SCREENING for APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT Report

For the extension to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021

Kilkenny County Council

2026

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This is the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the extension to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021 (KCCDP), in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive[1], and Chapter 2 of the Planning and Development Act, 2024 (as amended).

1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites).

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

1.3 Guidance

This Appropriate Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010.
- *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021;
- *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.
- *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC,* European Commission, 2018.

[1] Directive 92/43/EEC

1.4 Approach

There are four main stages in the AA process; the requirement for each stage depends on the likely impacts on European sites. The four main stages are as follows:

Stage One: Screening
The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a European Site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment
The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the Site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions
The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European Site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain
An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted by following a standard source-pathway-receptor[2] model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Draft Plan provision that is known to interest with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Draft Plan.

This AA exercise is conducted in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

[2] Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

2 Description of the extension

2.1.1 The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021

The Kilkenny City & County Development Plan 2021 was prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to develop and improve the City & County in a sustainable manner. Volume 1 of the KCCDP covers Kilkenny County and wider policy, and Volume 2 addresses the City specifically. Volume 3 includes Settlement Plans for Castlecomer and Ferrybank. The plan presents Kilkenny County Council's outlook for future development of its administrative area up to 2027. It sets out the longer-term vision for the development of the County, while protecting and enhancing its environment through employing the principles of sustainable development in the policies and objectives set out therein.

The Plan contents are best described through a list of the chapter headings:

Volume 1:
1. Introduction
2. Climate Change
3. Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends
4. Core Strategy
5. Economic Development
6. Housing and Community
7. Rural development
8. Open Space and Recreation
9. Heritage, Culture and the Arts
10. Infrastructure and Environment
11. Renewable Energy Strategy
12. Movement and mobility
13. Requirements for Developments

Volume 2: City Plan
1. Introduction
2. Core Strategy
3. Economic and Retail Strategy
4. Heritage strategy
5. Movement and mobility strategy
6. Kilkenny City Place-making
7. Infrastructure and Environment

Volume 3: Settlement Plans
Castlecomer
Ferrybank/Belview

The Plan provides a land use framework for the sustainable development of Kilkenny. The Plan sets the strategic context for any lower-tier plans, such as Local Area Plans to be prepared. In its making, the Plan had regard to all relevant planning and environmental policy and legislation including European Union directives, Ministerial guidelines and other national, regional and county plans and policies.

2.1.2 Extension to the Plan

The extension is proposed under Section 68 of the Planning and Development Act (as amended). The extension will see the life of the Plan being extended from 2027 to 2030, a period of 3 years.

The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan has already undergone Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. To date the Plan has been varied 10 times, and each Variation has been subject to Appropriate Assessment.

The KCCDP was subject to AA during its preparation and adoption/approval. The Appropriate Assessment process informed the contents of the Development Plan. The relevant provisions of the KCCDP in relation to biodiversity are presented in Appendix V of this report.

3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant effects to European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the "'Conservation Objectives", "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) and/or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs) of European Sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological/environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat[3] or species[4] at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15km pathway consideration zone. A review of all sites within this zone, in the context of the nature and scope of the extension, has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the extension will not impose effects beyond the 15 km.

Since the extension relates to the entire KCCDP, the plan area is taken as the wider area covered under all volumes of the KCCDP. This section of the screening process describes the European sites within 15 km of the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan area and those that are also hydrologically linked to the Plan area.

Details of European sites that occur within the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone of the Plan area are listed in Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.1. The potential for surface hydrological connectivity

[3] The favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

[4] The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

with, and/or occurrence within the same groundwater body[5] as the Plan area[6] (these can occur beyond the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone), was also considered; in this case European sites with hydrological links are all captured in within the 15km Pathway consideration zone, which extends out into the Irish Sea.

In order to determine the potential for impacts from the extension, information on the qualifying features, known vulnerabilities and threats to site integrity pertaining to any potentially affected European sites was reviewed. Background information on threats to individual sites and vulnerability of habitats and species that was used during this assessment included the following:

- Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission "Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland" (NPWS, 2025)
- Site Synopses
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms

Since the conservation objectives for the European sites focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the qualifying interests of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential implications of the Plan against the qualifying interests of each site.

3.2.1 Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs)

Relevant cSAC sites are selected for a range of different habitats and species listed on Annex I and Annex II of the habitats directive, known as Qualifying Interests (QIs).

Relevant SPA sites listed have been selected for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. Each SPA has been selected for one or a combination of the following:

- Listed rare and vulnerable species (as listed on Annex I of EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC);
- Regularly occurring migratory species, such as ducks, geese, and waders;
- Wetlands, especially those of international importance, which attract large numbers of migratory birds each year.

The features for which SPAs have been selected are referred to as Special Conservation Interests (SCIs).

Those QIs and SCIs for which sites are selected are presented in Table 3.1.

[5] Special Areas of Conservation with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

[6] Source: EPA datasets (https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/). Accessed: February 2024

Figure 3.1 European sites in the vicinity of the Plan area, including those with hydrological connectivity

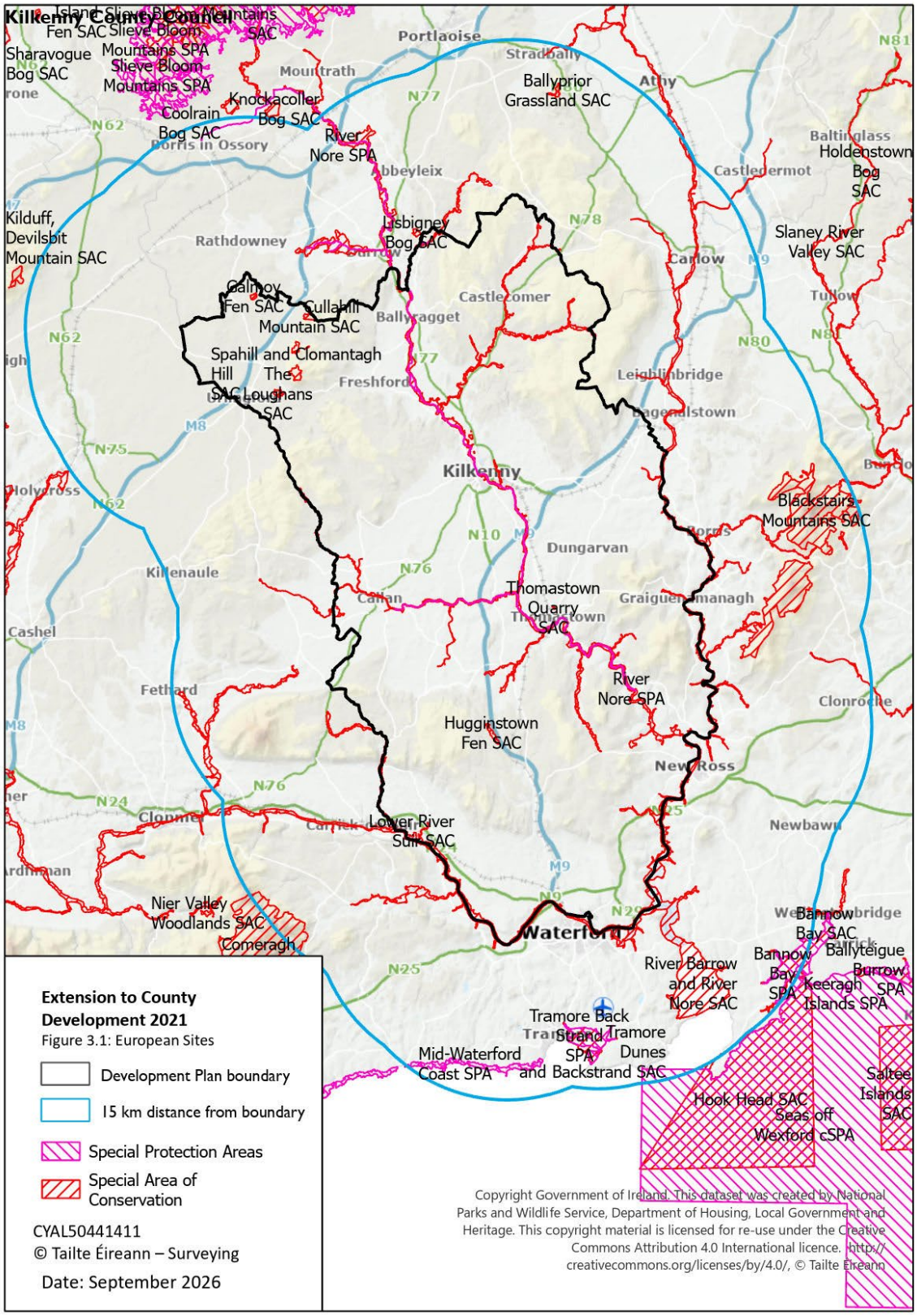


Table 3.1 List of European sites within 15kms and/or hydrologically connected to Kilkenny County-

Site Code	European site	Distance from County boundary (km)
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	12km
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	11km
004233	River Nore SPA	Within
004237	Seas off Wexford SPA	12km
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	9km
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	10km
000697	Bannow Bay SAC	12km
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	3km
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	12km
000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC	Within
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	Within
000764	Hook Head SAC	14km
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	Within
000869	Lisbigney Bog SAC	0.15
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	Within
02162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Within
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	9km
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC	Within
000407	The Loughans SAC	Within
002252	Thomastown Quarry SAC	Within
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	9km

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) are set out in Appendix I.

3.3 Assessment Criteria

All provisions of the Plan are considered in this report with respect to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified. The sensitivities, threats and pressures of the QIs in relation to all potential sources for effects identified, and potential pathways for such effects identified above are then examined by the Screening for AA in Table 3.2. If/where sources within the Plan and pathways for potential significant effects are identified, the European sites concerned will proceed to Stage 2 AA (where a Natura Impact Statement is then required).

3.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

Under the Habitats Directive, plans that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a

European site do not require AA. The primary purpose of the extension to the KCCDP 2021 is not the nature conservation management of the sites. Therefore, the extension to the KCCDP is not considered by the Habitats Directive to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

3.3.2 Elements of the extension with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The extension is intended to allow the land use zoning and development framework for the City and County to remain in place until 2030. There is no additional land designated for development as part of this extension.

Implementing the Plan will involve Kilkenny County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans/programmes/strategies setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use tourism and environmental protection and environmental management.

The Plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Development Plan has been subject to Appropriate Assessment.

In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) 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.

Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites (refer also to Appendices), there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a potential significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing planning framework, the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied), and associated AA processes.

3.4 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is a likelihood of potential for significant effects on European sites, considering: information on potential effects provided above; the Conservation Objectives for each site; each site's QIs; and their threats and pressures – as provided in Appendix I. Sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- The existence of potential for pathways for likely significant effects, such as hydrological links between the Plan area and the site to be screened;
- The distance of the relevant site from the Plan boundary; and
- The existence of a link between identified threats or vulnerabilities at a site to potential impacts that may arise from the Plan.

The European Commission Environment DG document "*Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*" outlines the types of effects that may affect European Sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction etc.)
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)

- Excavation Requirements
- Transportation Requirements
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning

In addition, the guidance document outlines the following likely changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Loss/reduction of habitat area;
- Habitat or species fragmentation;
- Disturbance to key species;
- Reduction in species density;
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and
- Climate change.

Assessment of potential impacts on European sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model.

3.4.1 Identification of Potential Likely Effects

This section documents the final stage of the screening process and determines the likelihood of impacts to arise on individual European sites. It has used the information collected on the sensitivity of each European site and describes any effects of the implementation of the extension with respect to this site.

In determining the potential for effects, a number of factors have been taken into account. Firstly, the sensitivity and reported threats to the European site. Secondly, the individual elements of the extension and other plans and programmes and the potential effect they may cause on the site were considered.

The outcome of this screening is presented in Table 3.2 below. In summary, taking into consideration the provisions of the extension together with the overarching provisions contained in the KCCDP, there is no potential for effects on any European site and therefore there is no need to advance to Stage II Appropriate Assessment.

Table 3.2 Screening of European sites with ecological pathways to the Plan's boundary

Site Code	Site Name	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	The extension relates to the development and usage of land and infrastructure in the county, which is already provided for by the wider planning framework, including the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 and Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027. Implementing the extended Plan will involve Kilkenny County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans/programmes/strategies setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use tourism and environmental protection and environmental management. The extended Plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate. The extension fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, and the NPF First Revision, National Climate Action Plan 2025 and Kilkenny Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the extended Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, encompassing measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. In order to be realised, projects included in the extended Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) 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. Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to this European site, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a potential significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000407	The Loughans SAC		No	No
000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC		No	No
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC		No	No
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC		No	No
002137	Lower River Suir SAC		No	No
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC		No	No
004233	River Nore SPA		No	No
002252	Thomastown Quarry SAC		No	No
000869	Lisbigney Bog SAC		No	No
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC		No	No
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC		No	No
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA		No	No
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC		No	No
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC		No	No
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA		No	No
000697	Bannow Bay SAC		No	No
004033	Bannow Bay SPA		No	No
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC		No	No
000764	Hook Head SAC		No	No
004237	Seas off Wexford SPA		No	No

The extended Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not considered by the existing KCCDP which was subject to its own Appropriate Assessment.

3.5 In combination effects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the likelihood for potential significant effects to European sites.

The existing City & County Development Plan 2021 to which the extension relates, was subject to its own Appropriate Assessment process that determined "*Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on the integrity of European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects*"[7]. There are no provisions in the extension that introduce any additional source for an effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes (refer also to the detail provided under Sections 3.3 and 3.4).

Therefore, there are no in combination effects identified resulting from the implementation of the extended Plan. A list of other plans and programmes considered is provided in Appendix IV. Interaction with national level Plans were considered in the NIR for the City and County Development Plan[8], and those plans remain as stated in the NIR, except where updates are provided below.

[7] Kilkenny City & County Development Plan 2021-2027- Consolidated Natura Impact Report

[8] ibid

4 Screening for AA Conclusion

This Screening for AA report informs the competent authority carrying out the AA Screening determination for the extension, and demonstrates that the implementation of the extended Plan does not have a likelihood to result in potential significant effects to any European site.

Following the source-pathway-receptor model, and considering the potential effects of the extended Plan, the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives of each European site were assessed. The extended Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes.

The risks to the safeguarding of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed through existing, already in-force policies and objectives of the wider planning framework, including the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 and the existing Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021 as varied (both of which were subject to Stage 2 AA), with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

Therefore, it is concluded in this Screening for AA to inform the competent authority carrying out the AA Screening, that the extended Plan is not foreseen to have any likelihood for significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for a significant effect to any European site as a result of implementing the extended Plan can be ruled out.

This evaluation is made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

Appendix I Supporting information on European sites

European sites with functional connectivity (ecological pathways) to the Plan area including their Qualifying Interests, known threats and pressures

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC Version 1 2021	6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	D01.01, A04, A08, A10.01, A03, B02.01, A10	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, grazing, fertilisation, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, mowing or cutting of grassland, forest replanting, restructuring agricultural land holding
000697	Bannow Bay SAC Version 1 2012	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) [1420] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	C01.01.02, K01.01, J02.02, B01, E03.01, E03, J02.11.01, G01.03.02, F01.01, I01, D01.01, F02.03.01, X	Removal of beach materials, erosion, removal of sediments (mud...), forest planting on open ground, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, discharges, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, off-road motorized driving, intensive fish farming, intensification, invasive non-native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, bait digging or collection, no threats or pressures
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC Version 1 2019	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030]	E03, J01.01, B02, G01.02, A04.02, K02.01, K01.01, G01.03.02, A04.01.02	Discharges, burning down, forest and plantation management & use, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, non-intensive grazing, species composition change (succession), erosion, off-road motorized driving, intensive sheep grazing
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and	B, G01.02, E02, A04, D01.02, J01, I01,	Sylviculture, forestry, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, industrial or commercial areas, grazing, roads, motorways, fire and fire suppression,

	Version 1 2021	Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Hamatocaulis vernicosus (Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216]	K01.01, C01.03, E06	invasive non-native species, erosion, peat extraction, other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities
000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC Version 1 2021	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210]	A04.03, A10.01, A03.02	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, non-intensive mowing
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC Version 1 2019	Alkaline fens [7230]	X, B, C01.04.02, A04	No threats or pressures, sylviculture, forestry, underground mining, grazing
000764	Hook Head SAC Version 2 2025	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	J02.11.01, F02, X, K01.01, G01.07	Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, no threats or pressures, erosion, scuba diving, snorkelling
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC Version 1 2019	Alkaline fens [7230]	B02, A04, A08	Forest and plantation management & use, grazing, fertilisation
000869	Lisbigney Bog SAC Version 1	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	J01.01, K02.01, J02.01, X, E03.03,	Burning down, species composition change (succession), landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, no threats or pressures, disposal of inert materials,

	2021		A04.03, E03.01	abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, disposal of household or recreational facility waste
002137	Lower River Suir SAC Version 1 2017	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	A01, E03, J02.12.02, J02.01.02, I01, B, A08, D03.01, E01, H01, J02.01, X	Cultivation, discharges, dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, invasive non-native species, sylviculture, forestry, fertilisation, port areas, urbanised areas, human habitation, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, no threats or pressures

002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC Version 2, 2025	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Vandenboschia speciosa (Killarney Fern) [6985]	A10.01, A02.01, C01.01.01, E02, B05, D03.01, M01, F02.03, B02.01.01, J02.12.02, A04.01.01, I01, F02, F02.01.02, C01.03, B02, J03.02.01, J02.02.01, J02.05.02, B07, H01, K01.01, J02, F01.01, J02.06	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, agricultural intensification, sand and gravel quarries, industrial or commercial areas, use of fertilizers (forestry), port areas, changes in abiotic conditions, leisure fishing, forest replanting (native trees), dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, intensive cattle grazing, invasive nonnative species, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, netting, peat extraction, forest and plantation management & use, reduction in migration or migration barriers, dredging or removal of limnic sediments, modifying structures of inland water courses, forestry activities not referred to above, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), erosion, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, intensive fish farming, intensification , water abstractions from surface waters
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC Version 1 2011	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion,	H01.01, E05, C01.01, J02.11, B02, F02.03.01, J02.05.02, A01, A09, F03.02.04, J02.06, A08,	Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, storage of materials, sand and gravel extraction, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, forest and plantation management & use, bait digging or collection, modifying structures of inland water courses, cultivation, irrigation, predator control, water abstractions from surface waters, fertilisation, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities,

		Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twaite Shad) [1103] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	H01.05, J02.12.02, H01.08, D03.01.03, A10.01, I01, K01.01, E03, H01, F01.03, J02.06.01, D01.05, D01.01, J02	dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, fishing harbours, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, invasive non-native species, erosion, discharges, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), bottom culture, surface water abstractions for agriculture, bridge, viaduct, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC Version 1 2021	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210]	X, A10.01, A08, A04.01	No threats or pressures, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, fertilisation, intensive grazing
000407	The Loughans SAC Version 1, 2020	Turloughs [3180]	A04.01.01, A08, A04	Intensive cattle grazing, fertilisation, grazing
002252	Thomastown Quarry SAC Version 1, 2019	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220]	E01, A04.03, X, K04.01	Urbanised areas, human habitation, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, no threats or pressures, competition (flora)
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC Version 1, 2013	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]	A04, E01, G02.08, C01.01.02, F02.03.01, I01, F02.03, G01.02, E03, F03.01	Grazing, urbanised areas, human habitation, camping and caravans, removal of beach materials, bait digging or collection, invasive non-native species, leisure fishing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, discharges, hunting

		Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]		
SPAs Qualifying Interest \ Special Conservation Interests				
004033	Bannow Bay SPA Version 1 2012	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054] Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	F01, A04, D01.02, G01, E01.03, F03.01, A08	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, grazing, roads, motorways, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, dispersed habitation, hunting, fertilisation
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA Version 1 2024	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]	A04, E04.01, A02, A04.03, E05	Grazing, agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape, modification of cultivation practices, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, storage of materials
004233	River Nore SPA Version 1 2024	Kingfisher *(Alcedo atthis)* [A229]	J02.01, X, D03.01	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, no threats or pressures, port areas
004237	Seas off Wexford SPA Version 1 2024	Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001] Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Gannet (Morus bassanus) [A016] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018] Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065] Mediterranean Gull (Larus melanocephalus) [A176]	D01.05, E01.04, E03, D01.02, D03.02, F02.03.01, G02.01, G01.01, G01.02, G03, E01.01, E02,	Bridge, viaduct, other patterns of habitation, discharges, roads, motorways, shipping lanes, bait digging or collection, golf course, nautical sports, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, interpretative centres, continuous urbanisation, industrial or commercial areas, bait digging or collection, urbanised areas, human habitation, discharges, reclamation of land from

		Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204] Sandwich Tern (Thalasseus sandvicensis) [A863] Little Tern (Sternula albifrons) [A885]	F02.03.01, E01, E03, J02.01.02, F02.03, K02.03, A08	sea, estuary or marsh, leisure fishing, eutrophication (natural), fertilisation
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA Version 1 2013	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140] Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	I01, A08, G01.02, A04, E03, H, E01	Invasive non-native species, fertilisation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, discharges, pollution, urbanised areas, human habitation

Appendix II Supporting information on the Qualifying Interests of SACs

Qualifying Interests of SACs including summaries of current threats and sensitivities

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1016]	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)*	The main pressures are associated with natural succession resulting in species composition change and drying out of the habitat.	A07, A10, L01, L02	Abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
[1029]	Freshwater Pearl Mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)*	The pressures facing this species come from a wide variety of sources *(e.g. pollution from urban wastewater, development activities, farming and forestry)*, often quite removed from the species' habitat. Flow changes, caused by land drainage are also a significant pressure facing the species.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, D02, F12, F28, F31, F33	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, other modification of hydrological conditions for residential or recreational development, abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
[1092]	White-clawed Crayfish *(Austropotamobius pallipes)*	The main pressures facing this species is related to the non-indigenous crayfish species *(NICS)* and Crayfish Plaque, a waterborne disease specific to freshwater crayfish.	I01, I05	Invasive alien species of union concern, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
[1095]	Sea Lamprey *(Petromyzon marinus)*	Most of the pressures on Sea Lampreys are associated with hydropower infrastructure, reduction of prey populations due to overharvesting, drainage and the use of both natural and synthetic fertilisers. Changes in rainfall due to climate change is also considered a significant pressure on the species.	A19, A20, A31, D02, G01, N01, N02, N03, Xo	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, threats and pressures from outside the member state	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
[1096]	Brook Lamprey *(Lampetra planeri)*	Most of the pressures on Brook Lampreys are associated with drainage for agriculture, the use of both natural and synthetic fertilisers, tree removal. Infrastructure related to hydropower along with pollution to ground and surface water and the discharge of waste water are also considered pressures.	A19, A20, A31, B09, D02, F11, F12, N01, N02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the- river), including infrastructure, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
[1099]	River Lamprey *(Lampetra fluviatilis)*	The main pressures on River Lampreys are associated with hydropower infrastructure and changes in rainfall due to climate change. The use of synthetic and natural fertilisers, drainage and also infrastructure related to shipping are also considered to be pressures on the species.	A19, A20, A31, D02, E03, N01, N02, N03	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.

[1103]	Twaite Shad *(Alosa fallax fallax)*	There are a number of pressures related to this species, mainly relating to pollution, alteration of flow patterns, and habitat disturbance/	A19, A20, D02, E03, G01, G06, G12, I02, N01, N03	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off- the-river), including infrastructure, shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, freshwater fish and shellfish harvesting (recreational), bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[1106]	Salmon *(Salmo salar)*	Known pressures include exploitation at sea in commercial fisheries, interceptor fisheries in coastal waters, aquaculture and predation. In addition, the negative influence of climate change on prey structure as well as alterations in habitat and water quality are also pressures on the species.	A25, A26, B23, D02, F12, F28, G11, G19, G20, I02, J01, K05, L06, N01	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run- offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, illegal harvesting, collecting and taking, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, abstraction of water, flow diversion, dams and other modifications of hydrological conditions for freshwater aquaculture, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), physical alteration of water bodies, interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
[1130]	Estuaries	Most of the pressures on estuaries come from various sources of pollution, including domestic wastewater, agriculture and marine aquaculture. Alien invasive species such as the naturalised Pacific oyster *(Magalana gigas)* are also recognised as a significant pressure	A28, F20, G16, I02, XU	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro-particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), unknown pressure	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster *(Magallana gigas)*.	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro-particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non- native species common cord-grass *(Spartina anglica)*.	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.

[1355]	Otter *(Lutra lutra)*	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)*	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[1421]	Killarney Fern *(Trichomanes speciosum)*	There are no pressures facing this species.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Land use management and direct impacts.
[3260]	Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation *(Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho- Batrachion)*	The majority of pressures on this habitat are caused by damage through hydrological and morphological change, eutrophication and other water pollution.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K01, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run- offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
[4030]	European dry heaths	A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures.	A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
[6430]	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	Pressures on the habitat include invasive species; and agricultural intensification and drainage in the lowlands.	A09, A31, I01, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, drainage for use as agricultural land, invasive alien species of union concern, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7220]	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)*	Pressures related to this habitat are associated with drainage, pollution to ground and surface waters, recreational activities, infrastructure, overgrazing and abandonment of grassland management.	A06, A10, E01, F07, H08, J01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	The significant pressure facing this habitat are associated with invasive non-native species such as *Rhododendron ponticum*, cherry laurel *(Prunus laurocerasus)* and beech *(Fagus sylvatica)* and overgrazing by deer.	A09, B09, I02, I04, M07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
[91E0]	Alluvial forests with Alder and Ash *(Alnus glutinosa, Fraxinus excelsior, Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)*	Many of the pressures facing this habitat include invasive species, particularly sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*, beech *(Fagus sylvatica)*, Indian balsam *(Impatiens glandulifera)* and currant species *(Ribes nigrum and R. rubrum)* as well as some native species such as brambles *(Rubus fruticoses agg.)* and common nettle, along with over felling.	B09, I02, I04, I05	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.

Appendix III Supporting information on the Special Conservation Interests of SPAs

Special Conservation Interests of SPAs including summaries of current threats and sensitivities

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A009	Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
A013	Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species
A016	Northern Gannet	*Morus bassanus*	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution
A017	Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A018	Shag	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution
A176	Mediterranean Gull	*Larus melanocephalus*	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A179	Black-Headed Gull	*Larus ridibundus*	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A183	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
A184	European Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution
A191	Sandwich Tern	*Sterna sandvicensis*	C03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, invasive non-native species
A192	Roseate Tern	*Sterna dougallii dougallii*	C03, D01, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
A193	Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
A194	Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species, changes in abiotic conditions
A200	Razorbill	*Alca torda*	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution
A204	Atlantic Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species
A229	Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	A11, D01, G01, H01, I01, J02	Agriculture activities not referred to above, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions

Appendix IV Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

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

Interaction with European and national level Plans were considered in the NIR for the City and County Development Plan[9], and those plans remain as stated in the NIR, except where updates are provided below.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National level			
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives	Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3 and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

[9] ibid

National Planning Framework – First Revision 2025	The First Revision focuses on the need to update the Framework in order to appropriately reflect changes to government policy that have taken place since its initial publication six years ago, such as climate transition, regional development, demographics, digitalisation and investment and prioritisation.	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3 and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

The Healthy Ireland Framework (2013-2025) Public consultation underway for the next phase[10].	The HIF vision is "*A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility"*	Goals as follows: Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3 and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

[10] As at October 2026

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024	Gives effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and Management.	Sets out the current situation including policy, the existing waste landscape and financial, human and market resources deployed. It also identifies the key waste management challenges facing the State. Sets out the responses to the waste management challenges identified including the Plan ambition, targets, policies and priority actions. Targeted policies and priority actions are identified for a range of focus areas chosen to align with the challenges. Sets out the delivery roadmap for the responses contained in Volume II and contains key deliverables required to enable the ambition, targets, policies, and actions identified.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional level			

Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2020-2032 Public consultation underway for review process[11]	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Southern Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine counties, Cork, Clare, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford. The Region's nine counties are administered by 10 local authorities; Cork includes Cork City Council and Cork County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

[11] As at September 2026

Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans and strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East brands	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans in force within Kilkenny and in other adjoining planning authorities. This includes Development Plans and Local Area Plans	Outline planning objectives for land use development. • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.	Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protect and enhances amenities and environment. • Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aim to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Kilkenny LECP 2023-2028	Vision Statement: By 2028 Kilkenny will be a future-ready, citizen-centric and welcoming county that is climate resilient, provides jobs, attracts highly productive businesses, delivers inclusive services and celebrates creativity.	High-Level Goals and Objectives Goal 1: To ensure that climate action is embraced, and that our actions and interventions are embedded across all areas of the LECP in order to contribute positively to the global climate and biodiversity crisis affecting our citizens and support Ireland to achieve its climate and biodiversity goals and obligations. Goal 2: To build a resilient, sustainable business base and support new and existing businesses to grow, be enterprising and take advantage of new opportunities. Goal 3: To realise the economic and social value of Kilkenny's built and natural heritage, its cultural reputation and offer, and its growing tourism, creative and cultural sectors. Goal 4: To ensure our rural economy and communities are supported to develop sustainably. Goal 5: To increase the number of economically active people in the County by ensuring access to further and higher education infrastructure and to lifelong learning for every working age resident who wants to work to enhance their educational qualifications and achieve the skills required. Goal 6: To grow the number of third level graduates working in County Kilkenny. Goal 7: To reduce inequalities and promote and enhance the importance of health and wellbeing. Goal 8: To reduce the number of people living in deprivation and promote community development, community resilience, climate justice, integration, diversity and social inclusion. Goal 9: To develop increased local capacity and improve targeting of social investment through increased engagement and participation with local community groups that will deliver improved community facilities, supports and services. Goal 10: To support the provision of appropriate community supports and services for new and existing housing developments.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local			
Kilkenny's Statement of Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plan 2023 – 2028	Underpin the Councils' support for the tourism industry in Kilkenny over the next five years.	Sets out a vision, goals, objectives, and aligns with national tourism policy, national initiatives, regional objectives and the objectives of the Council's adopted Local Economic Community Plan. It is intended that the Strategy and Work Programme will support the delivery of the objectives of the LECP, support Kilkenny Tourism, and support local community tourism initiatives.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Kilkenny County Council Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023	The opportunity embraced within the Kilkenny Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023–2027 is to support people's participation, inclusion and expression within communities, and further strengthen local creative economies.	This plan identifies five strategic priorities with clear objectives to fulfil the Council's creative vision for Kilkenny: — Enable best practice delivery of culture and creativity — Increase and diversify participation in culture and creativity — Support culture and creativity in rural and urban areas — Engage children and young people in culture and creativity — Communicate the value of culture and creativity	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Kilkenny County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	In accordance with the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, Kilkenny County Council published its Climate Action Plan in 2024.	The Plan sets out how the Council will respond to the climate crisis by improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and embedding climate resilience across the organisation. It also addresses how the Council will adopt a leadership role in the county by supporting local communities, businesses and other stakeholders to take climate action.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Kilkenny Noise Action Plan 2024-2028	The Noise Action Plan is aimed at strategic long-term management of environmental noise from transport systems. Additionally, the Noise Action Plan considers areas potentially free from long-term noise effects caused by human activity, with the aspiration of preserving their environmental noise quality. These are referred to as Candidate Quiet Areas.	Under the Regulations, Kilkenny County Council is the action planning authority responsible for the creation and implementation of the Noise Action Plan for County Kilkenny. The Noise Action Plan for County Kilkenny is based on the results of the strategic noise maps which informed assessments of population exposure and harmful effects of noise.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes	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 (see Section 3.3. and 3.4) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appendix V Kilkenny City and County Development 2021 Environmental Provisions

relating to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water, Flood Risk and Soil.

Environmental/ Component	Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021 Provision (Existing, already in force policy/objective/development management standard)
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	*See also measures on this table under Soil, Water, Flood Risk Management and Drainage and Water* Services • Obj. 1A To implement the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive and ensure that any plan or project within the functional area of the Planning Authority is subject to appropriate assessment in accordance with the Guidance Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009, or any subsequent version, and is assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of the site. Section 9.2.1.5 The Council will protect and, where possible, enhance the natural heritage sites designated under EU legislation and national legislation (Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and Wildlife Acts). This protection will extend to any additions or alterations to sites that may arise during the lifetime of this plan. Section 9.2.2 To ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. Section 9.2.1.5 Ensure that an ecological impact assessment is carried out, by suitably qualified professional(s), for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment. Section 9.2.2 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. Section 9.2.2 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. Section 9.2.1.5 The Council will also protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under European legislation (Habitats and Birds Directive) and protected under national Legislation (European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477 of 2011), Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 and the Flora Protection Order (SI94 of 1999). 9.3.9 Floodlighting: To ensure the protection of the special character and setting of protected structures, ACAs and Recorded Monuments, and protected species when considering proposals for floodlighting.
Water	*See also measures on this table under Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil, Water Services and Flood Risk Management* Objective 10B: To implement the measures of the River Basin Management Plan, including continuing to work with communities through the Local Authority Waters Programme to restore and improve water quality in the identified areas of action. 10.1.8.5 Water Quality Development Management Requirements: To have regard to the Groundwater Protection Scheme and to comply with the Water Services Acts 2007 as amended in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.

	10.1.8.4 Water Quality: The Council will promote compliance with environmental standards and objectives established for bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009; • for groundwater, and groundwater by European Union Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.
Flood Risk	*See also measures on this table under Human Health* 10.2.6.1 Flood Management: To adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. 10.2.6.1 Flood Management: The Council will ensure that new developments do not reduce the effectiveness or integrity of any existing or new flood defence infrastructure, and will facilitate the provision of new, or the reinforcement of existing, flood defences and protection measures where necessary. 10.2.6.2 Development Management Requirements: Where flood risk may be an issue for any proposed development, a detailed flood risk assessment should be carried out appropriate to the scale and nature of the development and the risks arising. In particular, any area within or adjoining flood zone A or B, or flood risk area, shall be the subject of a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment appropriate to the type and scale of the development being proposed. This shall be undertaken in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment accompanying this Plan.
Soil	*See also measures on this table under Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water, Water Services and Flood Risk Management* 9.2.4 Geological Heritage: The Council will consult the Geological Survey of Ireland when considering undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to affect County Geological Sites. In some locations, in consultation with landowners, it may be possible to access geological and geo-morphological features of interest, and the Council will support and facilitate this where appropriate.

Appendix VI AA Screening Determination

Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Halla an Chontae Sraid Eoin Cill Chainnigh
R95 A39T

Pobail agus Áiteanna Inbhuanaithe a Chruthú

Kilkenny County Council
County Hall John Street Kilkenny
R95 A39T

Creating Sustainable Communities and Places

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination under the Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended, for:

Extension to the life of the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening determination has been made by Kilkenny County Council regarding the extension to the existing Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021.

Section 68 (3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), requires compliance with Chapter 2 of Part 6: Appropriate Assessment (AA). Section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended), requires that a determination be made as to whether or not the extension is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, having regard to the conservation objectives of that European site.

The extension to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan is intended to allow for the alignment of the next Kilkenny City and County Development Plan with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region.

The AA screening process has found that the Extension does not require any further assessment to demonstrate compliance with the Directive in accordance with the methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

Taking into account the findings of the AA process that are detailed in an AA Screening Report that accompanies this Determination, Kilkenny County Council have determined that the likelihood of the extension (either individually or in combination with any project or other plan) having significant effects on a European site can be excluded (in view of their conservation objectives), and it is not considered necessary to undertake any further stages of the Appropriate Assessment process.



Signed _____
Nicolaas Louw,
A/Senior Planner

Date 23/10/'26