall to serve the residents of the town of Carrick-on-Shannon.</p> <p>SC 6 Facilitate the continued provision and expansion/ restructuring of schools in Carrick-on-Shannon as required to meet the educational needs of the residents of the town and the wider catchment.</p> <p>SC 7 Facilitate the development of a new primary school on the lands zoned for Social and Community uses at and adjacent to the St. Mary's Boys school site to meet the educational needs of the residents of the town and the wider catchment.</p> <p>SC 9 Facilitate the development, expansion and improvement of childcare services and childcare providers in delivering high quality, accessible and affordable childcare in appropriate locations in Carrick-on-Shannon.</p> <p>SC 10 Facilitate the development of an Atlantic Technological University (ATU) off campus building in Carrick-on-Shannon town to facilitate the delivery of third level courses.</p> <p>SC 11 Facilitate the development, expansion, and improvement of additional healthcare facilities, where appropriate, to meet the needs of the town.</p> <p>SC 12 Promote the development of good street designs that offers safe and attractive walking and cycling routes connecting residential developments to social and community facilities and public transport both within the Plan and the wider catchment.</p> <p>SC 13 Provide a modern enhanced library facility with further investment and expansion of its services for the benefit of the residents of the town of Carrick-on-Shannon.</p>	
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p>CA 1 Support the designated Decarbonising Zone in Carrick-on-Shannon through the compact growth advocated and the recommendations outlined in the Local Transport Plan, to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and improve general environmental conditions in this area.</p> <p>CA 2 Encourage, support and promote the wetlands surrounding Carrick-on-Shannon as a hub for nature-based tourism whilst ensuring that the biodiversity of the wetlands is both maintained and protected.</p> <p>CA 3 Harness and protect the existing Blue Infrastructure in the town and the surrounding area and attract water-based recreation.</p> <p>CA 4 Protect both existing natural and developed Green and Blue Infrastructure from inappropriate</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p><b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b> <i>Water Infrastructure Policies</i></p> <p>WI POL 1 To collaborate with Irish Water in the preparation and prioritisation of their Investment Plans to ensure that the required piped water services capacity and infrastructure in the County is provided in a timely manner to facilitate future growth in accordance with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>WI POL 2 To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>WI POL 3 To support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on wastewater treatment works.</p> <p>WI POL 4 To ensure that all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer subject to obtaining a connection agreement with Irish Water.</p> <p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p> <p>WI POL 6 To ensure that adequate water services will be available to service development and that existing water services are not negatively impacted upon prior to making a decision to grant planning permission.</p> <p>WI POL 7 To require all new development to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm.</p>

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	<p>regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>development which could negatively impact upon the quality of these areas.</p> <p>CA 5 Encourage and promote the integration of energy efficient systems and renewable technologies in all new development proposals, as well as the retrofitting of existing developments (to include social housing units and commercial and public buildings), in order to increase energy efficiency throughout the built environment in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>CA 6 Encourage and promote the use of Blue and Green Infrastructure as a mechanism for surface water management and improving public realm.</p> <p>CA 7 Facilitate and encourage the use of and provision of the necessary facilities to encourage public transport, cycling and walking in and around the town to encourage a healthier community.</p> <p>CA 8 Facilitate the provision of additional Electric Vehicle charging stations in the town.</p> <p>CA 9 Require new developments to incorporate best practice in low-carbon and energy efficient planning and techniques as reflected by the policies and objectives in the current Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plans and this JLAP, and in accordance with both the Leitrim and Roscommon Climate Action Plans.</p> <p>CA 10 Support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrate land use and transportation, and maximise opportunities through development location, form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon dioxide and greenhouse emissions.</p> <p>CA 11 Support and facilitate the installation of district heating systems as a decarbonising technology in new developments in Carrick-on-Shannon, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>MT 13 Support the investment and provision of public water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure by Uisce Éireann, including any maintenance works and planned upgrades to water treatment plants and the associated public mains water and wastewater networks serving the joint urban area, including the safeguarding of existing such infrastructure corridors, in order to ensure that zoned lands are adequately serviced over the period of the Plan and in accordance with the Core Strategies of Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils.</p> <p>MT 14 Promote water conservation and demand management measures amongst all water users in Carrick-on-Shannon, and support Uisce Éireann in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements.</p>	<p>WI POL 8 To require developments to connect to public water supplies where available.</p> <p><i>Wastewater Infrastructure Objectives</i></p> <p>WI OBJ 1 To work closely with Irish Water to identify and facilitate the timely delivery of the water services infrastructure required to realize the development objectives of this plan.</p> <p>WI OBJ 2 To pursue and support Irish Water in the upgrade of the Carrick-on-Shannon Water Treatment Plant as a project necessary to deliver the growth model outlined in the Core Strategy of the new County Development Plan.</p> <p>WI OBJ 3 To protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan.</p> <p>WI OBJ 4 To promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users, and to support Irish Water in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements.</p> <p>WI OBJ 5 To ensure that adequate storm water infrastructure is provided in order to accommodate the planned levels of growth within the plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>WI OBJ 7 To facilitate the provision of appropriate sites for required water services infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policies</i></p> <p>WWT POL 1 To ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent ≤ 10) (March 2021), as may be amended.</p> <p>WWT POL 2 To promote the discontinuation of use of septic tanks / individual wastewater treatment systems and the connection of houses to piped foul sewers in all cases where this is feasible (subject to connection agreements with Irish Water) and require that all new developments utilise and connect to the piped wastewater infrastructure where available.</p> <p>WWT POL 3 The Planning Authority will consider where appropriate proposals for private communal sewerage schemes, subject to the protection of the receiving environment, in the following cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In areas where Irish Water do not propose to carry out a piped wastewater collection and treatment scheme.</li> <li>2. In areas where Irish Water intend at a later stage to provide a piped wastewater collection and treatment scheme.</li> </ol> <p>In the latter case, schemes should be so designed as to be capable of being connected to the Irish Water scheme in due course. Such schemes shall be purpose designed, appropriate in scale, specification and capacity, designed to the needs of users and shall be subject to legally binding maintenance and bonding arrangements agreed with the County Council. Such proposals shall adhere to the EPA Code of Practice for Small Communities.</p> <p><i>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Objective</i></p> <p>WWT OBJ 1 To continue to research and trial options in conjunction with academic partners and other stakeholders to provide an acceptable waste water treatment system solution to the poor percolation characteristics of sub soils which affect the majority of the county that would be suitable, affordable and not represent a risk of pollution to ground or surface waters or to public health.</p> <p><i>Storm Water Management Objectives</i></p> <p>SWM OBJ 1 To require the use of SuDS to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>SWM OBJ 2 To encourage the use of Green Roof technology particularly on apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings.</p> <p><i>Waste Management Policies</i></p> <p>WM POL 1 To support the implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021(as amended) or any replacement plan with particular emphasis on encouraging reuse, recycling and disposal of residual waste.</p> <p>WM POL 2 To encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</p> <p>WM POL 3 To facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.</p> <p>WM POL 4 To encourage and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations, 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>WM POL 5 To promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>WM POL 6 To encourage the development of waste infrastructure and associated developments in appropriate locations, as deemed necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021(as amended) or any replacement plan.</p> <p>WM POL 7 To require the provision of bring banks, bottle banks or other appropriate recycling facilities as part of the overall development in the case of new or extended commercial, employment, educational, recreational facilities and managed residential developments (in excess of 20 no. residential units).</p> <p>WM POL 8 To encourage the recycling of construction and demolition waste and the reuse of aggregate and other materials in future construction projects.</p> <p>WM POL 9 To facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure / technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, within the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p><i>Waste Management Objectives</i>  WM OBJ 1 To continue to maintain the level of provision of existing civic amenity sites in the County in accordance with Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021.  WM OBJ 2 To ensure that the Council fulfils its duties under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.  WM OBJ 3 To identify suitable sites for additional recycling centres and bring bank facilities subject to the availability of appropriate funding and infrastructure, through the public or private sector, as appropriate.  WM OBJ 4 To facilitate the provision of appropriate waste recovery and disposal facilities in accordance with the principles set out in the appropriate Waste Management Plan applicable from time to time made in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended).  WM OBJ 5 To continue to reduce incidents of littering through the continued implementation and updating of the Council's Litter Management Plan.  WM OBJ 6 To continue to support and work with local Tidy Towns groups in the maintenance and conservation of our towns and villages throughout the county.</p> <p><i>Energy Networks Infrastructure Policies</i>  ENI POL 1 To support the development of a safe, secure and reliable electricity network which assists EirGrid in their grid development programme, as set out in the Grid Development Strategy – Your Grid, Your Tomorrow, 2017 and Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2017: Planning our Energy Future, 2017.  ENI POL 2 To co-operate and liaise with statutory and other energy providers in relation to power generation in order to ensure that the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the wider region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner, which minimizes impacts on environmental sensitive and high visual quality areas and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs.  ENI POL 3 To require comprehensive studies to be undertaken for all technical and environmental considerations, to inform the assessment of proposed transmission routes brought forward for planning consent.  ENI POL 3 To support the renewal, reinforcement and strengthening of the electricity transmission network with particular reference to the regionally important projects such as Renewable Integration Development Project.  ENI POL 4 To support the necessary integration of the transmission network requirements to allow linkages with renewable energy proposals at all levels to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.  ENI POL 6 To support the build-out of the gas supply network into Co. Leitrim.</p> <p><i>Energy Networks Infrastructure Objective</i>  ENI OBJ 1 To safeguard existing strategic energy corridors from encroachment by other developments that could compromise the delivery of energy networks.</p> <p><i>Information Communications and Technology Policy</i>  DS POL 1 To support the implementation and roll out of action contained in the Digital Strategy for Leitrim 2021-2023 or any replacement Strategy.</p> <p><i>Broadband Policies</i>  BR POL 1 To support and facilitate the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and public and private agencies as appropriate, in improving high quality broadband infrastructure throughout the county and supporting the roll out of the National Broadband Plan.  BR POL 2 To support and facilitate the delivery of the National Broadband Plan and Leitrim County Councils Digital Strategy as a means of developing further opportunities for enterprise, employment, education, innovation and skills development, for those who live and work in rural areas throughout Leitrim, where appropriate.  BR POL 3 To promote the potential of the Metropolitan Area Network fibre optic cable managed by eNET.</p> <p><i>Telecommunications Policies</i>  TEL POL 1 To promote and facilitate the provision of a high quality telecommunications infrastructure network throughout the county having regard to the requirements of the "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities".  TEL POL 2 To support service providers in the development of key telecommunications infrastructure.  TEL POL 3 To support the delivery of high capacity Information Communications Technology Infrastructure, broadband connectivity and digital broadcasting, throughout the county, in order to ensure economic competitiveness and in enabling more flexible work practices.  TEL POL 4 To encourage co-location of antennae on existing telecommunications structures. The shared use of existing structures will be required where the numbers of masts located in any single area is considered to have an excessive concentration.  TEL POL 5 To ensure that telecommunications structures are located to minimise and /or mitigate any adverse impacts on communities, residential properties, schools and the built or natural environment.</p> <p><i>Telecommunications Objectives</i>  TEL OBJ 1 To ensure that all areas of the county have adequate mobile communication coverage and in particular to require service providers to provide services in areas where existing coverage is poor.</p> <p><b>Roscommon County Development Plan</b>  ITC 7.34 Support Irish Water in the implementation of their capital investment programme to ensure the timely delivery of water and waste-water</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>infrastructure for the county.</p> <p>ITC 7.35 Collaborate with Irish Water in relation to the preparation of their Investment Plans in order to accommodate the target population and employment potential of the county in accordance with the statutory obligations set out in EU and national policy and in line with the Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy set out in this Plan.</p> <p>ITC 7.36 Protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, support the implementation of the Rural Water Programme and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan</p> <p>ITC 7.37 Ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment.</p> <p>ITC 7.38 Work with all stakeholders to promote water conservation and sustainable water usage.</p> <p>ITC 7.39 Ensure that new development proposals connect into the existing public water mains, where available. These will be subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water.</p> <p>ITC 7.40 Ensure that all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer. These will be subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water.</p> <p>ITC 7.41 Support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on sewage treatment works.</p> <p>ITC 7.42 Ensure that adequate storm water infrastructure is provided in order to accommodate planned levels of growth in the county and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>ITC 7.43 Require all new development to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm.</p> <p>ITC 7.44 Prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>ITC 7.46 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (2009), as may be amended.</p> <p>ITC 7.47 Support the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>ITC 7.48 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans. Furthermore, the Council will undertake its obligations under the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>ITC 7.49 Ensure that developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding Risks.</p> <p>ITC 7.50 Require the provision of separate foul and surface water drainage systems.</p> <p>NH 10.28 Create an integrated and coherent green infrastructure network to enhance biodiversity and quality of life, provide sustainable water management and a green setting for urban areas.</p> <p>NH 10.29 Facilitate the on-going development and improvement of green infrastructure in the Plan area, including green networks, green amenities and linked green corridors which ensure the provision of recreational amenities, natural areas for the growth of wildlife and biodiversity, and a network of infrastructure which results in a better quality of life for visitors and inhabitants alike.</p> <p>NH 10.30 Prepare and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the county in partnership with key stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>NH 10.31 Support the development of strategic greenways, blueways and peatways in the county in accordance with the Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018).</p> <p>ITC 7.57 Support the implementation of the Connacht Ulster Region Waste Management Plan 2015- 2021 and any subsequent updates;</p> <p>ITC 7.58 Encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</p> <p>ITC 7.59 Facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.</p> <p>ITC 7.60 Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</p> <p>ITC 7.61 Promote and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and</li> </ul>	<p>BNH 1 Maintain, conserve and protect the architectural quality, character and scale of the Carrick-on-Shannon Architectural Conservation Area and to require new developments within or adjacent to the Architectural Conservation Area to respond positively the existing character context of</p>	<p><b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b>  <i>Protection of the Built Environment Policies</i></p> <p>BH POL 1 To protect all structures in the Record of Protected Structures (Volume IV of this plan).</p> <p>BH POL 2 To promote best conservation principles and practice with regard to protecting Leitrim's considerable architectural heritage.</p> <p>BH POL 3 To encourage the sympathetic retention, reuse and rehabilitation of Protected Structures and their setting.</p> <p>BH POL 4 To ensure that proposed development within the curtilage or attendant grounds of a Protected Structure respects the Protected</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
	operation activities.	<p>the area.</p> <p>BNH 2 Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation, climate proofing and re-use of protected structures and non-designated vernacular buildings (including those listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage) within the Plan area.</p> <p>BNH 3 Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation, climate proofing and re-use of protected structures and vernacular buildings (included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage) within the Plan area.</p> <p>BNH 4 Support and promote the protection, appropriate management and sympathetic enhancement of the archaeological heritage within the JLAP area so as to avoid negative impacts on sites, monuments, features, or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.</p>	<p>Structure and its setting.</p> <p>BH POL 5 To have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (October 2011) or replacement Section 28 Guidelines as may be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when assessing proposals for development affecting a protected structure and buildings listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.</p> <p>BH POL 6 To require the preparation of an Architectural Impact Assessment undertaken by an architect or other suitably qualified professional with conservation expertise, where appropriate, for developments which include or relate to a Protected Structure or their curtilage and attendant grounds.</p> <p>BH POL 7 To promote the principles of best practice in conservation in terms of use of appropriate materials, repair techniques, and thermal upgrades by adhering to the guidelines as set out in Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Advice Series publications or their replacement.</p> <p>BH POL 8 To promote awareness and the appropriate adaptation of the county's architectural and archaeological heritage to deal with the effects of climate change.</p> <p><i>Protection of the Built Environment Objectives</i></p> <p>BH OBJ 1 To seek the protection of all structures within the County that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.</p> <p>BH OBJ 2 To maximise funding opportunities for the conservation and restoration of Protected Structures.</p> <p>BH OBJ 3 To administer grant schemes which provide funding opportunities for the conservation and restoration of Protected Structures.</p> <p>BH OBJ 4 To support and implement the actions listed in the County Heritage Plan 2020 – 2025, and subsequent heritage plans, during the lifetime of this plan, subject to the availability of specific funding and resources.</p> <p>BH OBJ 5 To seek the appointment of a Conservation Officer to improve the level of expertise available to the Council and to support the protection and conservation of the rich built and cultural heritage within the County. However the Council will seek to develop in-house expertise in the interim in the absence of this appointment.</p> <p><i>Architectural Conservation Areas Policies</i></p> <p>ACA POL 1 To ensure the preservation of the special character of each Architectural Conservation Area listed in this Plan (See Table 6) by exercising specific design control with particular regard to building scale, proportions, historical plot sizes, building lines, height, general land use, fenestration, signage, and other appendages such as electrical wiring, building materials, historic street furniture, paving and shopfronts.</p> <p>ACA POL 2 To have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (October 2011) or replacement Section 28 Guidelines as may be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when assessing proposals for development affecting the character of an Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>ACA POL 3 To ensure the retention, repair and the regular maintenance, rather than replacement, of original / early features in buildings which contribute to the character of an Architectural Conservation Area such as chimney stacks, roof coverings, roof profiles, external wall treatments, doors and windows, shopfronts and pub fronts, while ensuring appropriate materials and repair techniques are used when repairs are being carried out.</p> <p>ACA POL 4 To ensure that inappropriate materials for windows, doors and rainwater goods constructed in aluminium or uPVC are not introduced to buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>ACA POL 5 To encourage high quality, contemporary design and materials where appropriate when new buildings are being introduced into an Architectural Conservation Area and the retention of the historic scale and plot size. Such buildings should contribute to the visual enhancement of the area and respect the character of the Architectural Conservation Area as set out in the statement of character (when prepared).</p> <p>ACA POL 6 To ensure that new fascia boards inserted in the shopfront entablature are seamless without visible vertical joints or fixing materials. Hand painted fascia are encouraged and will be favoured over glossy, reflective signage.</p> <p>ACA POL 7 To retain historic items of street furniture where they contribute to the character of the ACA, such as, post boxes, benchmarks, gates, plaques, milestones, railings, etc.,</p> <p>ACA POL 8 To facilitate the removal of overhead cables throughout the Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>ACA POL 9 To ensure the embodied energy of the current building stock within Architectural Conservation Area are acknowledged when considering proposed developments, and to encourage the reuse of these building over demolition.</p> <p><i>Architectural Conservation Areas Objectives</i></p> <p>ACA OBJ 1 To prepare a statement of character for each of the listed Architectural Conservation Areas in Table 6 within 2 years of the adoption of the County Development Plan in order to identify the character that is worthy of protection for each.</p> <p>ACA OBJ 2 To designate additional Architectural Conservation Areas where appropriate and provide a local policy framework for the preservation of the character of these areas. Consideration will be given to Lough Rynn and Drumsna in the first instance.</p> <p>ACA OBJ 3 To review the County Leitrim Shopfront Guidelines within the life of the County Development Plan.</p> <p><i>Archaeological Heritage Policies</i></p> <p>ARCH POL 1 To secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in-situ or in particular circumstances where the Council is satisfied that this is not possible, preservation by record as a minimum) of all archaeological remains and sites of importance such as National Monuments, Recorded Monuments, their setting and context.</p> <p>ARCH POL 2 To promote public awareness of the rich archaeological heritage that exists in County Leitrim.</p>



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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>ARCH POL 3 To protect and enhance public accessibility to the County's industrial heritage.</p> <p>ARCH POL 4 To protect, preserve and promote the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and objects in rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal environments. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the archaeological potential of rivers, lakes, intertidal and sub-tidal environments. Where flood relief schemes are being undertaken, the Council will have regard to the 'Archaeological Guidelines for Flood Relief Schemes' (DHLGH and OPW 2021).</p> <p>ARCH POL 5 To support community initiatives and projects regarding preservation, presentation, publication of and access to archaeological heritage and underwater cultural heritage, provided such are compatible with appropriate conservation policies and standards, having regard to the guidance and advice of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> <p><i>Archaeological Heritage Objectives</i></p> <p>ARCH OBJ 1 To promote the County's archaeological heritage as a tourism resource, in partnership with tourism organisations and stakeholders.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 2 To ensure that any development (above or below ground or underwater), within the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest or protected wreck or area of underwater archaeological heritage shall not be detrimental to the archaeological remains, character of the site or its setting.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 3 To require, where appropriate, that an archaeological assessment or underwater archaeological impact assessment be carried out by a suitably qualified person prior to the commencement of any activity that may impact upon archaeological heritage, including underwater archaeological heritage.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 4 To protect the zones of archaeological potential, as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, protected reefs and underwater archaeological heritage.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 5 To protect archaeological sites, protected wrecks and underwater archaeological heritage discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places, which are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record.</p> <p><b>Roscommon County Development Plan</b></p> <p>BH 9.2 Protect all structures included on the Record of Protected Structures and their settings, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.</p> <p>BH 9.3 Encourage the sympathetic re-use and secure the long-term viability of Protected Structures without detracting from their special interest and character.</p> <p>BH 9.4 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and make additions and deletions as appropriate.</p> <p>BH 9.5 Ensure that new developments within or adjacent to an ACA respects the context of the area and contribute positively to the ACA in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes.</p> <p>BH 9.6 Protect existing buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and features such as street furniture, which are considered to be intrinsic elements of the special character of the ACA, from demolition or removal and non-sympathetic alterations.</p> <p>BH 9.7 Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities to buildings within an ACA are designed, constructed and located in a manner that is complementary to the character of the ACA.</p> <p>BH 9.8 Undertake an assessment to inform the potential ACA designation of special character areas considered by the Planning Authority to be worthy of such protection in County Roscommon.</p> <p>BH 9.9 Encourage the retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular heritage of County Roscommon. Discourage the replacement of good quality vernacular buildings with modern structures and by protecting vernacular buildings where they contribute to the character of an area or town and/or where they are rare examples of a structure type.</p> <p>BH 9.10 Support proposals to refurbish vernacular structures that are in a run-down or derelict condition, provided that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice. BH 9.11 Encourage appropriate changes of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not adversely impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.</p> <p>BH 9.12 Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.</p> <p>BH 9.13 Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In securing such preservation Roscommon County Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>Opportunity Site 6: Lands to rear of Cortober Heights "Building form (and landscaping) in these areas shall be of a high architectural standard and will be encouraged to sympathetically integrate into the landscape."</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p><b>Leitrim County Development Plan</b></p> <p><i>Landscape Policies</i></p> <p>LCA POL 1 To conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>LCA POL 2 To protect, enhance and contribute to the physical, visual and scenic character of County Leitrim and to preserve its unique landscape character.</p> <p>LCA POL 3 To ensure that landscape sensitivity and the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character area (where appropriate) is an</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Leitrim and Roscommon County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>important consideration in determining the appropriateness of development uses and proposals in areas of landscape sensitivity, (scenery, nature conservation or archaeology) in conjunction with the siting, design and materials proposed.</p> <p>LCA POL 4 To seek to ensure that local landscape features, including historic features and buildings, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the local landscape and character of an area, whilst providing for future development</p> <p>LCA POL 5 To require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity.</p> <p><i>Landscape Objectives</i></p> <p>LCA OBJ 1 To protect and enhance the quality, character, and distinctiveness of the physical, visual and scenic character of landscapes of the County in accordance with national policy and guidelines and the recommendations of the Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020) in Appendix *.</p> <p>LCA OBJ 2 To ensure that the management of development will have regard to the value of the landscape, its character, importance, sensitivity and capacity to absorb change as outlined in Appendix IV of this Plan - <i>Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020)</i> and its recommendations.</p> <p><i>Landscape Designations Policies</i></p> <p>LD POL 1 To safeguard the protected views and prospects contained in Table 11.8 and identified on Map No. 12 (Volume III - Book of Maps) from intrusive development which would interfere unduly with the character and visual amenity of the landscape.</p> <p>LD POL 2 To protect Areas of High Visual Amenity from inappropriate development and reinforce their character, distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> <p>LD POL 3 To permit development in an Area of High Visual Amenity only where the applicant has demonstrated a very high standard of site selection, site layout and design and where the Planning Authority is satisfied that the development could not be accommodated in a less-sensitive location.</p> <p>LD POL 4 To require that a landscape and visual impact assessment, prepared by a suitably qualified professional, be submitted with planning applications for development which may have an impact on the landscape character of the area.</p> <p>LD POL 5 To ensure that development proposals have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment, the value of the landscape, its character, importance, sensitivity and capacity to absorb change.</p> <p>LD POL 6 To protect lakeshores from inappropriate development which would detract from the natural amenity of the area.</p> <p>LD POL 7 To permit development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where the applicant can satisfy the Planning Authority that it is not practicable to develop in a less-sensitive location and where it is demonstrated that the development will not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity or uniformity of the landscape.</p> <p><i>Landscape Designations Objectives</i></p> <p>LD OBJ 1 To protect the quality, character and distinctiveness of the landscapes of the County.</p> <p>LD OBJ 2 To provide and maintain facilities, including viewing areas, lay-bys, safe pedestrian access and/or car parking, and where appropriate, associated seats and signs in the immediate vicinity of views that are identified in this Plan and as funds allow.</p> <p>LD OBJ 3 To undertake and adopt a landscape capacity assessment of the county for commercial afforestation.</p> <p>LD OBJ 4 To protect Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of High Visual Amenity from inappropriate forms of development.</p> <p><b>Roscommon County Development Plan</b></p> <p>NH 10.25 Minimise visual impacts on areas categorised within the County Roscommon Landscape Character Assessment including “moderate value”, “high value”, “very high value” and with special emphasis on areas classified as “exceptional value” and where deemed necessary, require the use of Visual Impact Assessment where proposed development may have significant effect on such designated areas.</p> <p>NH 10.26 Protect important views and prospects in the rural landscape and visual linkage between established landmarks, landscape features and views in urban areas.</p> <p>NH 10.27 To co-ordinate with all adjoining Local Authorities in reviewing Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) to ensure consistency in classification and policy in adjoining areas of similar character. A targeted review of the LCA shall be undertaken following the completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment, and any associated statutory Guidelines as well as the Regional Landscape Character Assessment to be completed by the Regional Assembly.</p>

## Section 10 Monitoring Measures

### 10.1 Introduction

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

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

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

### 10.2 Indicators and Targets

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

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

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

### 10.3 Sources

The Plan forms part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework, Northern and Western RSES, the Leitrim County Development Plan and the Roscommon County Development Plan is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. Individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

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

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

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Councils would provide monitoring of certain indicators on a *grant of permission*<sup>65</sup> basis. Where significant adverse effects as a result of the development to be permitted are identified, such effects could be identified, recorded and used to inform monitoring evaluation.

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<sup>65</sup> The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. Documenting any identified effects as a result of a development to be permitted can help to fulfill monitoring requirements.

## **10.4 Reporting**

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan. Monitoring frequencies of indicators tend to change although where they are consistent frequencies are identified. This report should address the indicators set out on Table 10.1.

The methodology for monitoring set out below will be undertaken by the Councils. Where monitoring beyond existing sources is to be undertaken, it is recommended that industry standard methods are used where they exist and where appropriate.

Reporting may be undertaken in conjunction with the monitoring reporting on other plans, such as the County Development Plans and other Local Area Plans.

The Councils are responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

**Table 10.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condition of European sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)<sup>66</sup></li> <li>DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 6 years)<sup>67</sup></li> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of water quality in water bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 11 “Heritage” and Roscommon County Development Plan Chapter 10 “Natural Heritage”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 11 “Heritage” and Roscommon County Development Plan Chapter 10 “Natural Heritage”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>

<sup>66</sup> Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

<sup>67</sup> Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.



## SEA Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 4 "Economic Development, including Retail" and Roscommon County Development Plan Chapter 6 "Economic Development"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Leitrim County Development Plan Chapter 4 "Economic Development, including Retail" and Roscommon County Development Plan Chapter 6 "Economic Development"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029 and Roscommon County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Councils will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping/data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping/data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF</li> <li>In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement</li> <li>To map brownfield and infill land parcels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Geoportal</li> <li>Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH</li> <li>AA/Screening for AA for each application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Councils will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the EPA and Development Management</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status'</li> <li>Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance<sup>68</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Uisce Éireann to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</li> <li>Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Councils will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Councils will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated</li> <li>Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> <li>Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure</li> <li>See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Councils will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029 and Roscommon County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Councils will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>

<sup>68</sup> Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available  
CAAS for Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Data from the National Travel Survey</li> <li>EPA Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, Councils will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029 and Roscommon County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029</li> <li>EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting</li> <li>Climate Action Regional Office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where targets are not achieved, the Councils will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of renewable energy in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 sectoral target for transport (RES-T) of 14%, by 2030 (this may be increased following a provisional European agreement on 30 March 2023 for a binding overall RES target of at least 42.5% by 2030)</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029 and Roscommon County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Councils will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029 and Roscommon County Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Councils will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where monitoring reveals visitor or development pressure is causing negative effects on designated archaeological or architectural heritage, the Councils will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and the National Monuments Service and other stakeholders, as relevant, to address pressures through additional mitigation.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation with DHLGH (see Section 10.4).</li> </ul>	
<b>Landscape</b>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Councils will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation</li> </ul>

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

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>European Level</b>			
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<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> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<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).</li> <li>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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



### SEA Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</b>	It aims to reduce water pollution from nitrates used for agricultural purposes and prevent any further pollution. It forms an integral part of the water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) of the European Union and is closely linked to other EU policies that address air quality, climate change and agriculture.	<p>EU Member States must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate as vulnerable zones all those draining into waters that are or could be affected by high nitrate levels and eutrophication. The designation is reviewed and possibly revised at least every 4 years to take account of any changes that have occurred.</li> <li>• Establish mandatory action programmes for these areas, taking into account available scientific and technical data and overall environmental conditions.</li> <li>• Monitor the effectiveness of the action programmes.</li> <li>• Test the nitrate concentration in fresh ground and surface water at sampling stations, at least monthly and more frequently during flooding.</li> <li>• Carry out a comprehensive monitoring programme and submit – every 4 years – a detailed report on the directive's implementation. The report includes information on nitrate-vulnerable zones, results of water monitoring and a summary of the relevant aspects of codes of good agricultural practices and action programmes.</li> <li>• Draw up a code of good agricultural practices, which farmers apply on a voluntary basis. It sets out various good practices, such as when fertiliser use is inappropriate.</li> <li>• Provide training and information for farmers, where appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>The European Commission provides a report every 4 years on the basis of the national information it has received.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) (2008/105/EC)</b>	It sets out environmental quality standards (EQSs) for the presence in surface water of certain substances or groups of substances identified as priority pollutants because of the significant risk they pose to or via the aquatic environment. These standards are in line with the strategy and objectives of the European Union (EU)'s water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). It repeals Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC and 86/280/EEC with effect from 22 December 2012.	<p>The directive sets EQSs for priority substances and eight other pollutants. These substances include: the metals cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel, and their compounds; benzene; polyaromatic hydrocarbons; and several pesticides. Several of these priority substances are classed as hazardous.</p> <p>The EQSs in Directive 2008/105/EC are limits on the concentration of the priority substances and eight other pollutants in water (or biota), i.e. thresholds which must not be exceeded if a good chemical status is to be met. There are two types of water standard.</p> <p>A threshold for the average concentration of the substance concerned calculated from measurements over a 1-year period. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against long-term exposure to pollutants in the aquatic environment. A maximum allowable concentration of the substance concerned, i.e. the maximum for any single measurement. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against short-term exposure, i.e. pollution peaks.</p> <p>The EQSs are different for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inland surface waters (rivers and lakes);</li> <li>• other surface waters (transitional, coastal and territorial waters).</li> <li>• EU Member States must ensure compliance with the EQSs. They must also take measures to ensure that the concentrations of substances that tend to accumulate in sediment and/or biota do not increase significantly.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>EU Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) –IED Directive (2010/75/EU)</b>	<p>It is aimed at achieving significant benefits to the environment and human health by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).</p> <p>The IED is based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach (focusing on the installation being permitted rather than separately on different environmental media such as air, water or soil);</li> <li>best available techniques;</li> <li>flexibility;</li> <li>inspections;</li> <li>public participation.</li> </ul> <p>The IED combines seven separate existing Directives related to industrial emissions: With effect from 7 January 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directive 78/176/EEC of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry;</li> <li>Directive 82/883/EEC on the surveillance and monitoring of titanium dioxide waste;</li> <li>Directive 92/112/EEC on the reduction of titanium dioxide industrial waste;</li> <li>Directive 1999/13/EC on reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration (Waste Incineration Directive);</li> <li>Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC Directive);</li> </ul> <p>With effect from 1st January 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directive 2001/80/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants from large combustion plants (LCP Directive).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IED aspires to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate pollution arising from industrial activities. It seeks to achieve this by providing a general framework for the control of the industries with the highest pollution potential in order to prevent the shifting of pollution from one environmental medium (or industry) to another. The overall intention is to provide an integrated approach to the prevention and control of emissions into the various environmental media such as, air, water and soil while striking a commercial balance for businesses.</li> <li>The IED aims to increase the effectiveness of the legislation by supporting Member States in implementing BAT-based permitting. The IED aims to improve and clarify the concept and use of BAT and increases transparency by requiring that the use of flexibility must be justified and documented leading to a more coherent and EU-wide application of BAT.</li> <li>The IED also strengthens existing minimum requirements in certain sectors (such as large combustion plants, waste incineration, etc.) so as to ensure the achievement of objectives of the Commission's Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution.</li> <li>The IED aims to further increase the effectiveness of the legislation by strengthening provisions on environmental improvement and enforcement, while stimulating innovation. The IED introduces minimum requirements as regards the environmental inspections of installations, the review and update of permits, and reporting on compliance. It also provides incentives for the development and promotion of environment-friendly technologies.</li> <li>The IED aims to cut all identified unnecessary administrative burdens and simplify current legislation. The IED tackles the shortcomings of current EU legislation on industrial emissions by overhauling the seven existing pieces of legislation on industrial emissions. This has improved the clarity and coherence of the legislation and should reduce the administrative burden through combined requirements on granting permits and streamlined reporting.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	The Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.	This Directive is limited to the essential requirements with which machinery for pesticide application must comply before being placed on the market and/or put into service, while the European standardisation organisations are responsible for drawing up harmonised standards providing detailed specifications for the various categories of such machinery in order to enable manufacturers to comply with those requirements.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2023/2413</b>  <b>- amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652</b>	The Renewable Energy Directive is the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy, supporting cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. The revised Directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. This will be key to achieving the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and to strengthen Europe's security of energy supply. In addition to double the existing share of renewable energy sources, a strong policy framework will facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging.	The revised Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%. The amended RED contains revised targets for renewable energy consumption in transport, of 29% energy share (known as the 'RES-T') or a 14.5% GHG reduction by 2030.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) -</b>  <b>(Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU)</b>	<p>The regulation sets mandatory national targets for European Union Member States to deploy publicly accessible alternative fuels infrastructure (in particular for electricity and hydrogen) for road vehicles, vessels moored at the quayside and stationary aircraft, with a specific focus on the trans-European networks. The regulation also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• common rules for user information, data provision and payment requirements;</li> <li>• a mandate for the Commission to adopt delegated acts to ensure interoperability of infrastructure by mandating technical specifications on the basis of European standards; and</li> <li>• planning and reporting requirements for Member States.</li> </ul>	<p>Recharging infrastructure for electric cars and vans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must ensure that publicly accessible recharging stations are set up in proportion to the number of registered vehicles, as follows:</li> <li>• for each registered electric vehicle, a total power output of at least 1.3 kilowatts (kW);</li> <li>• for each registered plug-in hybrid vehicle, a total power output of at least 0.80 kW.</li> <li>• Member States must also ensure the deployment of publicly accessible recharging stations along the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) road network.</li> </ul> <p>Recharging infrastructure for electric heavy-duty vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must ensure a minimum coverage of recharging points for heavy-duty electric vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>Hydrogen infrastructure for road vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2030, Member States must ensure that publicly accessible hydrogen refuelling stations with a total capacity of at least 1 tonne per day are deployed at least every 200 km along the TEN-T core network. At least one refuelling station must be deployed in each urban node.</li> </ul> <p>Liquefied methane for road transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until 31 December 2024, Member States must ensure that an appropriate number of publicly accessible refuelling points for liquefied methane are set up, at least along the TEN-T core network, where there is demand, unless the costs are disproportionate to the benefits, including environmental benefits.</li> </ul> <p>Electricity supply in maritime ports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2029, there must be sufficient shoreside electricity for ships moored at the quayside at TEN-T core and TEN-T comprehensive maritime ports to serve at least 90% of all container and passenger vessels above 5,000 gross tonnage.</li> </ul> <p>Electricity for stationary aircraft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2024, all airports of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network must provide electricity to stationary aircraft used for commercial air transport operations at aircraft contact stands, and by 31 December 2029 at all remote stands.</li> </ul> <p>Railway infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must assess the development of alternative fuel technologies and propulsion systems (including hydrogen and battery power) for rail infrastructure that cannot be fully electrified for technical or cost-efficiency reasons.</li> </ul> <p>Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users of electric and hydrogen vehicles must be able to pay easily at recharging and hydrogen refuelling points (with payment cards and without subscriptions). Prices, including all of their components and specific to the recharging session, must be communicated clearly to end users before the start of a recharging session.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>• Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>• EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>• The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>• Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>• Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>• National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>• Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>• Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	<p>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</p>	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>• The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>• The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>• Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>EU Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) 2018 (as amended in 2023)</b>	The ESR establishes binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for Member States from 2021 to 2030. It is part of a set of policies and measures to reduce the EU's emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is a crucial milestone to deliver the European Green Deal and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The ESR is also part of the Energy Union strategy and the EU's implementation of the Paris Agreement.	The national targets concern emissions from the following sectors: domestic transport (excluding aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry, and waste. These sectors account for almost 60% of emissions in the EU. The ESR assigns each Member State with an emission reduction target for 2030, a set of annual emission allocations for each year from 2021 to 2030, and flexibilities to deal with annual fluctuations in greenhouse gas emissions due to weather or economic conditions. The amended legislation increases the emissions reduction target for the targeted sectors including transport, from 29% to 40% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Energy Union Strategy (COM/2015/080) (2015) and the EU "Clean energy for all Europeans" package (2019)</b>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy aims at building an energy union that gives EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Since its launch in 2015, the EC has published several packages of measures and regular progress reports, which monitor the implementation of this key priority, to ensure that the energy union strategy is achieved.</p> <p>The package aims to help to decarbonise EU's energy system in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The ESR transforms the targets of the Clean Energy Package into binding annual climate targets for each Member State for the period 2021–2030. The "Clean energy for all Europeans" package – marked a significant step towards implementing the Energy Union Strategy.</p>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy builds five closely related and mutually reinforcing dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security, solidarity and trust - diversifying Europe's sources of energy and ensuring energy security through solidarity and cooperation between EU countries.</li> <li>• A fully integrated internal energy market - enabling the free flow of energy through the EU through adequate infrastructure and without technical or regulatory barriers.</li> <li>• Energy efficiency - improved energy efficiency will reduce dependence on energy imports, lower emissions, and drive jobs and growth.</li> <li>• Climate action, decarbonising the economy - the EU is committed to a quick ratification of the Paris Agreement and to retaining its leadership in the area of renewable energy.</li> <li>• Research, innovation and competitiveness - supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies by prioritising research and innovation to drive the energy transition and improve competitiveness.</li> </ul> <p>Based on Commission proposals published in 2016, the Clean Energy package consists of 8 new laws. Following political agreement by the EU Council and the European Parliament (finalised in May 2019) and the entry into force of the different EU rules, EU countries have 1-2 years to convert the new directives into national law.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe 2024/EC</b>  <b>recast: Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC and Fourth Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC</b>	<p>This new directive simplifies EU rules on ambient air quality by merging the two existing EU directives into one. Its goal is to bring quality standards in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.</p> <p>The new directive introduces stricter limits on key air pollutants, aligning EU standards more closely with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.</p>	<p>Air quality is assessed using common methods and criteria across the EU, and the revised directive brings further improvements to air quality monitoring and modelling.</p> <p>The revised directive will also ensure early action, with air quality roadmaps that need to be prepared ahead of 2030 if there is a risk that the new standards will not be attained by that date. The air quality standards will be reviewed regularly in line with latest scientific evidence to assess whether they continue to be appropriate.</p> <p>The revised directive prioritises the health of EU citizens: it sets new air quality standards for pollutants to be reached by 2030 which are more closely aligned with the WHO air quality guidelines. Those pollutants include, among others, particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, all known to cause respiratory problems. Member states may request that the 2030 deadline be postponed if specific conditions are met.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive 2016/2284/EU on the reduction of certain atmospheric pollutants</b>	It aims to reduce the health risks and environmental impact of air pollution by establishing national emission reduction commitments. The Directive also aligns emission reduction commitments under EU law with international commitments (following the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in 2012). The legislation was proposed as part of the EU's 2013 Clean Air Policy Package, which included a Clean Air Programme for Europe.	<p>The Directive covers 5 air pollutants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sulphur dioxide;</li> <li>• nitrogen oxides;</li> <li>• non-methane volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>• ammonia; and</li> <li>• fine particulate matter.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive sets emission reduction commitments per pollutant for each EU country to be attained by 2020 and 2030. The emission reduction commitments for each pollutant that will apply each year from 2020 to 2029 are the same as those which the EU countries are already committed to under the revised Gothenburg protocol. New stricter reductions have been agreed from 2030 onwards.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)</b>	The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.	The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC), as amended</b>	Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)</b>	Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.	This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast)</b>	The revised Energy Efficiency Directive significantly raises the EU's ambition on energy efficiency. It establishes 'energy efficiency first' as a fundamental principle of EU energy policy, giving it legal-standing for the first time. The Commission has published a series of recommendations, including guidelines for EU countries related to the revised directive, to help countries transpose its different elements into national law.	The revised Directive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raises the EU energy efficiency target, making it binding for EU countries to collectively ensure an additional 11.7% reduction in energy consumption by 2030, compared to the projections of the EU reference scenario 2020;</li> <li>more than doubles the annual energy savings obligation (Article 8) by 2028, this is one of the key policy instruments of the directive to meet the headline target and to drive energy savings in end-use sectors, such as buildings, industry and transport;</li> <li>puts a stronger focus on alleviating energy poverty, it aims at empowering consumers through stronger requirements for EU countries to raise awareness and provide information on energy efficiency;</li> <li>it includes improved regulations to identify and remove barriers related to split incentives for energy efficiency renovations between tenants and owners or among multiple owners;</li> <li>introduces an obligation for the monitoring and reporting of the energy performance of data centres;</li> <li>expands the scope of energy audit obligations to include all those companies, regardless of their size, which are consuming energy above a certain threshold;</li> <li>mandates EU countries to report on energy efficiency investments, including energy performance contracts, as part of the Governance Regulation, ensuring transparency and accountability;</li> <li>establishes project development assistance mechanisms at national, regional, and local levels to support energy efficiency investments and facilitate the attainment of the EU's ambitious energy efficiency targets.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: <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> <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> 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<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 "good status" 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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban waste water 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 waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)</b>	The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	The overall aim of the ELD is to prevent and fully remedy damaged natural resources and their services to the condition that would have existed if no damage had occurred.	<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> <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> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sewage Sludge Directive</b>  <b>(Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture)</b>	<p>The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, thereby encouraging the correct use of such sewage sludge. Member States shall prohibit the use of sludge where the concentration of one or more heavy metals in the soil exceeds the limit values which they lay down in accordance with Annex I A and shall take the necessary steps to ensure that those limit values are not exceeded as a result of the use of sludge.</p> <p>The aims of the Sewage Sludge Directive are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect humans, animals, plants and the environment by ensuring that heavy metals in soil and sludge do not exceed set limits</li> <li>to increase the amount of sewage sludge used in agriculture</li> </ul>	<p>The Directive also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets limits for the concentration of seven heavy metals in sewage sludge intended for agricultural use and in sludge-treated soils (cadmium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, mercury, chromium)</li> <li>bans the use of sewage sludge that results in concentrations of these heavy metals in soil exceeding these limit values</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Bathing Waters Directive</b>  <b>(Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC)</b>	<p>With a view to preserving, protecting and improving human health and the environment, within the legal framework of Directive 2000/60/EC, the present Directive establishes provisions for: (a) the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; (b) the management of bathing water quality; and (c) the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. Member States are required to annually identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season.</p> <p>The EU aims to protect the environment and the health of Europeans by attaining good bathing water quality throughout the EU. More specifically, it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide better and earlier information to citizens about the quality of their bathing waters, including logos</li> <li>move from simple sampling and monitoring of bathing waters to bathing quality management</li> <li>integrate into other EU measures protecting the quality of all our waters (rivers, lakes, ground waters and coastal waters) through the Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>	<p>The Bathing Water Directive requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water. It ensures timely information is given to the public during the bathing season and requires Member States to disseminate information on bathing water quality actively and promptly. In particular, notices banning or advising against bathing should be rapidly and easily identifiable. The Directive applies to all surface waters that can be used for bathing, except for swimming pools and spa pools, confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes and confined waters artificially separated from surface water and groundwater. Decision establishing a symbol for information to the public on bathing water classification and any bathing prohibition. View the symbols for informing the public on bathing water prohibition, advice against bathing and bathing water classification.</p> <p>The implementation of the Bathing Water Directive is supported by a broad EU framework of water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC)</b>  <b>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115</b>	<p>The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.</p> <p>The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.</p>	<p>The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.</p> <p>The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (1962)</b>  <b>CAP 2023-2027</b>	<p>The CAP is a partnership between society and agriculture that ensures a stable supply of food, safeguards farmers' income, protects the environment and keeps rural areas vibrant. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;</li> <li>safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;</li> <li>help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;</li> <li>keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>The CAP 2023-2027 entered into force on 1 January 2023. Support for farmers and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU countries is based on the CAP 2023-2027 legal framework and the choices detailed in the CAP Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission. The approved Plans are designed to make a significant contribution to the ambitions of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006), as amended</b>	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, including the promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances, as well as the free circulation of substances on the internal market while enhancing competitiveness and innovation.</p>	<p>This Regulation lays down provisions on hazardous substances and mixtures and specification of hazard classes; general obligations of manufacturers, importers and downstream users to classify, label and package the substances and mixtures; identification and examination of available information on substances and mixtures; evaluation of hazard information and decision on classification; establishment of a classification and labelling inventory in the form of a database; and the manufacture, placing on the market and use of chemical substances and preparations, pursuant to the precautionary principle.</p> <p>The Regulation sets forth the framework concerning the registration of such substances and preparations as well as the granting of authorizations. Furthermore, it sets up the European Chemicals Agency for the purposes of managing and carrying out the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of this Regulation. This Regulation sets out eight annexes attached. Annex I sets out the criteria for classification and labelling requirements for hazardous substances and mixtures. Annex II lays down special rules for labelling and packaging of certain classified substances and mixtures.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>UN Sustainable Development Goals</b>	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reflect the need for all countries to urgently act as a global partnership.	Sustainable transport is mainstreamed across several SDGs and targets, especially those related to food security, health, energy, economic growth, infrastructure, and cities and human settlements.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Commission's "Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change" (2021)</b>	The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.	The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Environment Agency's European Climate Risk Assessment (2024)</b>	This assessment identifies 36 climate risks with potentially severe consequences across Europe.	The risks are evaluated in the contexts of risk severity, policy horizon (lead time and decision horizon), policy readiness and risk ownership. It further identifies priorities for EU policy action, based on a structured risk assessment united with qualitative aspects, such as considering social justice.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 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. 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 and in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) take steps "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels".	<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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Green Deal (2019) and "Fit for 55" legislation (2021)</b>	The European Green Deal provides a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. The "Fit for 55" legislative package is a central part of the European Green Deal.	<p>The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</p> <p>The 'Fit for 55' package responds to the requirements in the EU Climate Law to reduce Europe's net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It was updated when the Commission proposed increased ambition on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the REPowerEU plan to respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and boost Europe's energy security. The final legislative package is expected to reduce EU net greenhouse gas emissions by 57% by 2030. For transport, the package is primarily focused on reducing fossil fuel dependency and increasing the availability of, and infrastructure for, renewable alternatives.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Europe 2020: European 2020 Strategy for Growth and Employment</b>	The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to ensure that the economic revival of the European Union following the economic and financial crisis is supported by a series of reforms in order to build solid foundations for growth and job creation by 2020. While addressing the structural weaknesses of the EU's economy and economic and social issues, the strategy also takes account of the longer-term challenges of globalisation, pressure on resources and ageing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Europe 2020 Strategy should enable the EU to achieve growth that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>smart, through the development of knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>sustainable, based on a greener, more resource efficient and more competitive economy;</li> <li>inclusive, aimed at strengthening employment and social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The EU has set itself five major targets for this ambition to be achieved by 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75 %;</li> <li>investing 3 % of gross domestic product in research and development;</li> <li>reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 %, increasing the share of renewable energies to 20 % and increasing energy efficiency by 20 %;</li> <li>reducing the school drop-out rate to less than 10 % and increasing the proportion of tertiary degrees to at least 40 %;</li> <li>reducing the number of people threatened by poverty or social exclusion by 20 million.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Europe 2020 Strategy targets are also supported by 7 flagship initiatives at European level and in EU countries: the Innovation Union; Youth on the move; the Digital Agenda for Europe; a Resource-efficient Europe; an industrial policy for the globalisation era; the agenda for new skills and jobs; and the European Platform against Poverty.</li> <li>At European level, the single market, the EU budget and the European external policy are additional levers in achieving the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</b>	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.  Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea;</li> <li>Launching an EU nature restoration plan;</li> <li>Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and</li> <li>Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)</b>	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)</b>	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>(IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1995)</b>	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)</b>	The European Landscape Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its ground-breaking approach and its broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe's and UNESCO's heritage conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	It identifies three key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) (1979)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	<p>The Bali Road Map includes the Bali Action Plan, which charts the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change. The Bali Action Plan is a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision.</p>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is divided into five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The shared vision refers to a long-term vision for action on climate change, including a long-term goal for emission reductions.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010, which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<p>Among the many decisions taken, governments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened their resolve and set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015, which will come into effect in 2020.</li> <li>Streamlined the negotiations, completing the work under the Bali Action Plan to concentrate on the new work towards a 2015 agreement under a single negotiating stream in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.</li> <li>Emphasized the need to increase their ambition to cut greenhouse gases and to help vulnerable countries to adapt.</li> <li>Launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, thereby ensuring that this treaty's important legal and accounting models remain in place and underlining the principle that developed countries lead mandated action to cut greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>Made further progress towards establishing the financial and technology support and new institutions to enable clean energy investments and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001)</b>	<p>The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Ramsar Convention (1971)</b>	The Convention's mission is <i>"the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world"</i> .	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>• Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>• Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>OSPAR Convention (1992)</b>	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>• Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>• Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>• Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Level</b>			
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan</b>	The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000; to amend certain other enactments; and to provide for matters connected therewith.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>• There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>• Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>• Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning and Development Act 2024</b>	An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000 and amend certain other enactments; for purposes unrelated to the foregoing, to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019, the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the National Asset Management Agency Act 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith.	Key reforms included in the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of statutory timelines for all consenting processes, to give confidence and certainty to applicants;</li> <li>• A significant reorganisation of An Bord Pleanála, to be known as An Coimisiún Pleanála;</li> <li>• Greater mandatory alignment of all tiers of planning, improving consistency;</li> <li>• Improvements to the planning judicial review processes;</li> <li>• Clearer, more consistent policies and guidance;</li> <li>• Longer term, more strategic, ten-year plans for Local Authorities;</li> <li>• More agile local implementation, through the introduction of Urban and Priority Area Plans, including new bespoke plans for Gaeltacht and Island communities;</li> <li>• Creation of Urban Development Zones, which will facilitate a more plan-led approach to development, increasing certainty at the master-planning stage;</li> <li>• Provisions to deter abuse of planning processes through spurious planning submissions and appeals, as well as a ban on requesting payment for not opposing development and;</li> <li>• Ability to suspend the duration of a permission while subject to judicial review proceedings, so as not to lose any time available for completing the development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended</b>	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended</b>	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014)</b>  <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)</b>	<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> <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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

## SEA Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: <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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Services Act 2007 (No. 30 of 2007)</b> <b>Water Services Act 2013 (No. 6 of 2013)</b> <b>Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (No. 50 of 2013)</b> <b>Water Services Act 2017 (No. 29 of 2017)</b> <b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 39 of 2022)</b>	<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 waste water supply.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</p>	Key strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Uisce Éireann 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 waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024</b>	<p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is Uisce Éireann investment plan for water and wastewater assets and infrastructure for the next 5 years. The Capital Investment Plan sets out where to prioritise investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.</p>	The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is made up of investment in individual projects such as building new or upgrading existing water and wastewater treatment plants and upgrading existing networks, and national programmes where activities are being delivered in a consistent and efficient manner across the country. Some examples of these programmes are the Leakage Reduction Programme, the National Disinfection Programme, the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, and the National Certification Authorisation Programme.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030 and associated Implementation Plan including the National Forestry Programme 2023-2027</b>	The Implementation Plan will facilitate the initial steps in the implementation of the Strategy on the road to achieving the Shared Vision for 2050. The Implementation Plan includes the new Forestry Programme (2023 – 2027), which will be the primary implementation mechanism for the Forest Strategy. The Plan also includes a list of actions that will be funded and enabled by mechanisms outside of the Forestry Programme.	The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 was created in alignment with Ireland's Forest Strategy and is designed to provide lasting benefits for many key areas including climate change, biodiversity, wood production, and employment alongside enhancing societal benefits. The Forestry Programme will provide incentives for farmers and other landowners and will provide farm families with the opportunity to increase and diversify their income streams.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (3rd Cycle) (2024)</b>	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second-cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The responses to shortcomings addressed include, for example, strengthen the incorporation of the integrated catchment management approach, improving the environmental ambition, improving the evidence base for 'targeting the right measures in the right place' and securing dedicated resources to deliver these, increasing environmental enforcement and compliance, and strengthening the governance structures.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027</b>	The main purpose of Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027 is to provide a comprehensive national overview of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters and the quantitative and chemical status of groundwaters. The information is used to track progress towards the achievement of the environmental objectives required by the Water Framework Directive, and those set out in the River Basin Management Plan.	The programme is comprised of 2,899 surface and groundwater bodies representing 60% of the total number of national water bodies, covering 2,429 river water bodies, 224 lakes, 80 transitional water bodies, 45 coastal waters, 16 canals and 121 groundwater bodies. The programme is operated by the Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Authorities.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) – Framework Plan (2021)</b>	<p>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</p> <p>The preparation of the plan has been divided into two distinct phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. Phase 1 was carried out in 2021 and the NWRP Framework has been adopted. In Phase 2 of the NWRP, Uisce Éireann summarised the needs across the 539 individual water supplies and identified the solutions to address these needs. Due to the large number of supplies in Ireland, Phase 2 was delivered as four Regional Water Resources Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Water Resources Plan: North West (RWRP NW)</li> <li>Regional Water Resources Plan: South West (RWRP SW)</li> <li>Regional Water Resources Plan: South East (RWRP SE)</li> <li>Regional Water Resources Plan: Eastern and Midlands (RWRP EM)</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030</b>	The national plans are intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States' operational programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. They are also intended to identify measures to reduce the administrative burden on operators, to secure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning, to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and to promote a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages. Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development was finalised following public consultation earlier in 2022. The Plan was adopted by the European Commission in 2022.	The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b>	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b>	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019</b>	The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.	One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

## SEA Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

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<b>National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (2024)</b>	<p>The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040.</p> <p>The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.</p>	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set a clear direction for managing our seas</li> <li>• clarify objectives and priorities</li> <li>• direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027</b>	Based on the challenges identified for the seafood sector and coastal communities and the policy context, Ireland's Programme requires an ambitious vision to: "To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities"	The Programme details the vision and key missions to be achieved by the implementation of the programme. It also demonstrates how the strategic objectives of the EMFAF fund (specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1139) will be employed in fulfilling the Programme.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b>	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 – 2022 and a Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area Network</b>	The National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 - 2022 sets out a roadmap for the long-term management, restoration and conservation of protected raised bogs in Ireland.	The Plan is part of the measures being implemented in response to the on-going infringement action against Ireland in relation to the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, with regard to the regulation of turf cutting on the Special Areas of Conservation and on foot of the recommendation of Mr. Justice Quirke that a National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan be drawn up, arising from the Peatlands Forum (2012).	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>• To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>• To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>• To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>• To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>• To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 113/2022)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme pursuant to Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural source.	<p>Part 2 concerns farmyard management. The Part requires an occupier of a holding shall take all such steps, as far as is practicable for the purposes of minimising the amount of soiled water produced on the holding; livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dungsteeds, farmyard manure pits, silage pits or silage clamps arising or produced in a building or yard on a holding shall, prior to its application to land or other treatment, be collected and held in a manner that prevents the run-off or seepage, directly or indirectly, into groundwaters or surface waters of such substances. The Regulations provides for general obligations related to capacity of storage facilities and then distinguishes among requirements for storage facilities of: effluents and soiled water; pig manure; poultry manure; manure from deer, goats and sheep; manure from cattle.</p> <p>Part 3 concerns nutrient management.</p> <p>Part 4 is focused on the prevention of water pollution from fertilizers and certain activities; this includes the distances from a water body and other issues requirements as to manner of application of fertilizers, soiled water etc; periods when application of fertilizers is prohibited; limits on the amount of livestock manure to be applied.</p> <p>Part 5 regulates general duty of occupier, such as keeping of records, etc. Offences and related matters.</p> <p>Part 6 is functions of the public authorities: certificates, exemptions, etc.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 565 of 2014)</b>	These Regulations the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 so as to apply them to the regulation of sea-fishing activity in so far as the regulation of that activity is necessary to secure compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the objectives of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023</b>	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p> <p>The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b>	Ireland's 4 <sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	<p>This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:</p> <p>Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity  Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs  Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People  Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity  Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025</b>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.</p> <p>The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

## SEA Environmental Report for the Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any</li> <li>international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Climate Action Plans</b>	The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provided a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.  The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.  The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action Plan.	The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.  Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.  Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b>	The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.	The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>Decarbonising Transport</li> <li>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Adaptation Sectoral Adaptation Plans</b>	The Climate Act sets out the requirements for the preparation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans. The 12 priority sectors identified in the 2018 NAF were grouped into 9 such Plans and clustered into four themes covering natural and cultural capital, critical infrastructure, water resource and flood risk management, and public health. This approach aims to provide a structured and systematic approach to sectoral developments.	To support key national sectors in planning for climate change adaptation and according to the requirements of the National Adaptation Framework (2018), sectoral planning guidelines were developed as part of the Irish Climate Information Platform, Climate Ireland project . The guidelines aim to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach to adaptation planning is adopted at national and local levels. Since the guidelines' publication in May 2018, they have been successfully implemented by relevant Departments to develop Sectoral Adaptation Plans.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) (2022)</b>	It sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is framed around three key principles that will guide the delivery of sustainable mobility policy over the coming decade. They are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and green mobility;</li> <li>• People focussed mobility; and</li> <li>• Better integrated mobility.</li> </ul>	The SMP includes an Action Plan covering the period 2022-2025 with 91 actions, supporting behavioural change across a wide range of interventions including, among other things, public transport infrastructure and services, active travel promotion and supports, road safety initiatives, legislative measures, research, and public engagement. The Policy also supports the implementation of large-scale transport projects including MetroLink and DART+ in Dublin, BusConnects in the five cities, the Connecting Ireland scheme in rural areas, and an Active Travel Infrastructure Programme providing high-quality cycling infrastructure across the country.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 and associated implementation plan</b>	It sets out a pathway for the delivery of EV charge point infrastructure, including the rollout of EV infrastructure as required under the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), where a 300% increase in the amount of public recharging infrastructure is targeted for delivery.	The strategy takes a people-first approach, focusing on the different transport needs across the country and is being informed by the piloting of different technologies and charging options in Ireland. An Implementation Plan has also been developed in conjunction with the strategy to provide an initial set of actions and deliverables to support the strategy's delivery. This includes the development the National Road Network EV Charging Plan and the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2023-2025</b>	The Renewable Transport Fuel Policy, 2023 – 2025 sets out a pathway to incentivise the supply of renewable transport fuel through annual increases in the renewable transport fuel obligation rate to 2030.	The policy will underpin the shift to the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) biofuel targets of at least B20 (biodiesel equivalent) in diesel and E10 (Ethanol) in petrol by 2030 (with an interim B12/E10 by 2025 target).	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Security Framework (2022)</b>	National Energy Security Framework provides an overarching and comprehensive response to Ireland's energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine. The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine.	The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term</li> <li>- ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23</li> <li>- reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 (published in 2024)</b>	National Energy and Climate Plans are the framework within which EU Member States must notify their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission and were established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Member States are required to develop NECPs on a ten-year rolling basis. The aim of the plans is to outline our energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide projections and ambitions towards 2050. Under the Regulation, Member States are also required to update their initial plans after 5 years, this is the first update of the initial NECP which was published in 2019. The NECP covers five dimensions of the Energy Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decarbonisation</li> <li>- Energy Efficiency</li> <li>- Energy Security</li> <li>- Internal Energy Market</li> <li>- Research, Innovation and Competitiveness</li> </ul> The NECP brings together the policies, targets, tools and associated material relating to our climate and energy obligations under various EU Regulations and Directives from across government bodies and departments into one document. It reflects our ambitions and provides certainty to investors and policymakers that we are committed to EU-wide targets and ambitions to move towards becoming a carbon-neutral society.	It outlines our department's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP collates the policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in a range of government plans: such as the Climate Action Plan, the National Development Plan, and Project Ireland 2040, into one cohesive document. It also presents modelling that illustrates Ireland's current trajectories toward its three main European targets. The NECP reflects the ambitions set out in Climate Action Plan 2024. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in subsequent Climate Action Plans. The policies outlined in the NECP reflect the ambition of Climate Action Plan 2024.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024</b>	It is the second National Implementation Plan for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals reviews the progress made towards each of the 17 Goals.	The Plan sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also incorporates 23 external actions from four other National Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence and reporting purposes. Strategic Objective 1: To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Strategic Objective 2: To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs Strategic Objective 3: Greater partnerships for the Goals Strategic Objective 4: To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms Strategic Objective 5: Strong reporting mechanisms	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040</b>	The PLUTO takes account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.	The PLUTO seeks to: 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) (2021)</b>	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.  In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 ("Energy Security Package")</b>	It outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050.	The Energy Security Package includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced and Responsive Demand</li> <li>A Renewables-Led System</li> <li>More Resilient Systems</li> <li>Robust Risk Governance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	<p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges. It aims at improving synergies and identifying and tackling policy gaps, policy conflicts and trade-offs as part of a coherent, joined-up approach to policy making on sustainable development.</p> <p>Ireland's Framework for Sustainable Development timeframe is to 2020 to tie in with other national and international frameworks, but a longer-term horizon to 2050 is also taken where appropriate, to provide a framework for guiding and reporting on long-term broad development trends such as on climate change.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Framework are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and prioritise policy areas and mechanisms where a sustainable development approach will add value and enable progress towards the strategy aims.</li> <li>• Highlight and promote existing sustainable practices that, with the correct support, can underpin sustainable development more generally.</li> <li>• Strengthen policy integration, coherence and co-ordination and bring a long term perspective to decision making.</li> <li>• Set out governance mechanisms which ensure effective participation within government and across all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Set out clear measures, responsibilities and timelines in an implementation plan.</li> <li>• Set out how progress is to be measured and reported on through the use of indicators.</li> <li>• Incorporate adequate and effective monitoring, learning and improvement into the Framework process.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020</b>	<p>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>• To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>• To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>• To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>• To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul>	<p>Others lower level aims include:</p> <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>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 – 2020</b>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan vision: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.</p>	<p>Three high-level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>• To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>• To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</b>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> <li>• Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>• Hydrogen targets</li> <li>• Biofuels targets</li> <li>• LPG targets</li> <li>• Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<p>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland.</p> <p>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed.</p>	<p>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020.</p> <p>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>• Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>• Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>• Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>• Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<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>	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: <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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) (2010)</b>	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. National Renewable Energy Action Plan.	The areas of intervention identified by the NREAP are heat, transport and electricity. Section 4 provides an overview of all policies and measures to promote the use of energy from renewable resources, these are: Biofuels Mineral Oil Tax Relief (MOTR) Schemes to increase production and use of biofuel; Greener Homes Scheme, financial facilitates to wider deployment of renewable-energy heating technologies in the residential sector; Grant support for the planting of perennial biomass crops (willow and miscanthus) – contributes to biomass needs of renewable energy sector; a policy that facilitates renewables by providing for grid connections outside the gate process for certain small, renewable, low carbon generators; new local and central authorities; etc.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2017 – 2020)</b>	Article 24 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive requires Member States to submit a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) every three years. Ireland's 4th NEEAP was produced in early 2017.	It provides a comprehensive overview on the progress made towards the above targets the measures in place to ensure the targets are met the strategies and policies in place across the residential, commercial, transport and public sector.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	The National Broadband Plan is the Government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>• Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>• The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>• A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EirGrid's Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1</b>	The main objective of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap Version 1.1 is to outline how we can make the grid ready so that 80% of Ireland's and Northern Ireland's electricity can come from renewable sources, like the wind and sun, by 2030. These targets, and new limits to carbon emissions, are the product of updates to climate change policy across the island in 2022.	Key goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the delivery of renewable electricity.</li> <li>• Find problems, gaps, opportunities, potential collaborations, or areas of duplication in the deployment of renewable electricity projects.</li> <li>• Help to find and resolve potential regulatory, administrative and/or legal barriers to the faster deployment of renewable electricity projects.</li> <li>• Increase alignment across the energy sector to support the delivery of renewable electricity generation projects.</li> <li>• Recommend appropriate investment conditions for electricity projects.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i>	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)</b>	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</b>	The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.	The Plan's objectives are: 1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste; 2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts; 3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste. 4. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities; 5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (2024)</b>	The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025</b>	The Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland.	It is based around four key goals: • to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • to reduce health inequalities • to protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • to create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>S.I. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018</b>	The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.	The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ), and fine particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions.  The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy 2023</b>	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	• Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. • The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. • The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. • In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Agri-Food Strategy 2030</b>	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level "Missions" for the sector to work toward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being</li> <li>Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Agricultural Schemes, including:</b>  <b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS), Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) and Results-based Environment-Agri Pilot Scheme (REAP)</b>	Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. The REPS evolved to AEOS 1, 2 and 3 and currently the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment (GLAS) Scheme is in place. The recently introduced REAP scheme in Ireland is a two year scheme in place for 2021 and 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 (as amended)</b>	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas.	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</b>	The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. Our Rural Future represents the Irish Government's blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. It provides the framework to achieve the vision of transforming the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas.	A set of policy measures aim to deliver wellbeing for all, and to support an aligned policy approach to rural development. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change, and to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, informed by analysis, data, and consultation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Context</li> <li>Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>Wider Government Policy</li> <li>International Context</li> <li>Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	<p>Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.</p> <p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>• net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	<p>The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i>.</p>	<p>Four objectives of the Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023</b>	<p>10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.</p> <p>Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Development &amp; Governance</li> <li>• Sustainable Funding Model</li> <li>• Asset Portfolio Management</li> <li>• Participation and Reputation</li> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Climate Action, Environment and Heritage</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, ( Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	<p>This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998</b>	<p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.</p>	<p>This Act amended and extended the Housing Acts, 1966 to 1997, the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1998, the Local Government Act, 1991, to make provision for the accommodation needs of travellers, to provide for the appointment of a national traveller accommodation consultative committee and local traveller accommodation consultative committees and to provide for related matters.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines (DHLGH, 2024)</b>	<p>The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements. They are accompanied by a companion non-statutory Design Manual that illustrates best practice examples of how the policies and objectives of the Guidelines can be applied.</p>	<p>The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)</b>	<p>The Guidelines have five key policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that retail development is plan-led;</li> <li>Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development;</li> <li>Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations;</li> <li>Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and</li> <li>Delivering quality urban design outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)</b>	<p>Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.</p>	<p>Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027</b>	<p>The primary objective of the strategy which is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.</p>	<p>This Strategy will build on the progress made under the previous strategy, The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSPWD) 2011 – 2016 (extended to 2021). The Strategy promotes a whole of community approach to housing for disabled people when planning the provision of housing, including infrastructure, transport, education, and employment.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Derelict Sites Act (1990)</b>	<p>An Act to make provision with respect to land to prevent it being or becoming a derelict site, to enable Local Authorities to require the taking of measures on derelict sites by the owners or occupiers and, in certain circumstances, to acquire derelict sites compulsorily, to establish registers of derelict sites, to enable the minister to give directions in relation to derelict sites, to provide for a derelict sites levy and to provide for other matters connected with the aforesaid and to repeal the Derelict Sites Act 1961.</p>	<p>Under the Act, local authorities can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served</li> <li>Make compulsory land purchases</li> <li>Carry out necessary work themselves and charge the owners for the cost</li> </ul> <p>All local authorities must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain derelict sites register</li> <li>Make the register available for public inspection - It can remove an entry from the Register when it is satisfied that improvement works have been carried out on the derelict site.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	<p>An Act to make provision with respect to land in areas in which housing is required and in areas which are in need of renewal to prevent it lying idle or remaining vacant, to establish a register of vacant sites in those areas, to provide for vacant sites levy, to amend the Derelict Sites Act 1990, to amend Parts II, III and V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and to provide for related matters.</p>	<p>This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland</b>	<p>The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to purchase or rent at an affordable price</li> <li>built to a high standard and in the right place</li> <li>offering a high quality of life</li> </ul>	<p>The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting home ownership and increasing affordability</li> <li>eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion</li> <li>increasing new housing supply</li> <li>addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Town Centre First Policy (2022)</b>	The Town Centre First Policy is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social and. cultural.	The Policy contains 33 actions which will give towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, socialise and run a business. This will focus on charting the future direction of their towns, address issues of vacancy and dereliction and add vibrancy to the town centre.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>			
<b>Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Northern and Western Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its 9 constituent local authorities: Galway City Council; Galway County Council; Mayo County Council; Sligo County Council; Donegal County Council; Leitrim County Council; Roscommon County Council; Monaghan County Council; and Cavan County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	The Integrated Infrastructure Plan includes certain provisions that apply nationwide. The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus;</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rail;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable</li> <li>• Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Land Use Plans including those in force in County Leitrim and County Roscommon (including the overarching Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities (including development plans for Sligo; Donegal; Longford; Mayo; Cavan; Westmeath; Offaly; and Galway; and local plans for settlements)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives).</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> </ul> Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>• Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> </ul> Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Leitrim LECP 2023-2029; and Roscommon LECP 2023-2029</b>	The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft 2020-2030 Economic Development Plan for Carrick-on-Shannon</b>	The Plan aims to ensure that Carrick-on-Shannon continues to grow as a regional hub for economic and tourism development. The need to expand the employment base within Carrick-on-Shannon and attract new employment opportunities and new and enhanced tourism infrastructure and facilities are key priorities for both Local Authorities.	The Plan provides the supporting framework to facilitate the key future priorities for Carrick-on-Shannon, relating to economic and tourism development as identified in the RSES.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment and County Roscommon Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties</b>	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> </ul> Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2027</b>	The aim of the County Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan 2022- 2027 is to place heritage and biodiversity at the heart of public life in the County. This will be achieved through increasing awareness, participation, enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of our shared heritage to lead to its proper conservation, management and protection and safeguarding it for future generations.	<p>Actions are specified under the following five themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community engagement;</li> <li>education and training;</li> <li>research and information;</li> <li>Leitrim County Council: people, property and works; and</li> <li>stakeholder engagement and pursuing opportunities with other partners.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020-2025</b>	This Heritage Plan is a 6 year plan with 33 actions and will form the basis of the work programme of the Heritage Office and the Heritage Forum.	<p>Heritage Plan Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Conservation and Recording of Leitrim's Heritage;</li> <li>Raise Awareness of Leitrim's Heritage;</li> <li>Engage Communities with their Heritage;</li> <li>Support Sustainable Heritage Tourism in Leitrim.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Roscommon and Leitrim Noise Action Plans</b>	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	<p>The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to:</p> <p>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Roscommon Renewable Energy Strategy (RES)</b>	The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energy throughout the County.	Roscommon County Council is committed to implementing the strategic aims set out in the RES, to ensure that Roscommon delivers upon its commitment to tackle climate change, through facilitating appropriate renewable energy development proposals throughout the county. The RES recognises the significant contribution renewable technologies can make by reducing County Roscommon's reliance on traditional fossil fuels and contributing towards achieving binding national energy efficiency and emission reduction targets. The RES identifies areas most suitable for strategic renewable energy developments, such as windfarms, in order ensure that development is steered to the most appropriate locations within the county, having regard to considerations such as landscape sensitivity and environmental designations e.g. proximity to Natura 2000 sites.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leitrim County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>  <b>Roscommon County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>	These plans have been prepared to set out how the local authorities can help tackle climate change and promote a range of mitigation and adaptation climate action measures.	The Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and Roscommon County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 seek to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve education, awareness-raising and capacity on climate change, adaptation (and mitigation), impact reduction and early warning across the Local Authority departments, businesses, communities and individuals;</li> <li>Integrate climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning, as well as the identification of areas at risk to inform planning and decision making; and</li> </ul> Strengthen resilience and adoptive capacity and develop and implement co-ordinated responses to climate risk where needed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Town Centre First Plans</b>	Town Centre First aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.	Town Centre First (TCF) lays the foundation for each town to develop, at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. This will be expressed through a tailored TCF plan, which is underpinned by a clear diagnosis of local strengths and challenges. The TCF approach is centred on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration and communication – a collaborative process involving all relevant local stakeholders, represented by a collaborative Town Team, with good communication in respect of issues raised and the agreed direction.</li> <li>Understanding the place – analysis and appraisal underpinned by a town audit/ data gathering -process.</li> <li>Defining the place – shaping the plan around high-level objectives that are subsequently expressed through a series of actions.</li> <li>Enabling the place– identifying a clear path to delivery of the Plan, cognisant that this will require actions of varying scale to be delivered by different partners.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans and strategies, including those relating to the "Ireland's Ancient East" including Destination Experience Development Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b>	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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