



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

BALLINASLOE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2022 – 2028

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Annex A: Detailed Evaluation

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Abbreviations

ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
BLAP	Ballinasloe Local Area Plan
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ER	Environmental Report
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
HDA	Habitats Directive Assessment
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
P/P	Plan/Programme
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
S.I. No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SIRBD	Shannon International River Basin District
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSIP	The Water Services Investment Programme
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

Glossary

Adaptation (climate change)	Adaptation refers to efforts to manage the risks and impacts associated with existing or anticipated impacts of climate change
Alternatives (Reasonable)	Alternatives should take into account the objectives and geographical scope of the Plan or project (P/P). There can be different ways of fulfilling the P/P objectives, or of dealing with environmental problems. The alternatives should be realistic, capable of implementation and should fall within the legal and geographical competence of the authority concerned.
Appropriate Assessment	An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites).
Baseline environment	A description of the present state of the environment of the P/P area.
Baseline Survey	Description of the existing environment against which future changes can be measured.
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992). Flora is all of the plants found in a given area. Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.
Birds Directive	Council Directive of 2nd April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC).
Blue Infrastructure	Blue landscape elements are linked to water. They can be pools, ponds and pond systems, wadis, artificial buffer basins or water courses. These comprise blue infrastructure.
Built Environment	Refers to both architectural heritage and archaeological heritage.
Cumulative Effects	Effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space
Data	Includes environmental data, proxy data, any other relevant statistical data.
Ecology	The study of relationships between living organisms and between organisms and their environment (especially animal and plant communities), their energy flows and their interactions with their surroundings.
Ecosystem Services	Ecosystem services are the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being (TEEB D0). They support directly or indirectly our survival and quality of life.
Environmental Assessment	The preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision (in accordance with Articles 4 to 9 of the SEA Directive).

Environmental Characteristics	Environmental resources, issues and trends in the area affected by the P/P.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	An ordered exercise designed to enable the environmental impacts of a proposed development/project to be anticipated before the project is carried out.
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	A statement of results from the ordered exercise which focuses on anticipating all environmental impacts of significance of a proposed development, prior to implementation or construction, and which specifies those measures which should be taken to eliminate or mitigate such impacts to an acceptable level.
Environmental indicator	An environmental indicator is a measure of an environmental variable over time, used to measure achievement of environmental objectives and targets.
Environmental objective	Environmental objectives are broad, overarching principles which should specify a desired direction of environmental change.
Environmental Problems	Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse. Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.
Environmental Receptors	Include biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological) and landscape as listed in the SEA Directive. This list is not exhaustive, and can include other receptors which may arise for a particular P/P.
Environmental Report (ER)	A document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.
Environmental Targets	A target usually underpins an objective often having a time deadline that should be met and should be accompanied by limits or thresholds.
Environmental Vectors	Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings.
Geographical Information System (GIS)	is a computer system that collects, stores, views and analyses geographical information and commonly creates maps as an output
Geology	Science of the earth, including the composition, structure and origin of its rocks
Green Infrastructure	A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide

	range of ecosystem services' in both rural and urban settings (EC, 2013a).
Habitat	Area in which an organism or group of organisms live.
Habitats Directive	Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
Habitats Directive Assessment	An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites)
Hierarchy of Plans	Both higher and lower level P/P relevant to the P/P being assessed.
Indirect effect	Any aspect of a P/P that may have an impact (positive or negative) on the environment, but that is not a direct result of the proposed P/P. May also be referred to as a secondary effect
Interrelationships	Associations or linkages, related to environmental impact of the proposed P/P usually on environmental receptors.
Key environmental issues	Those significant environmental issues, which are of particular relevance and significance within a P/P area and/or the zone of influence of that P/P. These issues should be identified during SEA Scoping process.
Key environmental receptors	Aspects of the environment likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed P/P.
Material Assets	Critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment transportation etc.
Member States	Those countries that belong to the European Union.
Mitigate	To make or become less severe or harsh
Mitigation Measures	Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.
Monitoring	A continuing assessment of environmental conditions at, and surrounding, the plan or programme. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted. The primary purpose of monitoring is to identify significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.
Monitoring Programme	A detailed description of the monitoring arrangements to be put in place to carry out the monitoring of the impact of the proposed P/P on the environment including; frequency of monitoring, who has responsibility for monitoring, and responses if monitoring identifies significant negative impacts.

Natura 2000 Site	Designated European Site. In combination Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas will constitute Natura 2000 network of protected sites for habitats and species across the EU.
Natural Heritage	Refers to habitats and species of flora and fauna.
Nature Based Solutions	Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.
Natural Water Retention Measures	Natural water retention measures are measures that aim to safeguard and enhance the water storage potential of landscape, soil, and aquifers, by restoring ecosystems, natural features and characteristics of water courses and using natural processes. ... They can also improve water quality.
Non-technical summary	A summary of the findings of the ER, summarized under the headings listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive that can be readily understood by decision-makers and by the general public. It should accurately reflect the findings of the ER.
Plan or Programme	Including those co-financed by the European Community, as well as any modifications to them: - which are subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and - which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions. In accordance with the SEA Directive, P/P that require SEA are those that fulfil the conditions listed in Article 2(a) and Article 3 of the SEA Directive.
Post-mitigation residual impacts	Environmental effects that remain after mitigation measures have been employed.
Protected Structure	Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning Act of 2000 to define a structure included by a planning authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the planning authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.
Proxy data	Is a measure of activity resulting from a P/P which provides information on environmental impact without the need for a direct measure of an environmental receptor. For example, an increase in the number of vehicles (activity resulting from a P/P) can provide information on the impact on air quality and greenhouse gases without having to measure the concentration of these parameters in the receiving environmental receptor.
Public	One or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups.
Recorded Monument	A monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places that is set out County by County under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition

	includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months notice to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.
Scoping	The process of deciding the content and level of detail of an SEA, including the key environmental issues, likely significant environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be employed, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report.
Screening	The determination of whether implementation of a P/P would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment. The process of deciding whether a P/P requires SEA.
SEA Directive	Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.
Secondary effect	Effects that are not a direct result of the P/P, same as indirect effect.
Sensitivity	Potential for significant change to any element in the environment that is subject to impacts.
Short-term effects	These are typical of those effects that may occur during construction stage of a development, for example, the increased traffic going to and from a site during construction, or, the noise associated with construction activities.
Significant effects	Effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.
SPA	Special Protection Area under Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), designated for bird species listed in Annex I of the Directive, in particular internationally important concentrations of migratory and wetland birds. Designation is focused on habitats of these species.
Statutory Authority	The authority by which or on whose behalf the plan or programme is prepared.
Statutory Instrument	Any order, regulation, rule, scheme or bye-law made in exercise of a power conferred by statute.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it. The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment
Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which the environmental effects of the County

	Development Plan can be tested. The SEOs are used as standards against which the objectives of the County Development Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if not mitigated.
Synergistic effect	Effects that, when totalled, result in a greater or lesser effect than the sum of the individual effects.
Threshold	Magnitude of a project, which if exceeded, will trigger the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment.
Urban Greening	Public landscaping and urban tree projects that create mutually beneficial relationships between city dwellers and their environments. The most common forms of urban greening are installing trees, parks, and landscaped green areas in newly-built urban projects
Zone of Influence	The area over which a plan can impact on the environment.

1 Introduction

1.2 Purpose of this SEA Environmental Report

This is the Environmental Report that has been prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan (BLAP) 2022-2028.

It sets out how the SEA has been undertaken and presents the findings of the assessment of the draft BLAP 2022-2028, together with its' reasonable alternatives.

This Environmental Report complies with the requirements of the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) as implemented in Ireland through Statutory Instrument (SI) No.436 of 2004 European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

These regulations are a statutory requirement for plans or programmes which could have significant environmental effects, and the assessment process aims to identify where there are potential effects and how any negative effects might be mitigated.

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Under Directive 2001/42/EC - Assessment of Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, certain plans and programmes require an environmental assessment. This is known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Article 1 of this Directive states that its objective is:

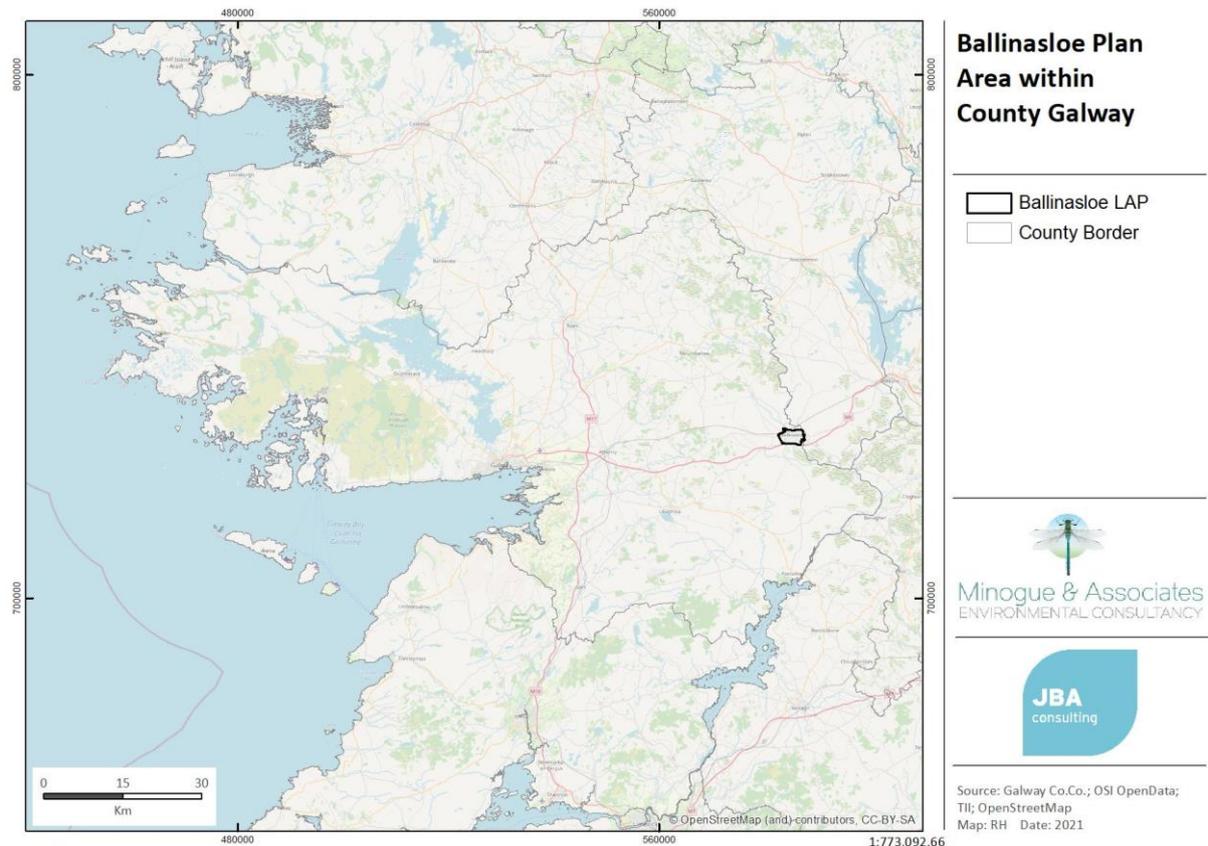
'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.'

1.4 Scale, nature and duration of plan

Figure 1.1 shows the outline of the plan area within the wider context of Galway County. The proposed BLAP will effectively replace the existing BLAP, namely the **Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021** as adopted by Galway County Council in 2015.

The BLAP must include objectives relating to land use zoning and protection of the environment. The BLAP will be prepared in line with Ministerial Guidelines under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and shall accord with national and relevant European legislation. The development plan is included in the hierarchy of plans and strategies at national, regional and local level. The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the Government's strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the country to 2040. At regional level, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) developed by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly sets out a framework for implementation of the NPF at a regional level. The RSES recognises Ballinasloe as one of the Key Towns that has a potential to accommodate a significant level of growth in population and employment through appropriate investment in infrastructure, support services and placemaking initiatives. At local level, the development plan must be consistent with both the NPF and the RSES.

FIGURE 1-1 BALLINASLOE PLAN AREA WITHIN COUNTY GALWAY



1.5 Structure and preparation of this Environmental Report

Regulations contained in Schedule 2b of S.I. 436 of 2004 (as amended) details the information to be contained in an Environmental Report. **Table 1.2** lists the information required and details where this information is contained in this Environmental Report.

TABLE 1-2 STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Schedule 2B of Statutory Instrument 436 of 2004	Addressed in this SEA ER
(a) an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans	Chapter One Introduction and Chapter Two Methodology outlines contents and main objectives Chapter Three details the relationship with other relevant plans
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Chapter Four Baseline Environment provides this information
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Chapter Four Baseline Environment provides this information
(d) any Issues and Threats problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive	Chapter Four Baseline Environment provides this information
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and	Chapter Four Baseline Environment provides this information

Schedule 2B of Statutory Instrument 436 of 2004	Addressed in this SEA ER
any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Chapter Five: SEA Objectives provides this information
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors	Chapter Seven, Significant Effects on the Environment provides this information
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan	Chapter Eight, Mitigation Measures provides this information
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	Chapter Six, Alternatives Considered provides this information and difficulties encountered are listed at the end of Chapter Two, Baseline Environment.
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan	Chapter Nine, Monitoring provides this information
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	This is provided as a separate document to this Environmental Report but is also available

1.6 SEA Team

The SEA Team worked with the GCC Forward Planning team and other specialists including JBA Ireland who undertook the Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The following consultants prepared this SEA ER:

- Ruth Minogue MCIEEM, AILI, (BSoc Sc) Social Anthropology, University of Manchester 1996, MA (Econ) Environment and Development, University of Manchester 1998, Dip Field Ecology, University College Cork 2003, ongoing CPD including certificate in Health Impact Assessment (2012), diploma in Planning and Environmental Law (2017) and CIEEM training;
- Rajshree Anand, BSc Earth Science, MSc, Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy University College Dublin;
- Ronan Hennessy, Ph.D Earth & Ocean Sciences, NUI Galway, Higher Diploma in applied Remote Sensing and GIS, NUI Maynooth, B.Sc Earth Sciences, NUI Galway.

2 Methodology

2.2 Introduction

This chapter presents the SEA methodology in detail and outlines the steps required for SEA. The methodology used to carry out the SEA of the plan reflects the requirements of the SEA regulations and available guidance on undertaking SEA in Ireland, including:

The following guidelines will be used in this SEA:

- SEA Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland – Synthesis Report Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003;
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities - published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004;
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 of 2004);
- Planning and Development (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (S.I No 200 of 2011);
- SEA Process Checklist Consultation Draft 2008, EPA 2008;
- Circular Letter PSSP 6/2011 Further Transposition of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment European Union 2013;
- SEA Resource Manual for Local and Regional Authorities, Draft Version, 2013;
- Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland – A Guidance Note, EPA, 2015;
- Developing and assessing alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, EPA, 2015;
- SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources (2020).
- Good practice guidance on Cumulative Effects Assessment in SEA, EPA, 2020
- Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring, EPA, 2020.
- EPA SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans -EPA Recommendations and Resources 2020

2.3 Stages in the SEA process

The steps involved in SEA are as follows:

- Screening (determining whether or not SEA is required).
- Scoping (determining the range of environmental issues to be covered by the SEA).
- The preparation of an Environmental Report (**current stage**)
- The carrying out of consultations.
- The integration of environmental considerations into the Plan or Programme.
- The publication of information on the decision (SEA Statement).

2.4 Screening

The SEA Regulations state that SEA is mandatory for certain plans including City/county development plans. Therefore, the SEA process commenced at Scoping stage outlined below.

2.5 Scoping

The purpose of the SEA Scoping report is to identify the scope of the SEA and ensure that relevant data and environmental topics are included in the SEA. The Scoping report was issued to the statutory environmental authorities on 14th June 2021 for comment.

Table 2.1 below summarises the main issues raised by consultees and the SEA response to same.

TABLE 2-1 SUMMARY OF SEA SCOPING SUBMISSIONS AND SEA RESPONSE TO SAME

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading(s).	
	<p>Government policy on nature conservation Government policy on nature conservation is clearly set out in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (NBAP). It also requires Local Authorities to develop policies and objectives for the protection and restoration of biodiversity. It is crucial that consideration is given to coherent protection and enhancement of biodiversity at a regional as well as local level.</p> <p>National policies and strategies that contain explicit commitments to sustainable development, no net loss of biodiversity and a low carbon society are namely; The National Planning Framework (NPF) 2018, Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-32, National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 and the National Peatlands Strategy 2015. The Department refers to the overarching environmental regional policy objectives (RPOs) of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) (2020 – 2032) notably RPO5,</p> <p>“The Assembly supports the integration of biodiversity considerations in a positive, proactive and precautionary way and promotes the protections of the environment and biodiversity conservation as key principles of this strategy”.</p>	Noted.
	<p>Ecological Assessments Environmental assessments should be carried out in parallel with the Plan making process to ensure integrated biodiversity impact assessment. The Strategic Environmental Assessment process should take place in consultation with the teams working on the draft Plan and Appropriate Assessment as each process can help inform the other to ensure that the objectives and policies in the draft Plan will have no significant effects on the natural heritage of Ballinasloe Town and Environs.</p> <p>Preferably, no areas should be identified or targeted for development (e.g. through land use zoning or other strategies) without basic information on the ecological sensitivities of the lands in question, including a habitat</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>Noted, a review of lands using desktop</p>

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	<p>map1, i.e. the precautionary principle should apply and no areas should be committed to development in the absence of basic ecological information so as to avoid potential conflicts.</p>	<p>and a site walkover were used in the SEA process.</p>
	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) The SEA should examine the effects of policies, objectives and any indicative maps or zonings, as well as cumulative impacts with other plans and projects both within and outside of the Plan area.</p> <p>The Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna section of the SEA should be undertaken by or in conjunction with a suitably qualified ecologist, and in conjunction with preparation of the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to ensure full integration of biodiversity issues and concerns, particularly in relation to nature conservation sites, rare and protected species, habitats that are rare or of high ecological value, and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The EPA’s Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment best practice guidance is of relevance in this regard.</p> <p>The Environmental Report is required to contain information on the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be affected significantly by the plan. For biodiversity, flora and fauna, the scope of the SEA should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nature conservation sites, including: • European sites, including River Suck Callows Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 004097) and Glenloughaun Esker candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC; site code 002213). These are sites of international importance for nature conservation and form part of Ireland’s contribution to the Natura 2000 network within the EU. Available information includes: locations, site synopses, Natura 2000 standard data forms, SAC datasheets, qualifying interests (SACs), special conservation interests (SPAs), conservation objectives, and Statutory Instruments (SPAs). • Suck River Callows Natural Heritage Area (NHA; site code 000222; S.I. 575 of 2005) and Killure Bog NHA (site code 001283; S.I. 592 of 2003). These are sites of national importance for nature conservation established under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000, and legally protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2018. Available information includes: locations, site synopses and Statutory Instruments. • Ballinasloe Esker proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA; site code 001779), an undesignated site that is not covered by other nature conservation designations. It is known to be of importance for biodiversity but has not yet been fully evaluated. 	<p>Noted and agreed. SEA is carried out by a team of with environmental expertise. All the recommendations are already integrated as a part of the SEA process.</p> <p>The comments in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna baseline section are noted and will be included in chapter 4 of this report.</p>

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available information on habitats, including results of habitat surveys (including National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) datasets on habitats/habitat complexes and conservation objective supporting data, and the Council’s own surveys within the plan area), and habitat indicator mapping (available from Teagasc/EPA). • Available information on rare and protected species and their habitats (including datasets on rare and protected species from NPWS and the National Biodiversity Data Centre). • All watercourses, surface water bodies and associated wetlands, including floodplains and flood risk areas. • Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance, e.g. BirdWatch Ireland’s ‘Important Bird Areas’ (Crowe et al., 20092). • Local biodiversity areas (LBAs), including those identified as a result of Heritage Plan or Biodiversity Plan actions or projects. • Ecological networks and corridors, and stepping stones. <p>The Environmental Report is required to contain environmental protection objectives. For biodiversity, flora and fauna, these should integrate with the objectives and obligations of other directives such as the Habitats and Birds Directives (e.g. Habitats Directive Article 6(2), 10, 12-16), and the Birds Directive Article 4(4)), the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive, and with the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2018, National Biodiversity Plan and the aims and objectives of the county’s own Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>Strategic environmental objectives should be included for all nature conservation sites (not just European sites), protected species and ecological corridors and stepping stones as outlined above.</p> <p>Water quality environmental objectives need to take into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The water quality requirements of target species such as salmon, lamprey species, shad species, white-clawed crayfish, fish prey of otter, and (if with a relevant sub- basin) freshwater pearl mussel. - The minimum quantity and physical quality of water required for breeding, survival and movement of target species, especially during summer drought periods. Also the minimum water levels in source sites for water abstraction if these are at a distance from the settlement (e.g. upland lakes). Optimum temperature and pH of receiving waters, where there are discharges from industrial or municipal water treatment plants, should be specified. 	<p>Please see section 5 for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna SEOs.</p> <p>The water quality environmental objectives are noted but this</p>

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The quality of wastewater discharges, taking into account whether development proposed in the plan will cause the capacity of treatment systems to be exceeded, should be specified. - The objectives should be integrated with those specified to comply with the relevant River Basin District Management Plan (Water Framework Directive). - The extent to which Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) have been incorporated into developments, and the degree of flood attenuation in the drainage from the settlement. - The extent of wetland habitats (including floodplains), as these are an important source of biodiversity and should be protected under the plan. <p>Issues of potential concern:</p> <p>The following are of potential concern in relation to the Local Area Plan: water supply and abstraction; wastewater and discharges; flood alleviation and prevention; existing and new infrastructure, particularly roads, powerlines and telecommunications; and amenity and recreation provision where this could impact nature conservation sites and/or sensitive species. Note that if any walks or trails are proposed along the River Suck, or in the SPA (and NHA), these will require assessment prior to their inclusion in the plan.</p>	<p>will be more appropriately considered within the monitoring regime.</p> <p>The issues for potential concern are noted and included in the relevant Key Issue section of chapter 4.</p>
	<p>Appropriate Assessment including Screening</p> <p>The Council is responsible for carrying out screening for appropriate assessment and for determining whether it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the final plan on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, will have a significant effect on a European site in view of its conservation objectives. This must be carried out before the plan may be adopted, and best scientific knowledge and the precautionary principle should be applied in reaching such a determination, i.e. where there is uncertainty or a lack of data or information, it should not be assumed that significant effects will not result. The Department recommends referral to the recent guidance note by the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) on Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening, Practice Note PN01 “Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management”, (March 2021)¹.</p> <p>River Suck Callows Special Protection Area (SPA Site Code 004097) adjoins and is within the Plan area. It should also be noted that the targeted increase in population of Ballinasloe will put an increase in demand for water services for the plan area, including water supply and water abstraction. This is also linked to the European sites downstream,</p>	<p>Noted. A Natura Impact Report is being prepared and it’s findings will be integrated into this environmental report.</p>

¹ <https://opr.iw.ie/view-planning-practice-file/Mw>

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	River Shannon Callows Special Area of Conservation (SAC 000216) and Middle Shannon Callows Special Protection Area (SPA 004096).	
Geological Survey Ireland	With reference to your letter dated 11 June 2021, concerning the SEA scoping for the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2022-2028, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.	Noted.
	<p>Geoheritage</p> <p>The audit for Co. Galway was carried out in 2019. The full report details can be found at The Geological Heritage of Galway. In Table 4-1 of the local area plan ‘Sources of Information’, we welcome the undertaking to include our Geological heritage sites (County Geological Sites), as a dataset of information to be sourced during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report for Ballinasloe. We would encourage you to use these in the context of material assets, natural heritage, tourism / education as well as in Section 3.6 Soil and Geology, where we are pleased to see mention of the County Geological Sites (CGSs), in the vicinity of Ballinasloe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballinasloe Esker • Suck River Callows <p>We commend the proposed inclusion of the SEA objective ‘S3: Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites’ within Table 4-2 ‘Proposed Strategic Environmental Objectives’.</p> <p>The Geological Heritage Programme views the Local Authorities as critical partners in protecting, through the planning system, those CGSs which fall within their county limits. In many cases these are often sites of high amenity or educational value, already zoned or listed in the plan. Listing in the Local Area Plan (LAP) provides protection of the sites against potentially damaging developments that normally require planning permission, such as building, quarrying, landfilling or forestry. It is also important that the democratic process of public consultation and approval by councillors of the LAP means that stakeholders in the sites and all the local community can buy into the process. CGSs have been adopted in the National Heritage Plan, and will form a major strand of geological nature conservation to complement the various ecological and cultural conservation measures. It is important to note however, that management issues for the majority of geological heritage sites may differ from ecological sites, and in some cases development may facilitate enhanced geological understanding of a site by exposing more rock sections - for example, in a quarry extension.</p>	<p>Proposed SEA objective is noted and included in chapter 4.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
	Culture and Tourism	Noted and agreed.

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	We would encourage Galway County Council to use the geological audit information making it easily available to the general public. We would encourage geology to be a significant part of any tourism initiative for Ballinasloe that may be introduced.	
	<p>Dimension Stone/ Stone built Ireland</p> <p>Built Ireland is a 2 year research collaboration agreement between Geological Survey Ireland, Trinity College Dublin & the office of Public Works. In addition to promoting citizen science and awareness of local materials, the inventory will aid the public in complying with part 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, which requires owners to conserve protected structures. It will also assist local authorities in issuing Section 57 Declarations, which outline 'the type of works which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure'.</p>	Noted and considered in chapter 4.
	<p>Groundwater</p> <p>Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our Map viewer which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.</p>	Noted and the maps were used for preparation of the groundwater baseline section in chapter 4.
	<p>Geohazards</p> <p>We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so. Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated Map Viewer. Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.</p>	Noted and included in the baseline section in chapter 4.
	<p>Geothermal Energy</p> <p>We recommend use of our Geothermal Suitability maps to determine the most suitable type of ground source heat collector for use with heat pump technologies. Ireland also has recognised potential for deep geothermal resources.</p>	Noted and included in the baseline section in chapter 4.
	Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)	

Consultee	Main Points	SEA response
	<p>Geological Survey Ireland highlights the consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our Map Viewer.</p> <p>We also encourage discussion on end-of-life plans for quarries and would be happy to recommend ways to promote the geology to the public or develop tourism or educational resources if appropriate. Geological Survey Ireland would like to offer help with interpretative signs where interesting geological features have been exposed.</p> <p>In Section 3.6.1 Key Issues for Consideration, we note that “Erosion of the eskers due to quarrying activity is a problem.” We would be pleased to see the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan highlighting the importance of eskers by including policies to restrict exploitation on eskers and developing a plan to focus on pit restoration.</p>	<p>Noted and included in the chapter 4.</p> <p>Noted but this will be more appropriately considered within the monitoring regime and development control</p>

2.6 Baseline Data

The baseline data assists in describing the current state of the environment, facilitating the identification, evaluation, and subsequent monitoring of the effects of the Plan. It helps identify Issues and Threats in and around the Plan area and in turn these can be quantified (for certain environmental parameters) or qualified. This highlights the environmental issues relevant to each SEA parameter and ensures that the strategy implementation does not exacerbate such problems. Conversely this information can also be used to promote good environmental practices and opportunities for environmental enhancement, thereby improving environmental quality where possible.

Baseline data was gathered for all parameters. Additional primary research included the following:

- Walkover with SEA team on 28th January 2021

Other data was gathered from the GCC forward planning, parks and environment section.

Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR) information from Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, NWRA Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032, Irish Water, the EPA, Met Eireann and other sources as appropriate. Footnotes throughout the document, particularly in Chapter Four present the reference and source.

The SEA has also used a Geographical Information System (GIS) in the following ways:

- To provide baseline information on a range of environmental parameters;
- To assist in assessment of alternatives;
- To help assess in-combination or cumulative impacts, and
- To provide maps to illustrate environmental parameters in the SEA Environmental Report.

2.7 Approach to assessment of significant environmental impacts

The principal component of the SEA involves a broad environmental assessment of the policies, objectives and landuse zoning of the draft BLAP 2022-2028. A methodology that uses the concept of expert judgement, public consultation, GIS and matrices, both to assess the significant environmental impacts and to present the conclusions has been adopted in this SEA. Key to assessing the above is setting a specific set of environmental objectives for each of the environmental topics. The objectives are provided in Chapter Six and include all aspects of the environment such as Cultural heritage, Population and Human health, and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. Following the SEA Scoping process, 2.a number of the SEOs were amended, and these are identified, with a footnote listing the environmental authority who recommended the amendment.

The assessment described within this Environmental Report aims to highlight the potential conflicts, if they are present, between the BLAP 2022-2028 with the Strategic Environmental Objectives. Furthermore, the assessment examines the potential impact arising from the plan's implementation on sensitive environmental receptors.

The SEA Directive requires that information be focused upon relevant aspects of the environmental characteristics of the area likely to be significantly affected by the plan and the likely change, both positive and negative, where applicable.

Chapter Eight provides a discussion, where relevant, on the significance and type of the identified impact in accordance with current guidelines.

A key part of the SEA process has been the integration of the BLAP 2022-2028, the SEA, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The SEA legislation and guidelines highlight the importance of the integration between the preparation of the Plan and the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. The iterative nature of the SEA process is such that the plan is informed by environmental considerations throughout the preparation of the plan. The Natura Impact Report and SFRA are separate documents to this Environmental Report all of which accompany this Plan.

2.8 Mitigation

Section (g) of Schedule 2B of the SEA Regulations requires information on the mitigation measures that will be put in place to minimise/eliminate any significant adverse impacts due to the implementation of the BLAP 2022-2028. Chapter Nine of this SEA ER highlights the mitigation measures that will be put in place to counter identified significant adverse impacts due to the strategy's implementation.

The BLAP 2022-2028 has been prepared having regard to existing environmental legislation and policy. However, some unavoidable residual issues may remain and therefore mitigation measures are required. Chapter Nine details the mitigation measures necessary to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the plan.

2.9 Monitoring

Article 10 of the SEA Directive sets out the requirement that monitoring is to be carried out of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the strategy to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Chapter Ten presents the monitoring requirements for the BLAP 2022-2028.

2.10 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

JBA Ireland have been appointed to undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) of the BLAP 2022-2028 in accordance with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009) as amended by Circular PL2/2014 (August 2014).

The SFRA has informed and influenced the plan making process with the SEA integrating both findings from the Habitats Directive Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment processes.

The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DoEHLG 2009) provide a methodology to incorporate flood risk identification and management into land use strategies. It also requires the alignment and integration of flood risk into the SEA process. The core objectives of the Guidelines are to:

- Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding;
- Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off;
- Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains;
- Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth;
- Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders; and
- Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.

Potential flood issues in the plan area are an important consideration in the preparation of the BLAP 2022-2028. Therefore, the plan has been guided by the information on flood risk currently available and has been informed by the currently up to date flood risk information including Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) studies.

2.11 Habitats Directive Assessment

The Habitats Directive requires, inter alia, that plans and programmes undergo AA screening to establish the likely or potential effects arising from implementation of the plan. If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain then the plan must undergo Stage 2 AA. The preparation of the BLAP 2022-2028, SEA and AA are taking place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed both the SEA and the plan itself. The SEA has also applied the methodology for Integrated Biodiversity Assessment where relevant (EPA, 2015).

2.12 Data gaps

Data gaps are present in terms of unclassified water bodies, small area statistics on human health and population. The deferred national census due to COVID 19 means population data is reliant upon the 2016 Census Data. Accessing biodiversity data whilst much improved is also in the case of the National Biodiversity Centre dependent upon voluntary submission of data frequently.

More broadly, understanding the interactions between climate change, weather events, and impacts on water and biodiversity in particular are complex. Sectoral climate change adaptation plans have been referenced and used to fill these data gaps where possible.

In relation to public health and green and blue space, recent EPA and HSE funded research has been used to both inform design principles and to demonstrate an evidenced based approach to public health and access to green and blue space².

The SEA ER has used an ecosystems services modelling approach to attempt to address these data gaps particularly in terms of understanding the role and inter-relationships between environmental parameters including water resources, biodiversity and human health.

² Research 264: Green and Blue Spaces and Health: A Health-led Approach. 2) Research 328: Eco-Health: Ecosystem Benefits of Greenspace for Health. 3) Research 348: Nature and Environment to Attain and Restore Health (NEAR Health). 4) NEAR Health Toolkit

3 Relationship to relevant plans and programmes

3.2 Introduction

Under the SEA Directive, the relationship between the BLAP 2022-2028 and other relevant plans and programmes must be taken into account. A review of the relevant plans and programmes has been prepared as part of the SEA ER. The preparation of the draft plan must be considered within the context of a hierarchy of policies, plans and strategies which include international, national, regional and local level policy documents. These documents set the policy framework within which the draft plan will operate. Figure 3.1 presents the hierarchy of spatial planning in Ireland.

FIGURE 3-1 HIERARCHY OF SPATIAL PLANNING



A list of the key relevant international, national, regional and county policies to be included in the review are provided below in Sections 3.2 to 3.4; Section 3.5 Table 3. 5 identifies key principles that will inform the SEA process arising from this review and how they relate to the EPA Themes in the State of Ireland's Environment as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Annex B of this SEA ER provides a more detailed breakdown of relevant plans and programmes.

3.3 National Plans and Programmes

- Our Sustainable Future A framework for sustainable development in Ireland
- Actions for Biodiversity 2017 – 2021, Ireland's 3rd National Biodiversity Plan
- Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000
- National Heritage Plan (2002)
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages) (2009)
- Geological Heritage Sites Designation (under the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000)
- Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme / Draft Water Resources Management Plan (Irish Water)
- Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2014-2020
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (and Technical Appendices) for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, OPW), 2009
- National Climate Change Strategy (2007-2012)
- Review of Ireland's climate change policy and Climate Action and Low Carbon Bill 2013
- National Mitigation Plan (DCCA)

- Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020 (DTTAS)
- National Clean Air Strategy (to commence)
- National Broadband Plan Intervention Strategy –SEA ER and AA (DCCAIE)
- National Monuments Act 1930 with subsequent amendments
- Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
- A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland –2015 (DCHG)
- Draft Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines, (2000)
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- Planning Policy Statement, 2015
- Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015
- National Development Plan
- National Planning Framework (DHPLG)
- Rural Development Programme (DAFM)
- National CFRAMS Programme (OPW)
- National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (DHPLG)
- National Renewable Electricity Policy Framework (in preparation DCCAIE)
- Grid 25 Implementation Strategy (Eirgrid)
- Draft National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA, in preparation)
- Agri Food Strategy 2030 (DAFM)
- National Forestry Programme / Forestry Policy Review (DAFM)
- Draft National Marine Planning Framework (DAFM)
- National Peatland Strategy, SAC Raised Bog Management Plan (DCHG)
- Climate Action Plan 2019 (DCCAIE)
- Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Low Carbon Roadmaps
- Framework for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure in Transport (DTTAS)
- Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (DCCAIE)
- State of the Environment Report 2020 (EPA, in preparation)
- National Bioenergy Plan (DCCAIE)
- National Mitigation Plan (DCCAIE)
- 10 Year Tourism Strategy (Fáilte Ireland)
- National Greenway Strategy (DTTAS)
- Urban Development & Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHPLG)

3.4 Regional and County Plans and Programmes

- Regional Spatial Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for Galway (NWRA)
- Relevant CFRAMS Flood Risk Management Plan (OPW)
- Regional Waste Management Plan (CUWR)
- National Investment Framework for Transport Investment (DTTAS)
- National River Basin Management Plans (DHPLG)
- Water services Investment Programme
- Water Services Strategic Plans
- Groundwater Protection Schemes
- Ballinasloe Town Development Plan

- Galway County Transport Strategy
- Local Transport Plan for Ballinasloe
- Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022
- Galway County Council and Ballinasloe Town Council Joint Housing Strategy
- Galway County Renewable Energy / Wind Energy Strategies
- Galway County Tourism Strategies
- Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024
- Heritage Plan 2016-2020
- Litter Management Plan 2019-2022
- Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022
- Galway County Arts Plan 2020-2024
- Galway 2020 Making Waves
- Galway to 2025- Draft Tourism Strategy (2016)
- Major Emergency Plan
- Ballinasloe Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy
- A Platform for Change Strategy 2000-2016
- Galway County Council Walking & Cycling Strategy Report 2012
- Draft Galway County Council Development Plan 2022-2028

TABLE 3-1 PRINCIPLES ARISING FROM PLAN, POLICY AND PROGRAMME REVIEW AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE EPA STATE OF IRELAND’S ENVIRONMENT’S KEY MESSAGES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SEA Topic	Principles for the LAP and SEA	EPA Irelands Environment 2020 Key Messages	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance biodiversity at all levels • Avoid and minimise effects on nationally and internationally rare and threatened species and habitats through sensitive design and consultation, recognising ecological connectivity where possible • Facilitate species and habitat adaption to climate change • Avoid and minimise habitat fragmentation and seek opportunities to improve habitat connectivity • Ensure careful consideration of non-native invasive and alien species issues 	SOE 4 Climate SOE 5 Air Quality SOE 6 Nature SEO 8 Marine SOE 11 Water Services SEO 12 Circular Economy SOE 13 Land use	SD Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for sustainable communities with key services • A high quality environment to live, work and play in • Avoid pollution and environmental health impacts (noise and air quality) through mitigation and design 	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE4 Climate SOE5 Air Quality SOE 11 Water Services SOE 12 Circular Economy SOE13 Landuse	SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve water quality • Avoid and minimise effects on natural processes, particularly natural flood 	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE5 Air Quality SOE4 Climate	SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for everyone

SEA Topic	Principles for the LAP and SEA	EPA Irelands Environment 2020 Key Messages	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management and catchment processes through sensitive design and consultation Adapt and improve resilience to the effects of climate change, particularly flood risks associated with extreme weather Minimise water consumption Design SUDS to facilitate ecological improvement/ enhancement where possible 	SOE6 Nature SOE 11 Water Services SOE13 Landuse	SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Soil and Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve soil resources where possible and avoid waste of soil resources Maintain productive capacity and prevent erosion of soils Ensure careful consideration of non-native invasive and alien species issues 	SOE4 Climate SOE6 Nature SOE 11 Water Services SOE 12 Water Services SOE13 Landuse	SD Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. SD Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
Air Quality and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt and improve resilience to the effects of climate change Encourage reduction in greenhouse gases through transport, energy, built development. Minimise adverse impacts associated with air and noise quality 	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE5 Air Quality SOE4 Climate SOE6 Nature SOE 8 Marine SOE9 Clean Energy SOE 11 Water Services SOE12 Circular Economy SOE13 Landuse	SD Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation SD Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns SD Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid and minimise waste generation Maximise re-use of material resources and use of recycled materials Minimise energy consumption and encourage use of renewable energy Promote sustainable transport patterns and modes. 	SEO3 Health and Wellbeing SOE 5 Air Quality SOE 8 Marine SOE9 Clean Energy SOE 13 Land use SOE 11 Water Services	SD Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation SD Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns SD Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SEA Topic	Principles for the LAP and SEA	EPA Irelands Environment 2020 Key Messages	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and provide for sustainable water management and wastewater treatment 	SOE 12 Circular Economy	
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve, preserve and record architectural and archaeological heritage Avoid and minimise effects on historic environment features through sensitive design and consultation 	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE 12 Circular Economy SOE13 Landuse	SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. SD 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Landscape and Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the character of the plan area through design Integrate green network considerations Improve landscape connectivity to surrounding area 	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE 4 Climate SOE 5 Air Quality SOE 6 Nature SEO 8 Marine SOE 11 Water Services SOE 12 Circular Economy SOE 13 Land use	SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. SD Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Inter-relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement 	SOE3 Health and Wellbeing SOE 4 Climate SOE5 Air Quality SOE6 Nature SOE7 Water Services SOE 8 Marine SOE9 Clean Energy SOE 11 Water Services SOE12 Circular Economy SOE13 Landuse	All SD Goals

4 Environmental Baseline

4.2 Introduction

This section of the Environmental Report examines the relevant significant characteristics of the current state of the environment in relation to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Population, Human Health, Water, Air Quality, Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage, Landscape, Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services, the interrelationship between these factors and the evolution of same in the absence of the BLAP 2022-2028. The baseline description is focussed primarily on the plan area of Ballinasloe, however, given the shared boundaries with neighbouring local authorities, there is potential for transboundary environmental impacts on water quality, biodiversity etc. In line with the SEA Directive, the potential significant aspects of the environment likely to be affected by the BLAP 2022-2028 have been described and compiled using available datasets and the scoping process.

4.3 UN Sustainable Development Goals

Ireland is a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals are a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. All countries are encouraged to develop national responses to the SDGs and incorporate them into planning and policy and these will inform the plan preparation process.

FIGURE 4-1 UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



4.4 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Natural Capital refers to the stock of natural resources that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human wellbeing either directly (as food, medicinal extracts, and fuel), and indirectly by providing clean air and water. The true value of biodiversity and benefits derived from ecosystem services cannot be limited to a financial value, as many interdependencies between biodiversity, natural ecosystems and their benefits to human beings have not been fully understood³. Figures 4.2. to 4.4. present key ecosystem services at plan level⁴.

³ *Ecosystems Services, Mapping and Assessment* | National Parks & Wildlife Service

⁴ NPWS Pilot Ecosystem Mapping Project

FIGURE 4-2 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES- CARBON IN SOIL

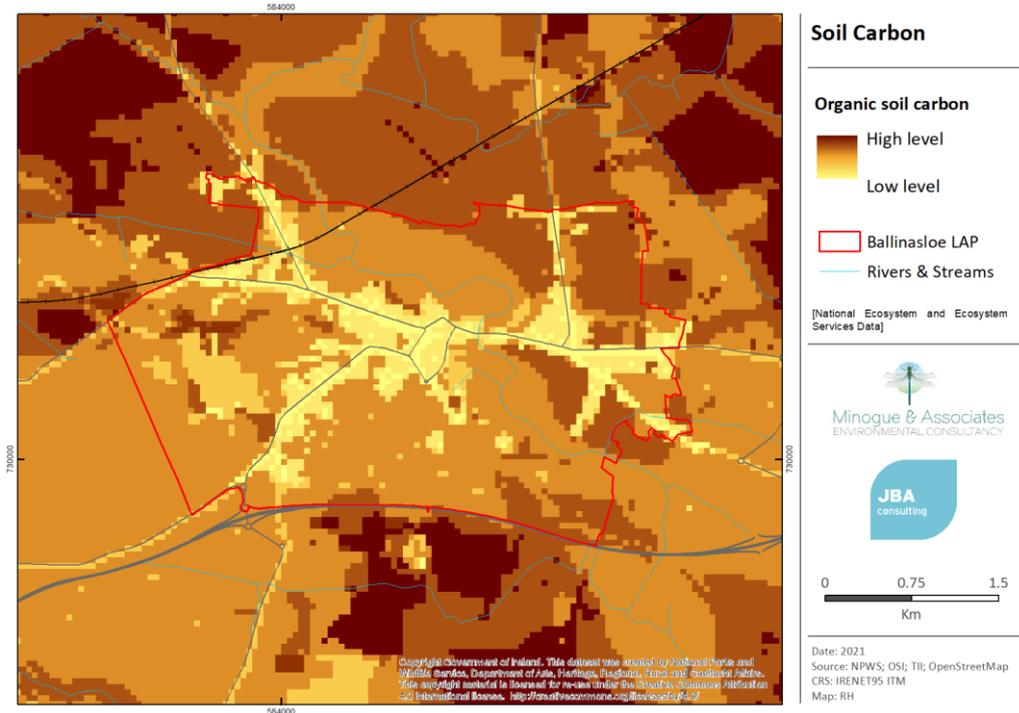


FIGURE 4-3 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES- SOIL PERMEABILITY

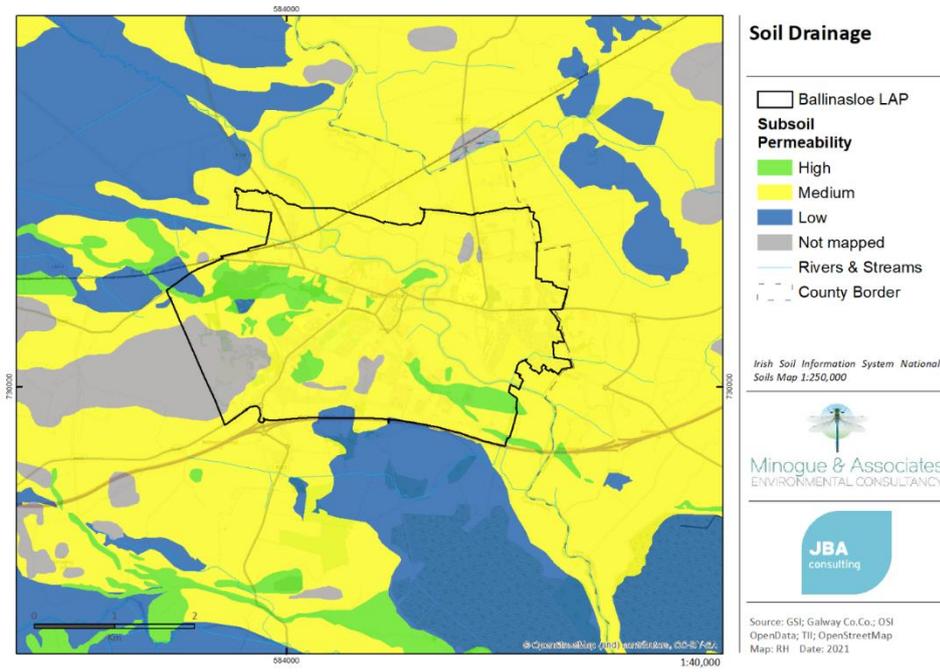
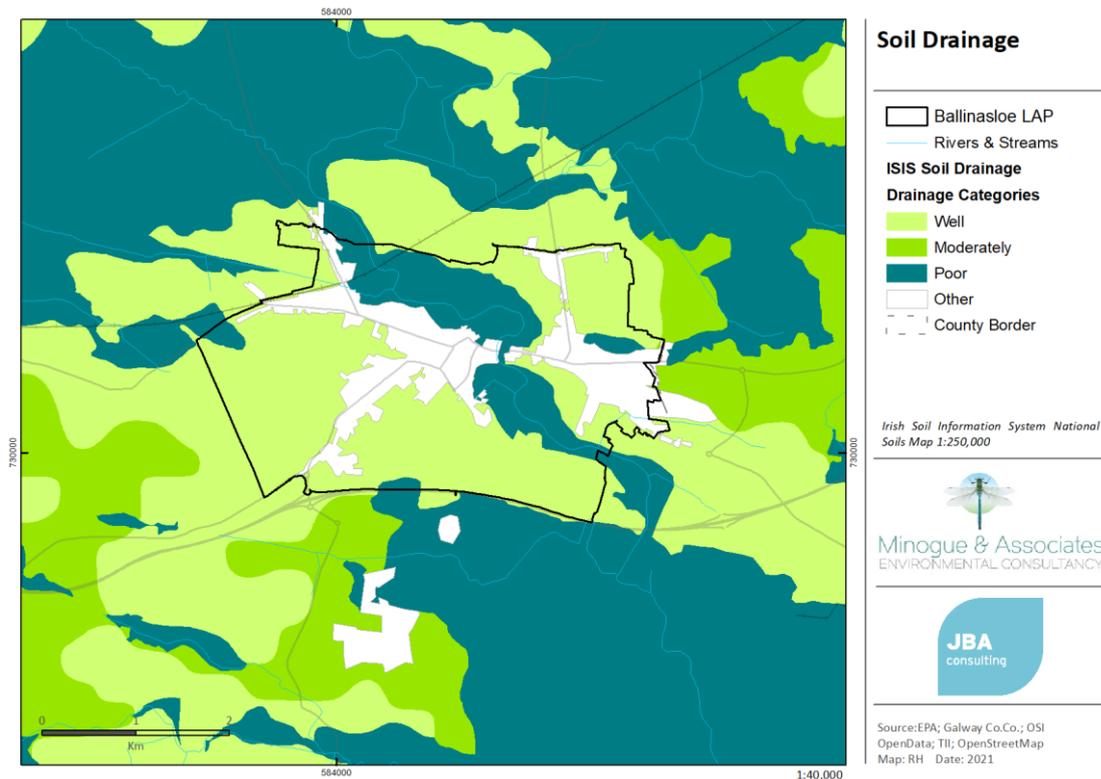


FIGURE 4-4 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES- SOIL DRAINAGE



4.4.1 Green Network

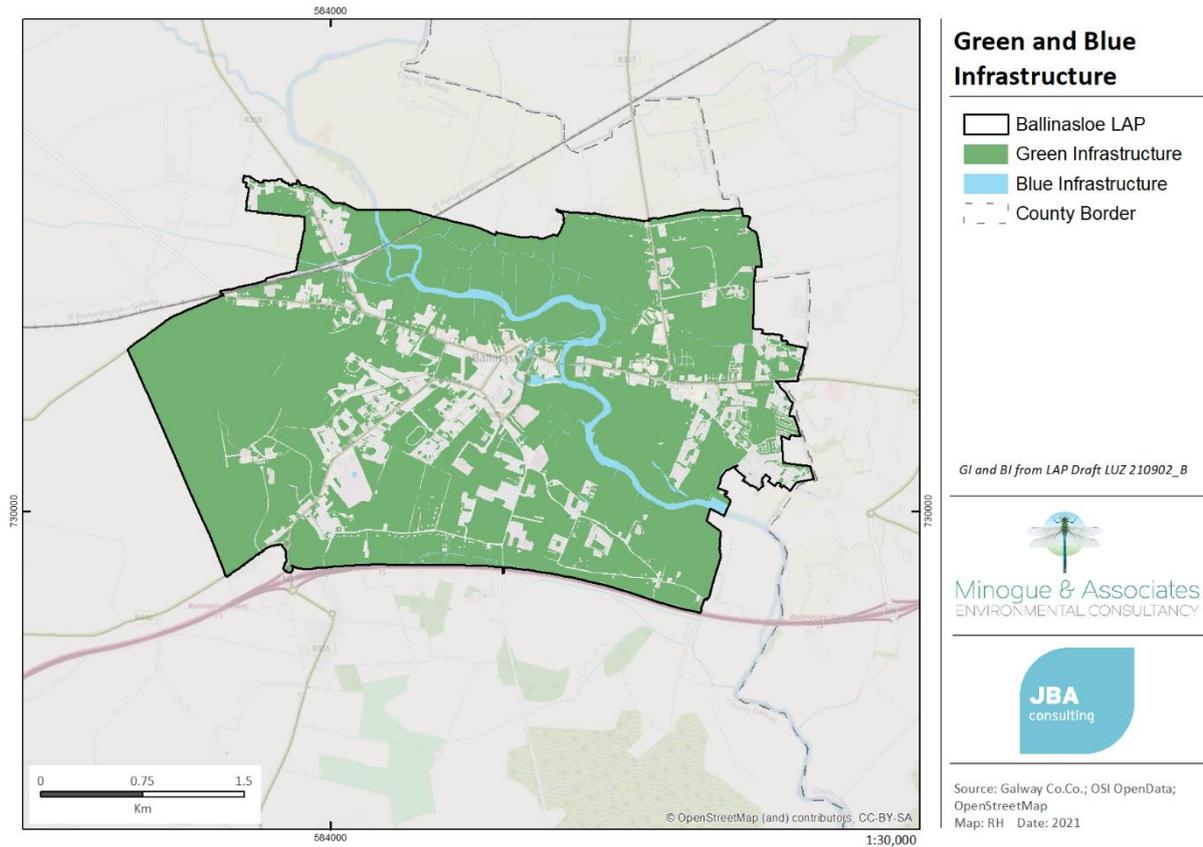
Green spaces are key in terms of natural capital and ecosystem services. Green and Blue infrastructure can also contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation with co benefits in terms of biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and human health⁵. There is strong policy support in the to protect and enhance recreation and amenity space reinforced through the recognition of the importance of the same throughout the COVID-19 pandemic⁶. Half of the towns’ total land area is designated as areas of recreational amenity, open space and agricultural land. The Green Network (as seen in Figure 4.4) supports the linkage between various multifunctional spaces, that include:

- Blue Spaces of the town’s rivers, lakes and canals
- Protected Spaces of ecological and biodiversity importance
- Green Spaces of woodland parks
- Open Spaces including recreational and amenity and agricultural zoned lands
- Community Spaces, that afford direct access to nature and amenities (e.g. greenways) to the community

⁵ Spatial Planning & Climate Action Delivering a Low Carbon & Climate Resilient Future Workshop Report Feb 2021 CARO

⁶ “COVID-19 and Sheer Wellbeing 2020 Access to and Use of Blue/Green Spaces in Ireland during a Pandemic,” 19.

FIGURE 4-5 GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE OF BALLINASLOE



4.5 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The Plan area supports a rich biodiversity, with many natural and semi-natural habitats and a range of species and flora. Other habitats, although not protected are important for providing links between the protected habitats, allow migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild plants and mammals. Examples include scrub, hedgerows, tree lines, and gardens etc. Natural heritage in the plan area includes a wide range of natural features that make an essential contribution to the environmental quality, ecological biodiversity, climate resilience through nature-based solutions landscape character, visual amenity and recreational activities of the city. The current Galway County Development Plan includes protective policy measures relating to biodiversity, flora and fauna, notably in Chapter 4, Natural Heritage, Recreation and Amenity. The Council also supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan which aims to help pollinators by improving biodiversity.

4.5.1 Overview of High Value Biodiversity and Designations

Ecologically sensitivities that contain rare and threatened habitats and species of national and international importance within the Ballinasloe town include the following:

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC): Glenloughaun Esker (south), River Shannon Callows (east), Castlesampson Esker (north-east), Killeglan Grassland (north), Ballynamona Bog And Corkip Lough (north-east), Lough Ree (north-west)
- Special Protection Area (SPA): River Suck Callows
- Natural Heritage Area (NHA): River Suck Callows
- Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA): Ballinasloe Esker
- Extensive spread of Annex I Habitats
- Extensive peat bogs surrounding settlement
- Medium-high contribution to potential ecological networks

- Low-medium Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Scattered forestry
- Salmonid Waters

4.5.2 European Sites

A full assessment of the BLAP 2022-2028 against the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the designated sites is undertaken throughout the appropriate assessment process which has been undertaken in conjunction with the Plan preparation and SEA processes and is presented in the Natura Impact Report. Figure 4.6 and 4.7 presents a map of all SACs and SPAs within 15km of the plan area.

4.5.3 Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas

Under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) are designated to conserve and protect nationally important plant and animal species and their habitats. They are also important for the conservation of nationally important landforms, geological or geomorphological features. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive together with the Habitats Regulations 2011; place a high degree of importance on these sites as features that connect European sites. Figure 4.8 and 4.9 presents these sites.

FIGURE 4-6 SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION WITHIN 15KM FROM THE PLAN AREA

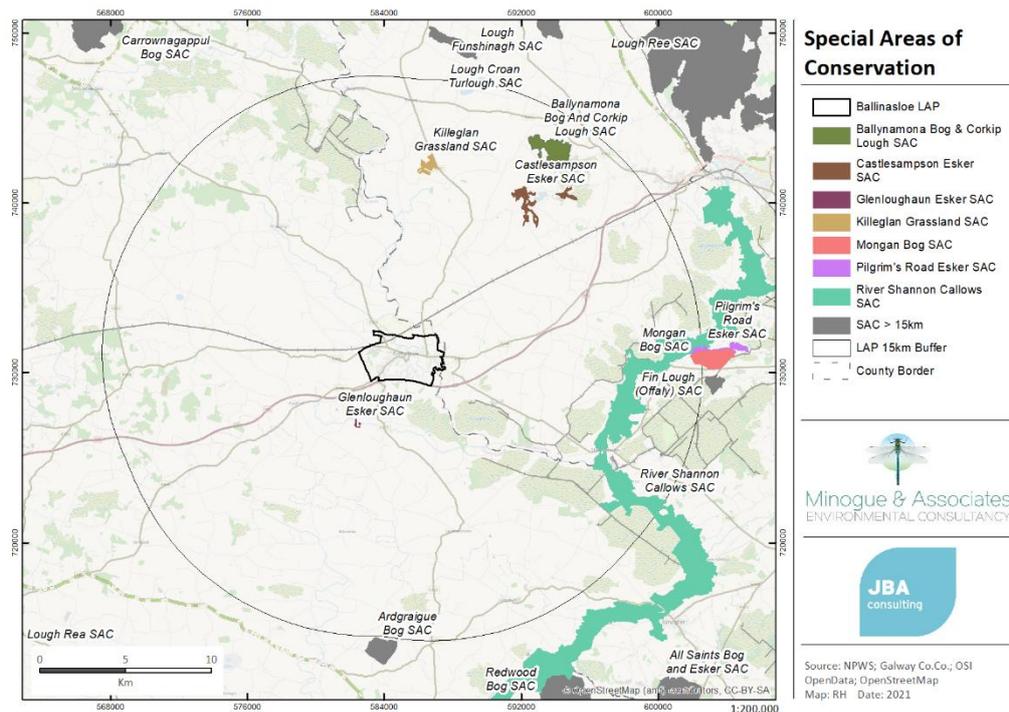


FIGURE 4-7 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS WITHIN 15KM FROM THE PLAN AREA

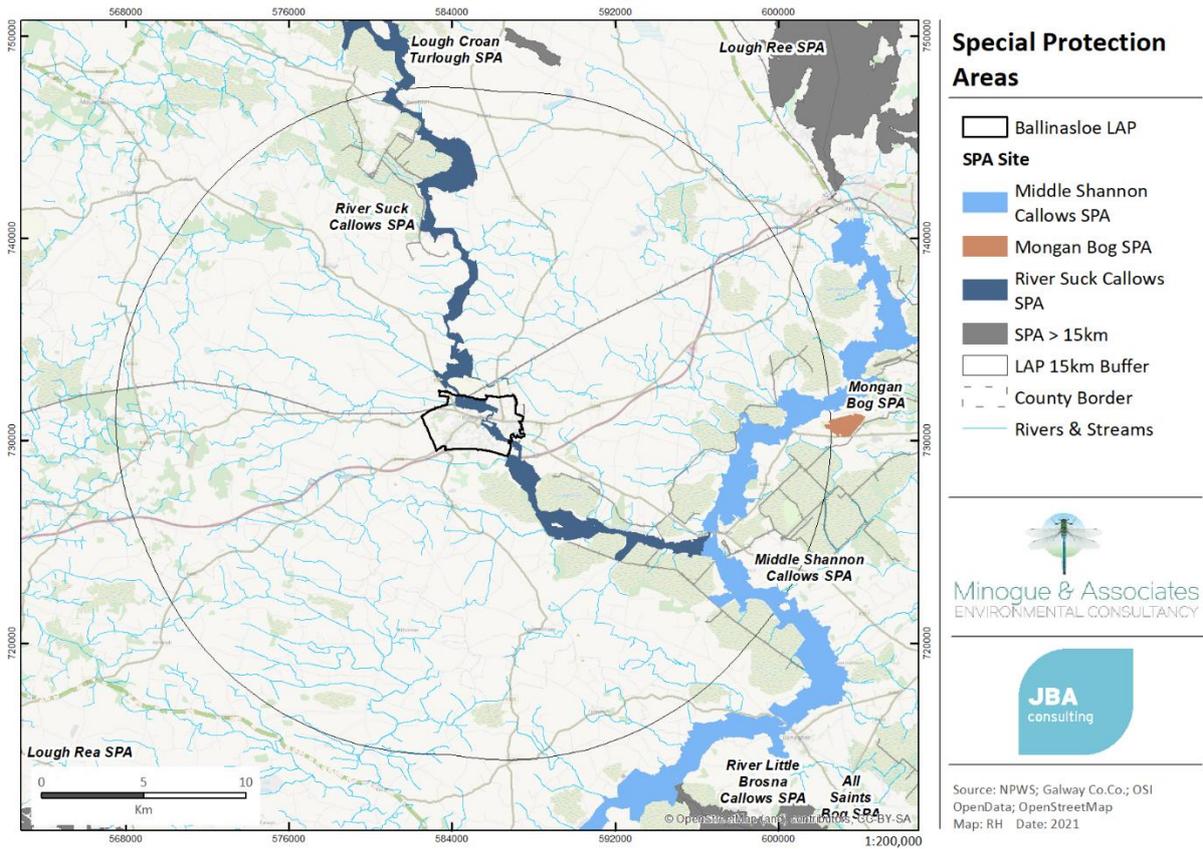


FIGURE 4-8 NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS IN THE PLAN AREA

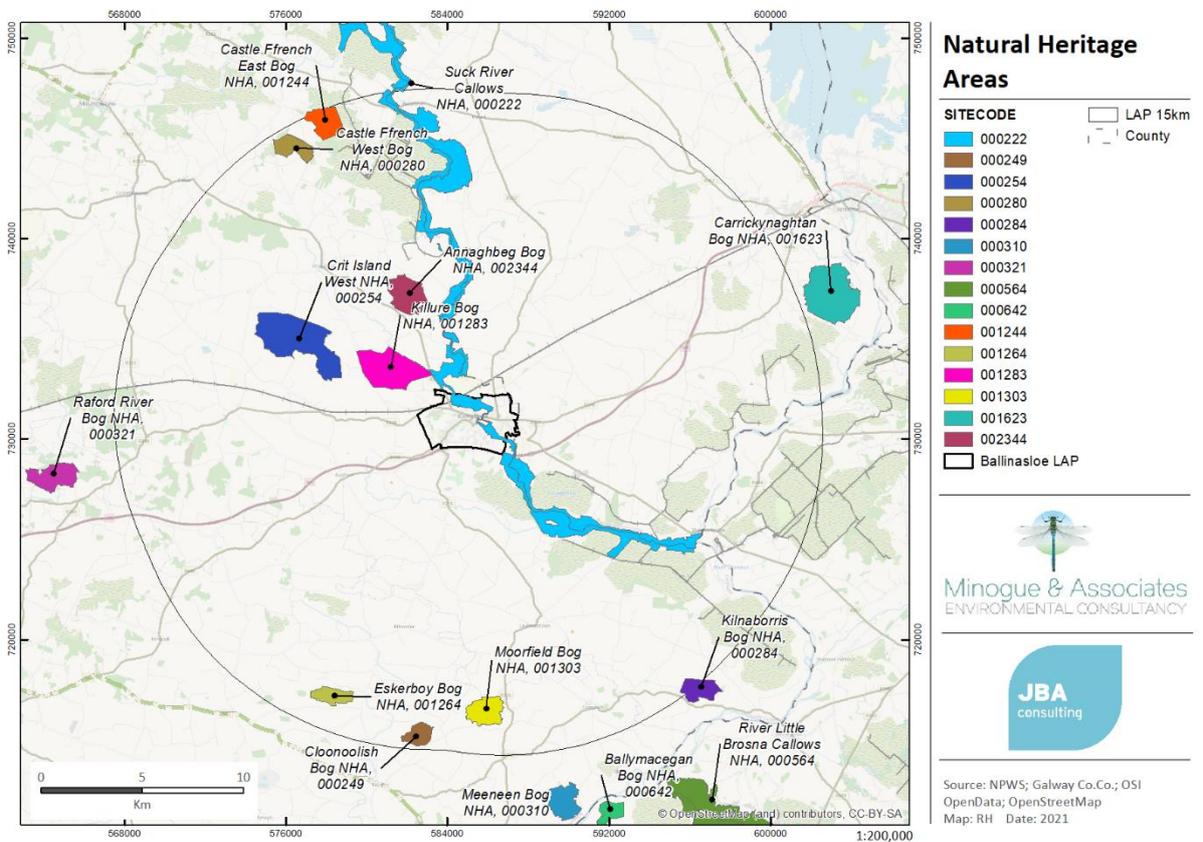
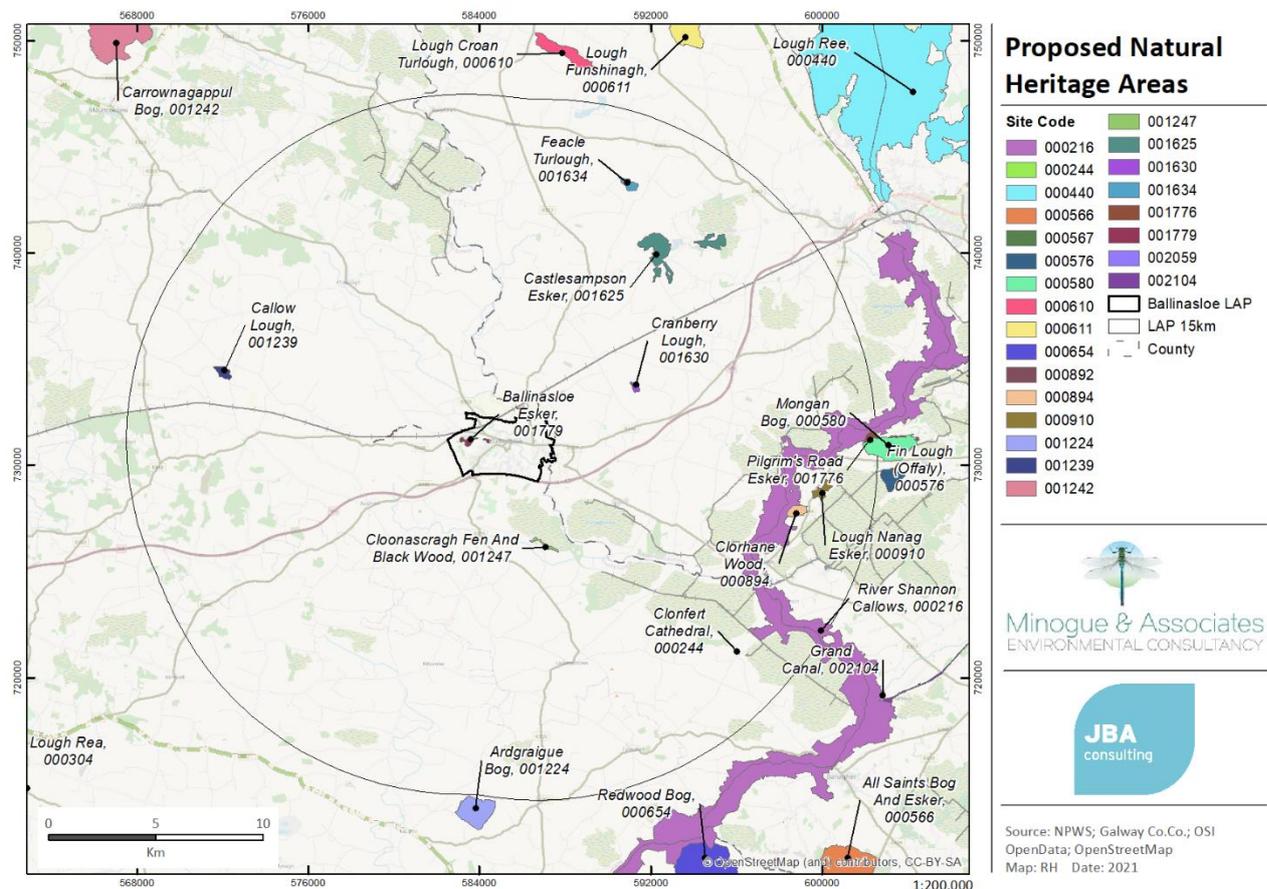


FIGURE 4-9 PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS IN THE PLAN AREA



4.5.4 Land Cover Mapping: CORINE

The CORINE land cover mapping for Ballinasloe for the year 2012 (most updated version) classifies land cover under different headings and indicates that the main land use is Pastures followed by the land uses of Discontinuous Urban Fabric and Peat bogs.

4.5.5 Ecological Networks

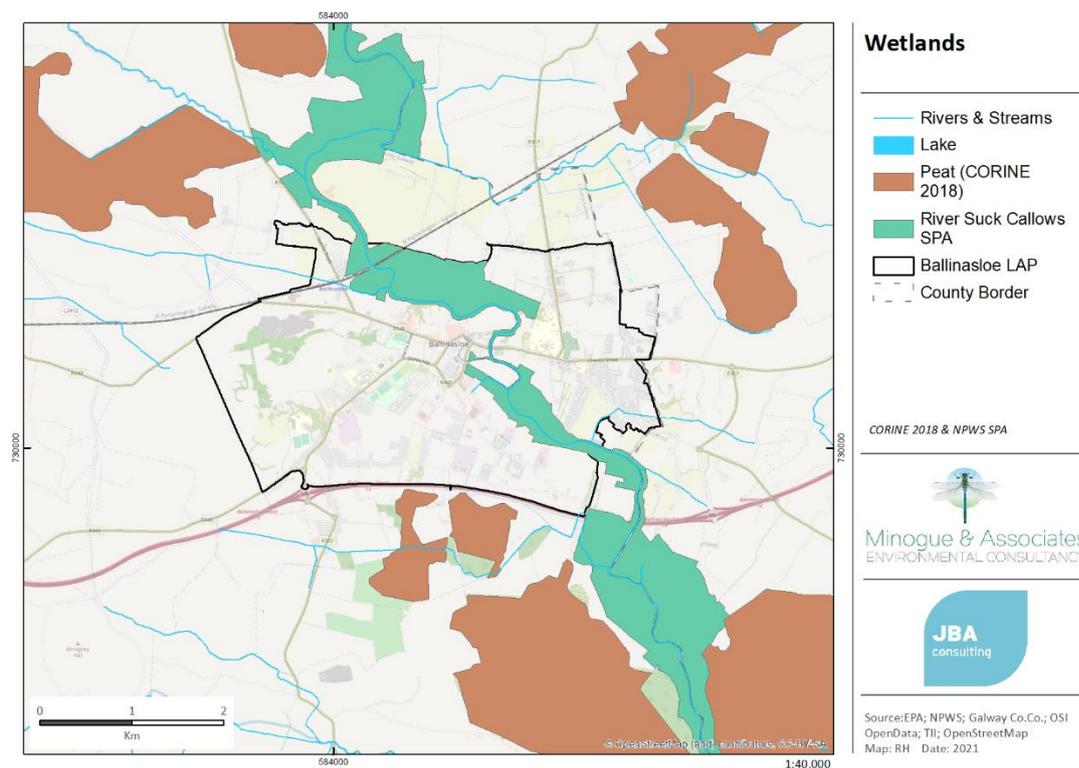
Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. Within and surrounding Ballinasloe, the ecological networks are made up of components including the water bodies of the River Suck, the Bunowen River, the Deerpark River, the Cuilleen stream and Kellysgrove stream, together with their tributaries and banks, the various woodlands, parks, gardens and hedgerows within and surrounding the plan area and lands used for agriculture.

4.5.6 Wetlands

The value of wetlands includes their function in improving water quality, for floodwater storage whereby they can slow down the force of flood and storm waters as they travel downstream; habitat for wildlife; biodiversity support and provision of recreational and cultural heritage services. The role of wetlands is recognized as forming a vital element in addressing climate change effects by acting as carbon storage. Figure 4.10 presents a map of the wetlands present in the plan area, based on the Wetland Survey of Ireland database⁷.

⁷ www.wetlandsurveyireland.com Foss & Crushell. Accessed 8/9/2021

FIGURE 4-10 WETLANDS IN THE PLAN AREA



4.5.7 Invasive Species

Although there are few records of Invasive Alien species in Ballinasloe, it is highly likely that species such as the Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) amongst others occur in the area. Aquatic invasive species such as the Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) have the potential to be spread through water bodies in the area.

4.5.8 Key issues- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The key issues for consideration for biodiversity, flora and fauna in Ballinasloe City are as follows:

- There are a number of ecological networks throughout the plan area. Increased development pressures as a result of the projected growth in population may result in the development of the plan area on greenfield lands and/or the removal of trees/hedgerows which may impact on these networks and the integrity of designated areas;
- Habitat loss and fragmentation can occur as a result of development;
- Land cover differences between the CORINE 2006 data and the CORINE data for the year 2012 indicate a cumulative loss of Transitional Woodland Scrub to Peat Bogs, Land Principally Occupied by Agriculture and Non-irrigated Arable Land to Pastures;
- Generally, development in Ballinasloe is not significantly impacting upon designated ecological sites. However, the site synopsis for these sites identifies certain threats to the conservation value of these sites - quarrying activities are identified in relation to the Ballinasloe Esker pNHA, while habitat loss is identified over the wider area covered by the Suck River Callows NHA designation;
- Aquatic flora and fauna are vulnerable to all forms of pollution such as that which can occur as a result of agricultural run-off and industrial and municipal effluents. As identified under Section 3.18, several water bodies within and surrounding the area are “at risk” with regard to meeting legislative water quality objectives under the Water Framework Directive;

- Disturbance of wildlife, and particularly birds, occur as a result of inappropriately sited development and increased recreational pressure;
- The spread of invasive alien species is particularly important threat to local biodiversity as they compete for space and food.

4.6 Population and Human Health

4.6.1 Population

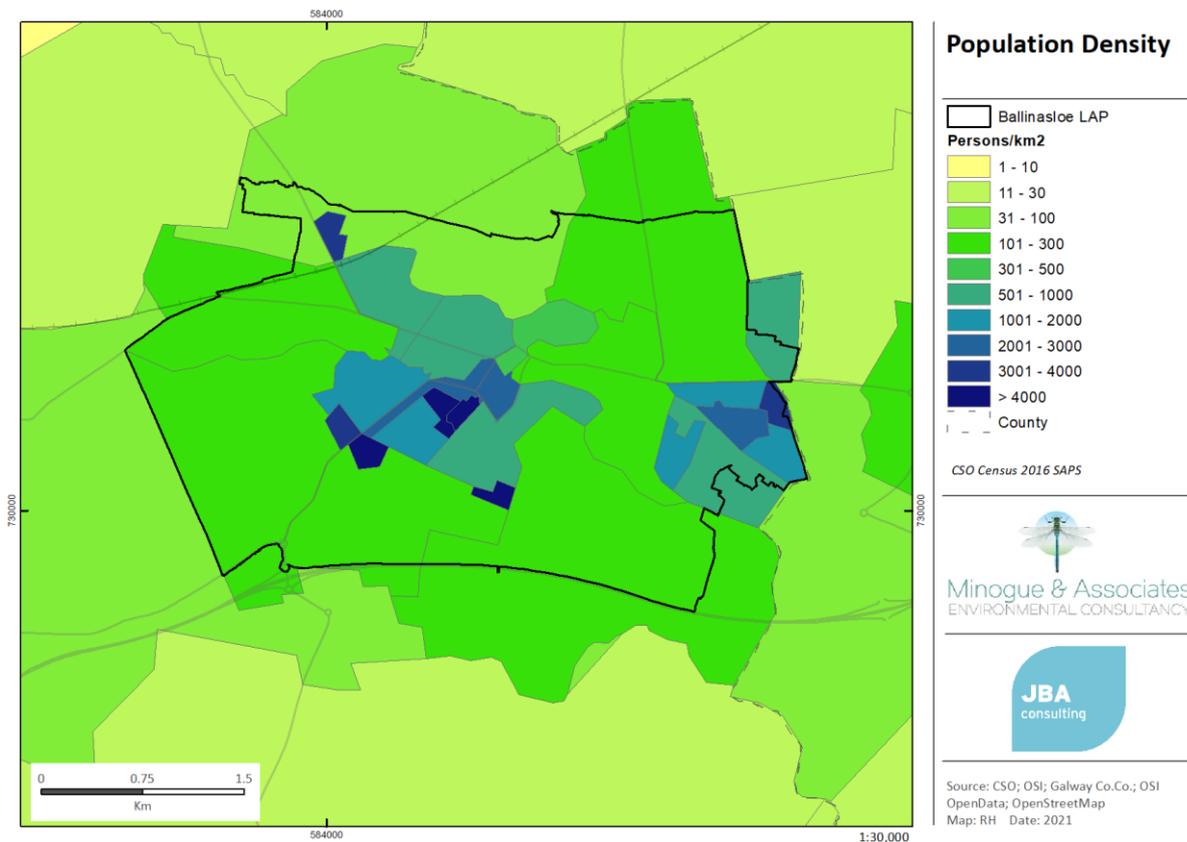
In the 2016 Census the total population of Ballinasloe was identified as being of 6,662 persons, an increase in total population of the town by 0.05. The Local Area Plan will consider various development zoning and phasing options so as to comply with the Core Strategy as outlined within the Galway County Development Plan (Table 4.1) and to ensure that suitable lands are brought forward for development during the plan period. Figure 4.11 shows the population density of Ballinasloe.

TABLE 4-1 CORE STRATEGY OUTLINED IN GCDP 2022-2028 FOR BALLINASLOE

Settlement Typology	CSO 2016	Core Strategy Allocation	Residential Units to be Delivered on Greenfield Sites	Density	Quantum of Greenfield Land Required for Residential Development	Residential Units to be Delivered on Infill/Brownfield Sites
Ballinasloe Key Town	6,662	1,999	816	35	23	350

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES) for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly area recognises Ballinasloe as a Key Town which provides which provides an anchor for employment in east Galway. One of the key future priorities for Ballinasloe from the RSES 2020-2032, as recognised in the Core Strategy of the current GCDP 2022-2028 includes: “realising the town’s potential as a ‘County Town’, ensuring a balance of development in the town centre of Ballinasloe, and providing for compact growth and brownfield development, revitalising Dunlo Street, Market Square, Society Street and Main Street, and to reduce vacancies and support the vitality and vibrancy of these core shopping streets/side streets and the town centre.”

FIGURE 4-11 POPULATION DENSITY BALLINASLOE



4.6.2 Human Health

In terms of human health, where people live have a profound effect on their health. A key area for consideration of human health will be the interaction between environmental aspects such as water, landscape, biodiversity, air, energy and human beings. Air Quality is summarized in Section 4.7.1, noise is summarized below:

The Environmental Noise Directive (END) (2002/49/EC) requires that each member state take action, with a view to preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary, particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health and to preserving environmental acoustic quality where it is good.

The assessment of impacts on human health will reference other sections of the SEA as relevant along with considering aspects such as the Industrial Emissions Directive, Seveso and Flood Risk Assessments.

4.6.3 Key Issues- Population and Human Health

The following key issues have been highlighted for population and human health for Ballinasloe:

- A key challenge for the town is providing sufficient housing options across all tenures in sustainable neighbourhoods, housing choice and affordability, and social inclusion (in support of people with disabilities, the Traveller community and other ethnic minorities) to surmount barriers such as poverty that prevent people from engaging in education, culture and community activities that enhance quality of life.
- Certain environmental vectors within the plan area - such as air, water or soil - have the potential to transport and deposit contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm and adversely impact upon the health of the area's population;

- The occurrence of severe rainfall events - and changes in the occurrence and magnitude of these events as a result of climate change - have the potential to cause flooding which would be likely to result in a hazard to human health and damage and loss to the built environment, infrastructure and biodiversity;
- Traffic hotspots located along the main road routes especially at intersections are likely to have sensory environments that are relatively more stressful due to air pollution and noise levels.
- Town centre viability – reuse of buildings, enhancing public realm.

4.7 Soil and Geology

4.7.1 Soils

Urban soil underlies the built-up areas within the town. The majority of the plan area is covered by limestone till. Areas of cutover peat lie to the north, north-west and south of the plan area. Alluvial soils and limestone sands and gravels compromise the remainder of the plan area with minor areas of outcropping bedrock, including karstified limestone bedrock, dispersed throughout. Figure 4.12 shows the distribution of soil types across the plan area.

The soils and habitats of Ballinasloe have been influenced by the area’s underlying geology. The majority of the plan area is underlain by Visean Limestone. There are a number of geological sites within or around the immediate environs of Ballinasloe namely the Suck River Callows, Ballinasloe and Esker. There are three other eskers in located within 15 km from the plan area: Glenloughaun Esker, Castlesampson Esker and some part of Pilgrim’s Road Esker.

The proposed EU Directive 2004/35/EC Directive offers protection to soil and indicates that this may be achieved through the rehabilitation of brown field sites, thus, reducing the pressure on development of green field site. It also states that soil should be used in a sustainable manner in order to ensure that it is available for future generations to come.

FIGURE 4-12 SOIL MAP FOR PLAN AREA

4.7.2 Geological Heritage

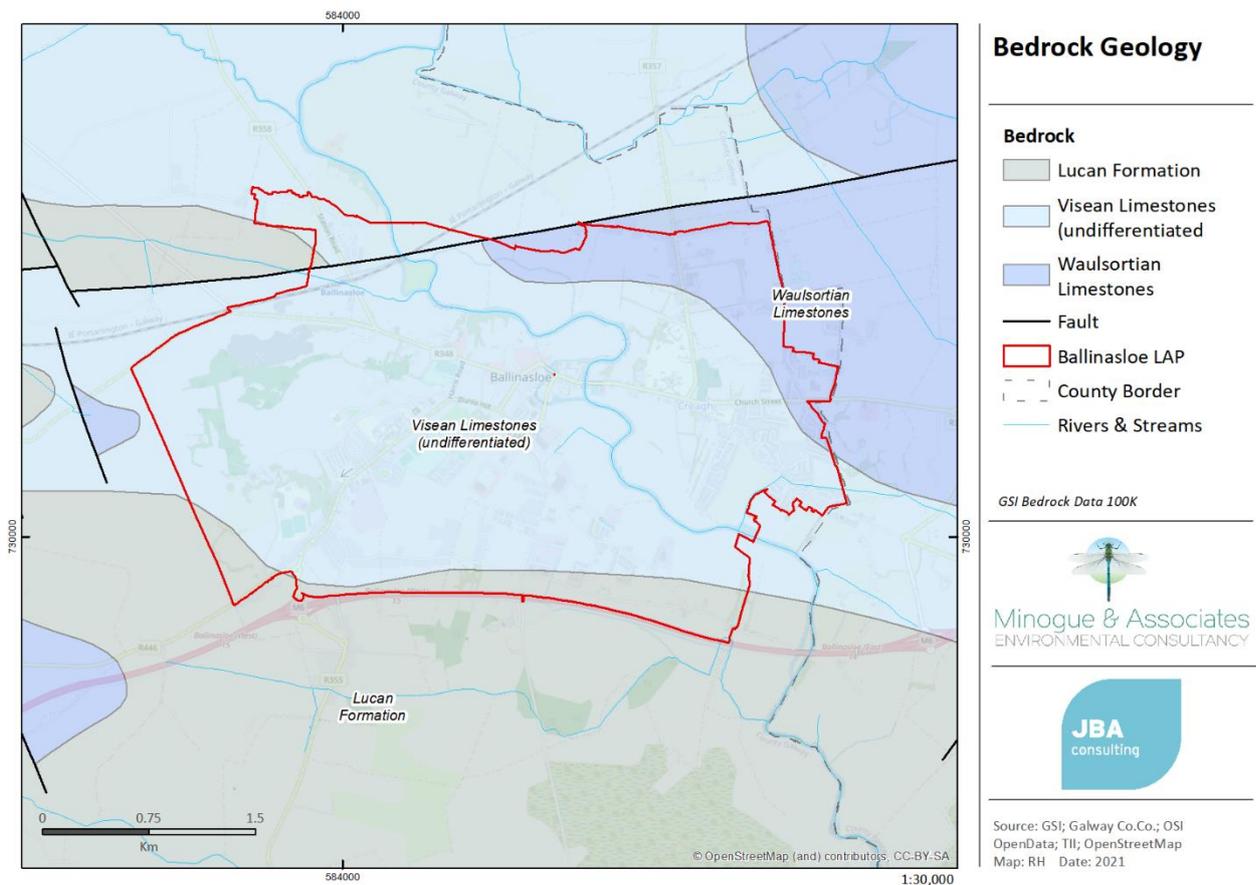
The Geological heritage audit⁸ for Galway County by Geological Survey Ireland in 2021, and includes 2 County Geological Sites (CGSs) in the plan area as follows:

- Ballinasloe Esker- A large accumulation of sands and gravels deposited under and in front of the ice sheet
- Suck River Callows- A long, flat site which includes the Suck River floodplain

Figures 4.13 present the bedrock maps for the plan area and environs respectively.

⁸ [Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.gsi.ie/eng/Pages/Geological_Survey_Ireland_Spatial_Resources.aspx)

FIGURE 4-13 BEDROCK GEOLOGY OF PLAN AREA



4.7.3 Geohazards

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. A large portion of the plan area is considered to have low (inferred) landslide susceptibility⁹.

4.7.4 Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy harnesses the heat beneath the surface of the Earth for heating applications and electricity generation, and has proven to be secure, environmentally sustainable and cost effective over long time periods. Geothermal applications can range in depth from a few metres below the surface to several kilometres. Ireland has widespread shallow geothermal resources for small and medium-scale heating applications. Majority of the plan area is suitable for both domestic and commercial heating with the surrounding area being probably suitable and requires site assessment to prove otherwise¹⁰.

4.7.5 Key Issues- Soil and Geology

The key issues for consideration pertaining to soil and geology are as follows:

- Greenfield development involves the building upon and thereby sealing off of soil, thus representing an environmental problem;

⁹ <https://dcnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c>

¹⁰ <https://dcnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ee46bee08de41278b90a991d60c0b9e>

- Soil has the potential to be polluted and contaminated as a result of pollution from development which is not serviced by appropriate wastewater infrastructure and from agricultural sources;
- Soil erosion due mainly to surface erosion resulting from construction works and agricultural/forestry operations has potential to impact on water quality. In addition to water quality, these can impact on infrastructure and can have health and safety implications. Erosion of the eskers due to quarrying activity is a problem. Maintaining and enhancing soil function and its carbon storage role where possible
- Retention of areas of greenfield in terms of open space, green infrastructure and biodiversity considerations
- Sustainable management and use of soil and geology on site during construction processes.
- Reuse of existing buildings
- Erosion of the eskers due to quarrying activity is a problem¹¹.

4.8 Water Resources and Flooding

4.8.1 Water Framework Directive (WFD)

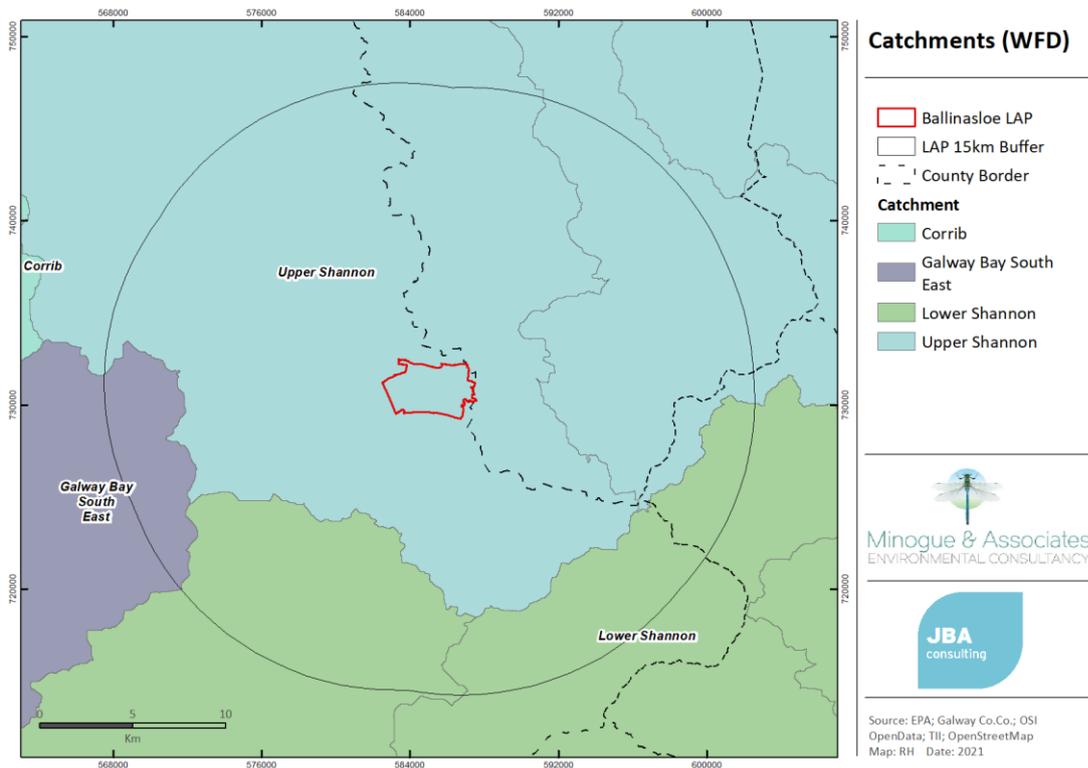
Ireland is required to produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive and the current plan is from 2018-2021. The plan sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve ‘good’ ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. The main catchment in the plan area is the Upper Shannon Catchment (Code: 26D) shown in Figure 4.14. This catchment covers an area of 1,598km² and is underlain completely by karstified bedrock, apart from some isolated pockets and the most southerly part of the catchment downstream of Ballinasloe. The catchment is dominated by a flat undulating topography and the groundwater and surface water drainage systems are highly interlinked throughout the catchment. The plan area is further divided into three sub-catchments and Table 4.2 provides a short profile of the sub-catchments and their WFD risk.

TABLE 4-2 SUB-CATCHMENTS IN THE PLAN AREA AND THEIR STATUS

Subcatchment	Code	Water Body Category	WFD Risk (2013-2018)	Ecological Status or Potential (2013-2018)
Suck_SC_080	26D_2	River	At Risk	Moderate
Suck_SC_090	26D_5	River	At Risk	Moderate
Suck_SC_100	26D_3	River	Not at Risk	Good

FIGURE 4:14 WFD CATCHMENT(S) IN BALLINASLOE PLAN AREA

¹¹ Inserted following the scoping submission of GSI



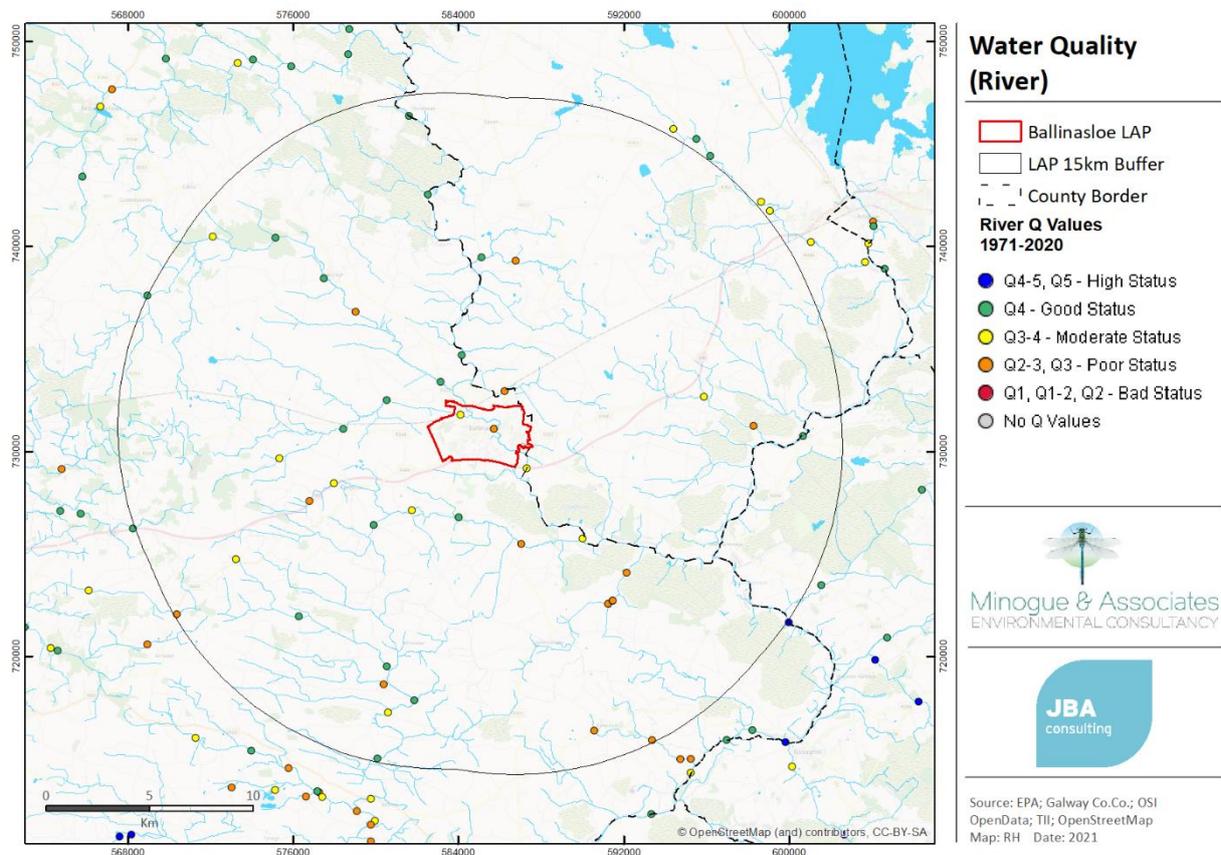
4.8.2 Surface Water Bodies

The River Suck, which runs through the centre of Ballinasloe Town, is the most dominant river and the largest of the River Shannon’s three tributaries in the context of Ballinasloe. Other surface water bodies include River Bunowen, Deerpark River, Cuilleen stream and Keelysgrove stream.

According to the WFD cycle 2 catchment assessment, River Suck is At Risk with moderate ecological status. It has not met the WFD objectives majorly due to hydromorphological pressures. The River Suck has been listed on the Register of Protected Areas (RPA) for Water Dependent Habitats and Species. This Register includes habitats that are dependent on water: this includes areas already listed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as Special Protection Areas for the protection of birds, as per the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). In Ireland, waters intended for human consumption are protected under the Drinking Water Regulations (S.I. 439/2000/SI 278 OF 2007). All groundwater underlying the plan area is included on the Register of Protected Areas. The main groundwater water-body in the plan area is - The Suck South (IE_SH_G_225). According to the Water Framework Directive the ground water-body is at risk (1a) of not achieving good status by 2015. The overall WFD objective is to restore this ground water-body to good status by 2021.

The Q-values of surface water bodies within the plan area are mapped on Figure 4.15 as shown below.

FIGURE 4-15 Q VALUES OF SURFACE WATER BODIES IN BALLINASLOE

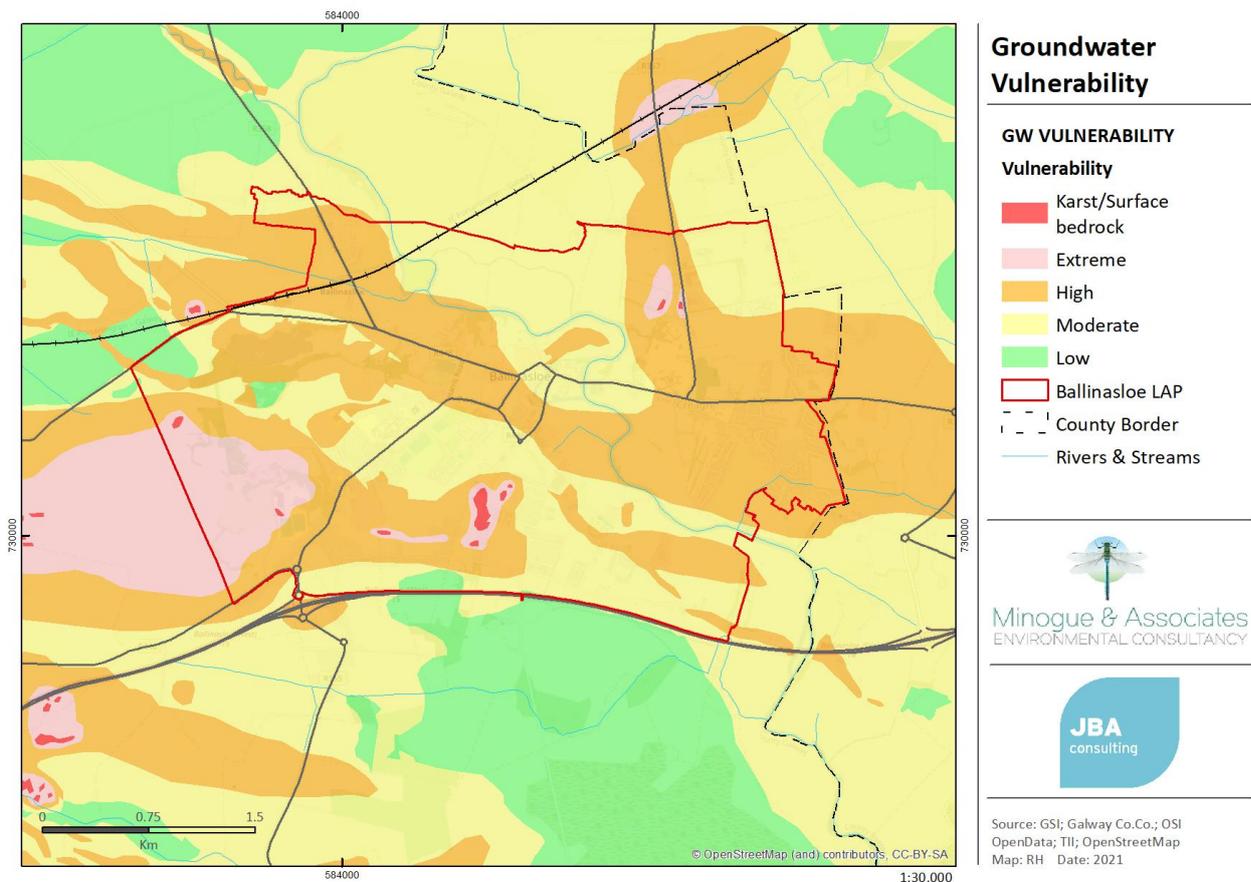


4.8.3 Groundwater

The quality of groundwater in the plan area is classified as good following a reliable assessment in accordance with Annex V of the WFD. In addition to this Directive and associated transposed regulations to protect and restore, wherever necessary, groundwater, additional legal instruments are also in existence which strengthen and support the WFD ultimate goal with respect to groundwater.

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates aquifers according to their vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. Figure 4.16 highlights areas of extreme to high vulnerability. The diverse geology of the plan area, results in considerable parts of the plan area being classified as high or extreme vulnerability.

FIGURE 4:16 GROUNDWATER VULNERABILITY

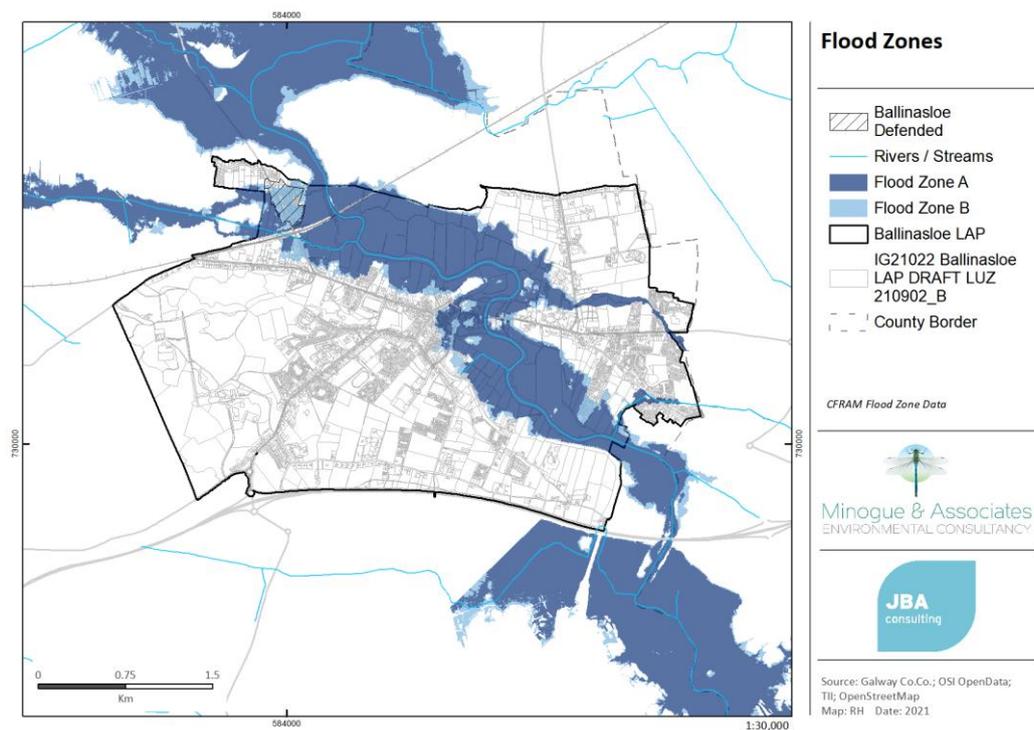


4.8.4 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DoEHLG 2009) provide a methodology to incorporate flood risk identification and management into land use strategies. It also requires the alignment and integration of flood risk into the SEA process. Potential flood issues in the plan area are an important consideration in the preparation of the BLAP 2022-2028. Therefore, the plan has been guided by the information on flood risk currently available and has been informed by the currently up to date flood risk information including Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) studies.

Ballinasloe has a long history of flooding from the River Suck, Deerpark River and other local tributaries. In recent times, significant flooding occurred in November 2009 and during winter 2015/2016. The Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan (www.floodinfo.ie/) was finalised in May 2018, and this study recommended the development of a flood relief scheme for Ballinasloe. OPW in partnership with Galway County Council have now appointed Arup in conjunction with Hydro-Environmental Ltd. to assess, develop and design a viable, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable flood relief scheme for Ballinasloe. Ryan Hanley Ltd. has also been appointed to undertake the environmental appraisals for the scheme. The flood relief scheme is a significant project for the town and provides for protection and management of the SAC and SPA. The timeframe for completion of the scheme is likely to be outside the lifespan of the Local Area Plan.

FIGURE 4-20 STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT



4.8.5 Key Issues- Water Resources and Flooding

The above descriptions identify a number of sensitivities with regard to the status of water bodies within the Ballinasloe plan area. Groundwater underlying the plan area and the Suck River Callows SPA are both listed on Registers of Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive.

The majority of surface waters are at significant risk of failing to achieve the WFD's objectives of good status by 2027. The pressures which have been identified by the catchment assessment in the characterisation of the water bodies within and surrounding the plan area include:

- Diffuse source pressures such as the EPA's diffuse sources model;
- Morphological pressures including intensive land use; and
- Point sources such as combined sewer and treatment plant overflows and wastewater treatment plants.

Other key issues to be considered are as follows:

- Maintenance of water supply in relation to abstraction.
- Potential increase in the levels of flooding within the plan area; Existing and new infrastructure particularly roads, powerlines and telecommunications susceptible to flooding.
- Amenity and recreation provision where this could impact nature conservation sites and/or sensitive species.

4.9 Air Quality and Climatic Factors

4.9.1 Air Quality

The quality of air is a crucial factor in determining the health of an ecosystem. Polluted air impacts the natural environment, affecting the quality of fresh water, soil, and ecosystems, as well as damage to the built environment. The EPA has developed four zones to represent all of the potential 'types' of

air quality background that are likely to exist in Ireland. These four zones are stated in the Air Quality Regulations (2002) and are as follows (Table 4.3):

TABLE 4-3 AIR QUALITY ZONES FOR IRELAND

Zone A:	Dublin Conurbation
Zone B:	Cork Conurbation
Zone C:	Other Cities and Large Towns comprising Galway, Limerick, Waterford, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Sligo, Drogheda, Wexford, Athlone, Ennis, Bray, Naas, Carlow, Tralee and Dundalk (usually towns with populations greater than 15,000 people)
Zone D:	Rural Ireland, i.e. the remainder of the State excluding Zones A, B and C

Ballinasloe falls into Zone D. The current air quality in the Ballinasloe Urban AQIH Region is 1 – Good. Currently there is no air quality monitoring sites in Ballinasloe.

4.9.2 Climate Change

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 sets out the national objective of transitioning to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy in the period up to 2050. The recent Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Act 2021 provides for a statutory a “National Climate Objective” that commits to pursue and achieve the transition to a climate-resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate-neutral economy. Climate is a key indicator with influences on all other indicators. Table 4.4 shows the impacts that climate change is expected to have nationally.

Galway County Council’s Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 (the Adaptation Strategy) sets out our strategic priorities, measures and responses for adaptation in County Galway over the next five years; as required by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. The Strategy is based on four main themes: Critical Buildings and Infrastructure, Natural and Cultural Capital, Water Resource & Flood Risk Management and Community Services.

TABLE 4-4 CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS (NATIONAL)

Impact	Description
Sea Level Rise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea levels are expected to increase for all Irish coastal areas. Projected changes in sea level will magnify the impacts of changing storm surge and wave patterns in coastal areas. • Decrease in mean and extreme wave heights by the end of the century. • Increase in magnitude and intensity of storm wave heights
Wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the intensity of extreme windstorms is expected. • Decrease in wind speeds for summer and increases for winter rainfall events is likely.
Phenology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the duration of the growing season is likely with spring occurring earlier. • Projections indicate that bud burst will continue to advance until at least 2100.
Precipitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in seasonality in precipitation can be expected with significant decreases projected for spring and summer and increases for winter. • An increase in the occurrence of extreme rainfall events is likely.
Surface Air Temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average surface air temperatures are expected to increase everywhere and across all seasons. • An increase in the intensity and duration of heatwaves is expected. • Increasing seasonality in hydrological regimes can be expected with decreased summer and increased winter flows likely. • Flood risk will increase due to a combination of higher river-flows and increases in extreme precipitation events.
Hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing seasonality in hydrological regimes can be expected with decreased summer and increased winter flows likely. • Flood risk will increase due to a combination of higher river-flows and increases in extreme precipitation events.

4.9.3 Key Issues- Air and Climatic Factors

The following issues for air and climate have been considered in relation to Ballinasloe:

- Traffic hotspots within the plan area are likely to have elevated levels of air pollution and noise due to traffic congestion;
- Localised air pollution incidences with regard to PM10 and PM2.5 and noise pollution are both likely to occur when demolition/construction takes place;
- The occurrence of severe rainfall events and changes in the occurrence and magnitude of these events as a result of climate change could have an impact on the Ballinasloe area;
- The loss of habitats could present problems for species numbers and diversity especially in the Suck River Callows SPA.

4.10 Material Assets

Material assets are defined as the critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society. This section presents the baseline as it relates to transport, waste management, water services infrastructure and energy. The Environmental Report will examine effects on material assets, such as existing infrastructure and services including transportation, water supply, waste-water treatment and discharge, waste management, electricity and telecommunications etc.

4.10.1 Water and Wastewater

The availability of a water supply of sufficient quality and quantity is essential for public health and the sustainable economic growth of Ballinasloe town. The primary source of Ballinasloe's public water supply is the Derrymullen Water Treatment Plant which sources water from the River Suck upstream of the town. There are three reservoirs serving Ballinasloe Town and the surrounding areas. These are located at Garbally, Redmount Hill, and Sheepwalk.

Irish Water, working in partnership with Galway County Council, has completed upgrade works to the Ballinasloe Water Treatment Plant. The works were undertaken by Glan Agua Limited on our behalf. As a result of this €650,000 investment over 8,000 people in the Ballinasloe and surrounding area will benefit from a safer and more reliable water supply.

In terms of wastewater capacity is envisaged in the GCDP 2022-2028 that there is adequate capacity (to WWDL ELV capability) to meet the 2028 Draft CDP population targets. Pumping station upgrades in Ballinasloe (Dunloe P.S.) to resolve capacity constraints are under consideration.

4.10.2 Waste Management

The Waste Management Plan for the Connacht Ulster Region 2015-2021 provides policy guidance on waste management in County Galway. It serves as the framework for the prevention and management of wastes in a safe and sustainable manner. There are five bring banks located throughout the town at a number of locations and there is a recycling facility at Pollboy.

4.10.3 Energy Infrastructure and Communications

Developments require adequate power, energy and telecommunications services, including electricity, gas supply, telephone services and broadband, which are provided by a number of different service providers. Ballinasloe is served by Eircom and a number of mobile telecommunications operators. The Ballinasloe Metropolitan Area Broadband Network (MANS) is fully constructed and is routed mainly around the town centre. It serves the IDA site and HSE facilities

along the R357, industrial lands at Pollboy, educational facilities and along the R446 servicing Garbally College, Portiuncla Hospital and the Dunlo area.

4.10.4 Transportation

Ballinasloe performs an important role, in particular as a commercial/industrial centre for the eastern area of the County. The town has important transport connections and provides ease of access to other major regional centres including Dublin, Galway and Athlone.

A number of regional roads (R446, R348, R357, R355 & R358) and local roads also converge in the town. These roads link Ballinasloe with a number of towns and villages, such as Tuam, Kilconnell, Laurencetown, Ahascragh, Athlone, Tullamore and Portumna. Ballinasloe is situated approximately 30.5km (19miles) west of Athlone and 67.5km (42miles) east of Galway and has daily public transport services (both rail and bus) to Galway, Athlone and Dublin and these services present the opportunity to commute to work to these destinations. Ballinasloe Railway Station is located on the Galway to Dublin line, approximately 1.3km to the northwest of the Town Centre at Deerpark. The present location for the bus stop is at the public marina.

4.10.5 Mineral Resources

Within the city, two quarries were qualified to submit to An Bord Pleanála for ‘substitute consent’ in accordance with Section 261(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2010 relating to the control of quarries. The plan area consists of three mineral localities of limestone, crinoidal limestone and dimension stone. One mineral locality consisting of galena and sphalerite is located close to the plan area in the east.

4.10.6 Key Issues- Material Assets

The following key issues are identified in terms of materials assets:

- Certain regions of the plan area are not within the catchment of the waste water treatment network and consequently developments in these areas use septic tanks to treat waste water arising;
- The main impacts on the River Suck are the Ballinasloe WWTP, private licenced treatment plants and agricultural run-off.
- Energy efficiency.
- Sustainable transport provision and modal shift.

4.11 Landscape

A Landscape Character Assessment was included in draft Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028 in accordance with the DEHLG’s Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines (2000). The county’s LCA has been subdivided into three regions and the coast. The region relating to the plan area is the Eastern Plains Region which is underlain by younger, softer rocks. This gets most of its character from the covering blanket of glacial soils that give rise to extensive, level plains of grasslands, with many areas of bog in the north. Furthermore, the landscape character type for the Ballinasloe region is defined as the Urban Environs in the LCA.

Landscape sensitivity is a measure of the ability of the landscape to accommodate change or intervention without suffering unacceptable effects to its character and values. Sensitivity ratings are derived from a combination of landscape values and landscape character. The following four sensitivity classes were established by the LCA:

- Class 1 – Low; unlikely to be adversely affected by change

- Class 2 – High; Elevated sensitivity to change
- Class 3 – Special; High sensitivity to change
- Class 4 – Iconic; Unique landscape with high sensitivity to change

4.11.1 Key Issues- Landscape

Landscape interacts with a number of SEA topics, including biodiversity, population and human health, cultural heritage and climatic factors. The issues pertinent to Ballinasloe’s landscape are as follows:

- The intrusion onto greenfield sites for development can have a significant effect on the landscape and local landscape features in rural and urban areas. A problem with regard to the environmental component of landscape is the cumulative visual impact which occurs as a result of developments such as one-off houses. Such developments, which individually often do not have significant adverse impacts, have the potential to have a significant impact cumulatively and adversely upon sensitive landscapes. In the context of Ballinasloe, this type of development has the potential to occur within the peri-urban areas including the outskirts of the town boundary but could pose a potential impact on the proposed protected focal views which occur throughout Ballinasloe.

4.12 Cultural Heritage

The heritage of Ballinasloe is a unique resource which is fundamental to the cultural identity of the town and the quality of life of its citizens - it is central to how we see ourselves and to our identity as individuals and communities. Historic buildings can define localities and communities within the area and can become a focus of community identity and pride. A historic church or park, for example, can help define a neighbourhood and create a sense of local cohesion.

4.12.1 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage is defined as including structures, places, caves, sites, features or other objects, whether on land, underwater or in inter-tidal zones. Ballinasloe’s archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped. In Ballinasloe, there are currently 54 entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

4.12.2 Built Heritage

The existing urban form of Ballinasloe was established by the Trench Family in the late 18th and early 19th century with the development of the broad pattern of streets lined with substantial three storey buildings, St. Michael’s Square and the Fair Green.

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is legislated under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). There are currently 118 Protected Structures within the plan area (Figure 4.21). These structures include many houses from the Georgian and Victoria periods. Of note are two of the churches within the town, the church to the east of the Fair Green is a protected structure of national importance while the church at St. Michael’s Square is a protected structure of international importance.

There are currently two Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) within the plan area, namely Ballinasloe Town Centre and St. Brigid’s Hospital as shown in Figure 4.22.

FIGURE 4-21 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

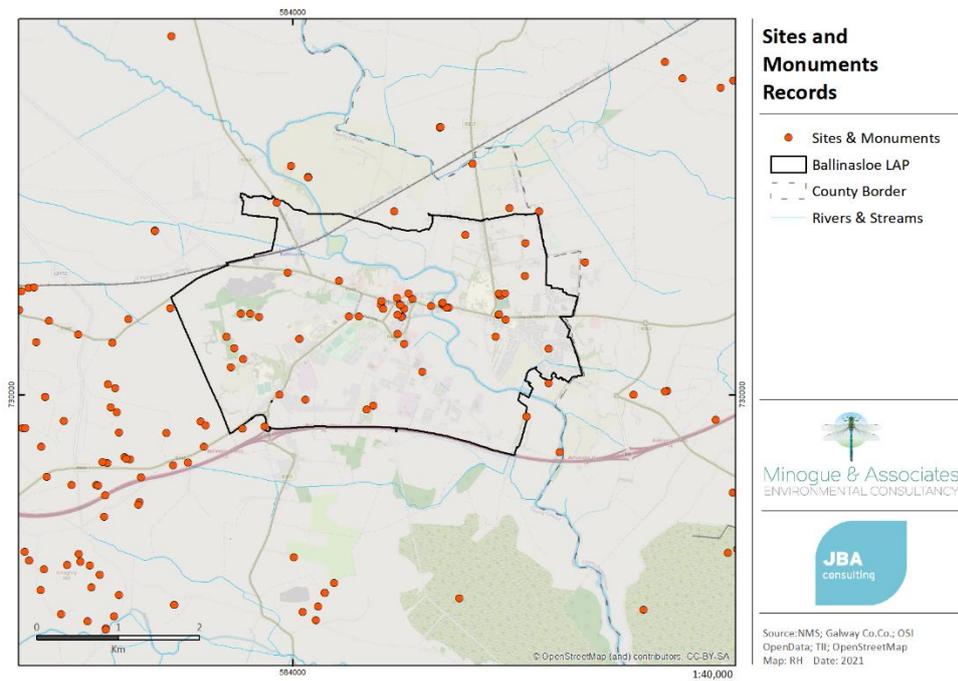
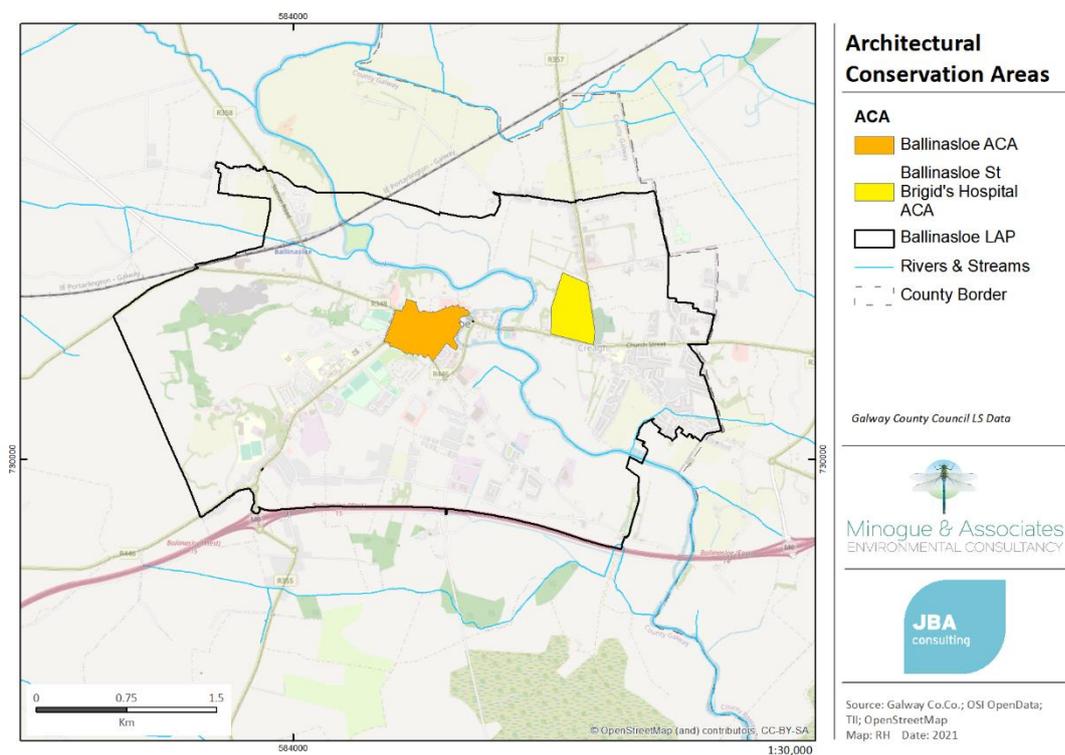


FIGURE 4-22 ACAS IN BALLINASLOE



4.12.3 Key Issues- Cultural Heritage

The key issues for consideration pertaining to cultural heritage for Ballinasloe are:

- Developments within archaeologically or architecturally sensitive areas have the potential to impact upon cultural heritage of the plan area individually or cumulatively;
- Archaeology can be previously unknown but can be damaged through development causing ground disturbance;

- Development which involves material alteration or additions to protected structures can detract from the special character of the structure and its setting;
- Development on sites adjoining protected monuments, places or structures can also impact upon the setting of these cultural heritage items;
- achieving compact growth through brownfield development and also reusing existing buildings particularly in the town centre
- ensuring energy efficiency in older buildings
- Encouraging and facilitating the accommodation of growth on brownfield sites will contribute to mitigating a number of the adverse impacts associated with greenfield development, however, brownfield development has the potential to have a significant adverse impact upon cultural heritage both archaeological and architectural if unmitigated against.

4.13 Inter-relationships

Environmental sensitivity mapping was prepared to inform the overall assessment of the BLAP 2022-2028 and to aggregate different environmental themes to help identify areas of greater and lesser environmental sensitivity. The key datasets used to inform this sensitivity mapping were as follows.

- Ecological Designations (SAC, SPAs, NHAs and pNHAs)
- Annex 1 habitats
- Surface Water quality and
- Architectural Conservation Areas.

The environmental sensitivities map shows the level of overlap of environmental sensitivities and the range of physical environmental factors. It is important to note that the environmental factors not reflected on this map, e.g., those that are point specific, like protected structures, were not included as it was considered by their inclusion; it would potentially give a visual misrepresentation of sensitivity when considering potential areas for future growth. Also, important to note is that the physical extent of the environmental sensitivity can extend beyond the defined area on the map, as the potential impact can be generated at a location remote from the mapped area. For example, a development outside of a designated site boundary does not mean that it cannot impact on it. The mapping also highlights the interaction of key environmental parameters, whilst all environmental parameters interact with each other to an extent, key interactions as shown below relate to water, biodiversity and climate change. All the parameters interact with Population and Human Health.

4.14 Evolution of the environment in the absence of the BLAP 2022-2028

The SEA legislation requires that consideration be given to the likely evolution of the current baseline where implementation of the BLAP 2022-2028 does not take place. Table 4.7 presents the likely evolution of the BLAP 2022-2028 in the absence of the plan.

TABLE 4-6 EVOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PLAN

SEA	Evolution of same
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	In the absence of a Local Area Plan, there would be no framework to guide where development should occur and planning applications would be assessed on a case by case basis with no overall vision for the plan area. Flora and fauna, habitats and ecological connectivity would be protected under a number of largely independent strategic actions relating to biodiversity and flora and fauna protection. The evolution of biodiversity and fauna would be dependent on the rate and extent of any such

SEA	Evolution of same
	<p>developments which would take place. There would be limited considerations of the inter-connections between such things as climate change and biodiversity and therefore no provisions made to contend with future climate change.</p> <p>Developments along or adjacent to the banks or rivers could result in a reduction in ecological connectivity within and between a number of habitats. Pollution of water bodies as a result of any future development along river catchments would likely to adversely impact aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna including salmonid species and other species protected under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>In the absence of a Local Area Plan, any Greenfield development would adversely impact upon biodiversity and flora and fauna by replacing natural or semi-natural habitats with artificial surfaces.</p>
Population, Human health	<p>The County Development Plan Core Strategy has identified a target population growth for Ballinasloe. In order to properly plan for the sustainable development of the plan area, it is essential that this is done at a local level in the form of a local area plan.</p> <p>In the absence of a Local Area Plan there would be no framework directing developments to appropriate locations and this would have the potential to result in adverse impacts upon environmental components which would negatively affect human health.</p>
Air Quality and Climate	<p>In the absence of a Local Area Plan there would be no framework for the location of new development and, as a consequence development would be likely to occur in a piecemeal fashion, spread out across wider areas than otherwise maybe the case. This would result in significant increases in travel related emissions in the air.</p> <p>While increases in the use of catalytic convertors, cleaner fuels, better engine technology and maintenance is generally reducing the pollution emitted per motor vehicle, this reduction is more than likely offset by the increases in the number of cars as well as the increase in the volume of incidences of traffic congestion. Increases in the number of cars as well as the increases in volume and increased traffic congestion may lead to increases in air and noise pollution in the future.</p> <p>In the absence of a Local Area Plan the realisation of objectives relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy and a reduction in transport related emissions contained within the Local Area Plan would be made more difficult. If new development or an intensification of existing land uses were to occur in the plan area adverse impacts upon air quality and noise levels, and resultant impacts on human health, would likely to arise if unmitigated.</p>
Water Resources including flood risk	<p>The replacing of semi-natural land cover types with artificial, more impervious surfaces is likely to lead to cumulative increases in the run-off and peak flow conditions in the local river bodies. These cumulative increases may have the potential to, especially in combination with the occurrence of severe rainfall events, result in flooding. Uncoordinated development in the absence of a local area plan could lead to the contamination of groundwater.</p> <p>Significant adverse impacts upon the biodiversity and flora and fauna of the area could potentially rise.</p>
Soil and Geology	<p>In the absence of a Local Area Plan there would be no framework for future development nor protection of the soil and geology within the environment of the town. There would be no framework for the provision of infrastructure, such as those relating to waste water treatment to serve existing and future development, therefore, soil would have the potential to be polluted and contaminated as a result of development which is not serviced appropriately by adequate waste water infrastructure. A key objective to rehabilitate brown field and derelict sites opposed to developing greenfield sites may not be achieved which will result in potential subsequent impacts not only on soil quality, but on biodiversity, groundwater quality and water supply and consequently potential impacts on public health.</p>
Material Assets	<p>Existing objectives that relate to this parameter would apply. Many of the measures in the BLAP 2022-2028 are identified with a view to minimising adverse effects of climate change on material assets and responding and facilitating behavioural and modal change in energy use and transport. An integrated sustainable land use and transportation strategy may not be advanced in such a holistic manner in the absence of the plan.</p>

SEA	Evolution of same
	<p>The current legislation which provides for the protection and enhancement of the water resources and quality at European, National, Regional and County level will protect and maintain existing water bodies in the Plan area. However, there would not be a planning framework to regulate and control development in accordance with specific local issues in relation to potable water, wastewater treatment, flooding and development. This could result in significant impacts across a range of environmental parameters including biodiversity, water, human health, landscape and soil and geology.</p>
Landscape	<p>In the absence of the Local Area Plan there would be no framework within which to regulate and manage future developments. A lack of development objectives would lead to uncontrolled developments with no framework to identify specific locations for developments. Development would occur on an ad-hoc basis which would have a cumulative impact on the landscape and development pressures would invariably be on a number of specific locations. The Local Area Plan will include objectives that provide for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the landscape as part of an integrated sustainable approach to future development within the plan area. In the absence of a plan, this would remove this protection and enhancement measures for the landscape, potentially leading to its fragmentation, loss and deterioration.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Ballinasloe has a significant assembly of cultural heritage and extensive and effective legislation and guidance from international and national level affording both the architectural or archaeological elements a high level of protection. However, in the absence of a Local Area Plan there may not be a framework within which to regulate and control development which may lead to uncontrolled development resulting in losses and or deterioration in the cultural assets of the plan area.</p> <p>The relationship between the public realm, townscape and cultural heritage features and intangible cultural heritage would not be considered in the same level of detail in the absence of the plan. The opportunity to promote, support and reuse existing buildings and improve energy efficiencies in older buildings and plan for climate change effects on structures may not be maximised.</p> <p>The cultural heritage of the plan area would suffer due to insufficient monitoring and guidance. Ultimately, the potential for fragmentation, loss, and/or deterioration of cultural heritage would occur of this irreplaceable resource.</p>
Inter-relationships	<p>The potential for in combination effects arising due to the absence of the plan would be potentially significant. Evolution of the environment in the absence of the plan could generate effects in terms of loss of ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.</p> <p>Disturbance to biodiversity, flora and fauna through unregulated development and poor design such as increasing light levels, emissions from transport, energy.</p> <p>Flood events particularly around coastal and fluvial flooding with interactions across all SEA parameters.</p> <p>Effects of climate change on critical infrastructure, combined with loss of opportunity to adapt and embed nature-based solutions and strengthening the green and blue network. Risk of not meeting/contributing to reduction in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Potential adverse effects on water quality for estuarine, freshwater and groundwater with accompanying interactions across all SEA parameters.</p> <p>Increased greenfield development with release of carbon in soil as well as other ecosystem services that soil provides.</p> <p>Aligned to this would be the risk of not achieving compact growth and not meeting the NPF and RSES targets in this regard.</p>

5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

5.1 Introduction

The purpose of the SEA Objectives is to ensure that the assessment process is transparent and robust and that the BLAP 2022-2028 considers and addresses potential significant environmental effects.

These objectives are derived from the principles identified through the plan, policy and programme review in Chapter Three and Annex A of this report. These SEOS formed part of the SEA Scoping report issued to statutory authorities and their submissions have further refined and tailored the SEOs. Where a statutory authority made a recommendation in relation to the SEOS, these are shown in bold font with a footnote noting the consultee. The SEOs formulated for this SEA for the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan area are broadly in line with those of the Galway County Development Plan and are set out in Table 5.1.

TABLE 5.1 SEOS IN LINE WITH THE GCDP 2022-2028

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	BFF1: To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species
	BFF2: Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function
	BFF3: Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping-stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
	BFF4: Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets
	BFF5: To protect, maintain and conserve the <i>plan areas'</i> natural capital
Population, Human Health	PHH1: Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management
	PHH2: Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services
	PHH3 Safeguard the Ballinasloe's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Air, Climate and Noise	A1: To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture
	A2: Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency
	A3: Promote continuing improvement in air quality
	A4: Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution
	A5: Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive
	A6: Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels
	C1: To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses
	C2: Integrate sustainable design solutions into the Ballinasloe's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)
	C3: Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets
	C4: Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change

	C5: Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Water	W1: Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
	W2: Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and Ballinasloe growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments
	W3: Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas
	W4: Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Soil and Geology	S1: Protect soils against pollution and prevent degradation of the soil resource.
	S2: Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the plan area
	S3: Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites ¹² .
Material Assets	MA1: Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the plan area.
	MA2: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels
	MA3: Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies
	MA4: Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development
	MA5: Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes
	MA6: Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids
Cultural Heritage	CH1: Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
	CH2: Promote adaptive reuse of existing buildings that contribute to local character
Landscape	L1: To implement the Plan’s framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention
	L2 To protect and enhance landscape character and quality within and adjacent to the BLAP area.
Interrelationships	IR 1: Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes
	IR 2: Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement

¹² Inserted following scoping submission by GSI

6 Consideration of Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

One of the critical of the SEA is to facilitate an evaluation of the likely environmental consequences of a range of alternative development scenarios, in this case the BLAP 2022-2028. These alternative development scenarios should meet the following considerations:

- Take into account the geographical scope, hierarchy and objectives of the plan –**be realistic**
- Be based on socio-economic and environmental evidence – **be reasonable**
- Be capable of being delivered within the plan timeframe and resources –**be implementable**
- Be technically and institutionally feasible – **be viable**.

This chapter presents the approach to considering and assessing the alternatives for the plan

- Section 6.2 summarises how the alternative scenarios were developed;
- Section 6.3 presents the alternative scenarios;
- Section 6.4 explains how the assessment of alternatives was undertaken;
- Section 6.5 presents the evaluation of the alternatives for potential environmental effects.

6.2 Development of alternative scenarios

In developing, refining and assessing the alternatives for the LAP, the toolkit included in Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance (EPA 2015) was utilised. In addition to the above, the Ballinasloe LAP will function within the policy hierarchy established by national, regional and county strategic plans, as well as relevant legislation.

6.3 Alternative Scenarios for BLAP

In the case of the Draft Ballinasloe LAP, possible alternatives include different land uses and scales of development were examined:

1. Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.

2. Town centre consolidation: This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.

3. Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure: Promotion of development lands within the town centre for development and the designation of secondary and edge of centre areas where this type of development is considered appropriate in certain circumstances. It would also promote the development of neighbourhood centres to provide a level of retail services locally.

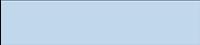
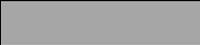
In considering these alternatives, regard was given to the Preferred Alternative (Type 4- Alternatives for Land Use Zoning) identified for the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. Within this scenario, the Land use zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the

higher-level NPF and Northern and Western RSES. Requirements relating to land use zoning provided for by the NPF and RSES have significantly limited the availability of alternatives for the various settlements.

6.4 Assessment of Potential Effects for Each Alternative Scenario

This section presents the assessment of potential environmental effects for each Alternative Scenario. This is undertaken by assessing each alternative against the SEOs presented in Chapter 5 of this SEA ER. It is informed by the environmental baselines as well as the policy review.

The assessment of Alternatives is categorised as follows:

Positive	
Neutral	
Uncertain	
Negative	

6.2.1 Project Mitigation: Construction Stage

For large and complex projects and sites, where environmental management may entail multiple aspects, a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be developed. This will form a framework for all environmental management processes, mitigation measures and monitoring and will include other environmental requirements such as invasive no-native species management measures, if applicable.[2]

A designated environmental officer and project ecologist will be appointed, as appropriate for the project. Biosecurity measures may be required and should be considered depending on the location and conditions on-site.

6.5 Summary Evaluation against SEOs

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.	
Biodiversity	BFF1: To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species	Uncertain	Negative	Positive
BFF2: Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function	Positive	Negative	Positive	
BFF3: Safeguard national, regional and	Positive	Neutral	Positive	

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping-stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species			
BFF4: Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets	Uncertain	Uncertain	Positive
BFF5: To protect, maintain and conserve the <i>plan areas</i> ' natural capital	Uncertain	Neutral	Positive
Population and Human Health			
PHH1: Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management	Uncertain	Positive	Positive
PHH2: Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the	Negative	Positive	Positive

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
required public infrastructure and the required services			
PHH3 Safeguard the <i>Ballinasloe's</i> citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being	Positive	Positive	Positive
Air, Climate and Noise			
A1: To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture	Neutral	Negative	Positive
A2: Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency	Uncertain	Uncertain	Neutral

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
A3: Promote continuing improvement in air quality	Uncertain	Uncertain	Positive
A4: Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution	Uncertain	Neutral	Positive
A5: Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive	Uncertain	Negative	Positive
A6: Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels	Uncertain	Negative	Positive
C1: To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses	Positive	Uncertain	Uncertain
C2: Integrate sustainable design solutions into the	Uncertain	Neutral	Positive

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
<i>Ballinasloe's</i> infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)			
C3: Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets	Uncertain	Uncertain	Positive
C4: Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change	Uncertain	Neutral	Positive
C5: Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport	Positive	Uncertain	Positive
Water			
W1: Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
W2: Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and <i>Ballinasloe</i> growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments	Negative	Uncertain	Positive
W3: Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas	Neutral	Uncertain	Positive
W4: Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals	Negative	Uncertain	Positive
Soil and Geology			
S1: Protect soils against pollution and prevent	Neutral	Positive	Positive

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
degradation of the soil resource.			
S2: Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the <i>plan area</i>	Neutral	Positive	Positive
S3: Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites.	Neutral	Positive	Positive
Material Assets			
MA1: Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the plan area.	Positive	Positive	Positive
MA2: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from	Negative	Negative	Uncertain

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
waste and traditional fossil fuels			
MA3: Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies	Uncertain	Positive	Uncertain
MA4: Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development	Positive	Positive	Positive
MA5: Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes	Negative	Uncertain	Uncertain
MA6: Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient	Negative	Positive	Positive

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids			
Cultural Heritage			
CH1: Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage	Positive	Positive	Positive
CH2: Promote adaptive reuse of existing buildings that contribute to local character	Neutral	Positive	Positive
Landscape			
L1: To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention	Negative	Uncertain	Positive
L2: To protect and enhance landscape character and quality within and adjacent to the BLAP area.	Negative	Uncertain	Positive
Interrelationships			

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Alternative 1: Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario). Continues with the existing LAP in its current context.	Alternative 2: Town centre consolidation. This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.	Alternative 3: Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure.
IR 1: Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes	Negative	Uncertain	Positive
IR 2: Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement	Negative	Uncertain	Positive

6.2.2 Preferred Alternative

As the above assessment table shows, the preferred alternative from an environmental strategic perspective is Alternative 3, Town Centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure. This provides the greatest positive environmental effects and is consistent with national and regional planning policy.

7 Assessment of Significant Effects

7.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section of the Environmental Report is to predict and evaluate as far as possible the environmental effects of the LAP.

SEA is an iterative process and the LAP has taken consideration of environmental issues raised during the SEA process to date. These issues have been incorporated into the LAP and the principal purpose of this chapter is to discuss the evaluation of these. The discussion of likely impacts is grouped around each of the following environmental parameters as described in Chapter Four:

- Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna
- Population & Human Health
- Water
- Soil & Geology
- Air and Climatic Factors
- Cultural Heritage
- Material Assets
- Landscape
- In-combination and cumulative effects.

The individual evaluation of relevant requirements contained in the LAP is presented in Annex A. The identification of impacts through the evaluation matrix and discussion of significant impacts detailed below, in turn informs the development of mitigation measures presented in Chapter Eight, Mitigation Measures. The Table 7.1 below identifies the significant environmental issues that were identified for all alternatives considered through the SEA process.

TABLE 7-1 OVERALL EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF THE BLAP

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</p>	<p>Recognition of River Suck combined with green and blue infrastructure measures, principles of Nature Based Solutions all contribute towards protection of designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats. (BKT 41 European Sites)</p> <p>Due to increased utilisation of lands within the existing development boundary and use of existing utilities and brownfield sites reduces pressure and need for greenfield land development.</p> <p>Embedding nature based solutions to climate change – allows for co-benefits with other environmental parameters including biodiversity, water and human health. (BKT 59 Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows, BKT 53 Inland Fisheries)</p> <p>Promotion of pedestrianisation and cycle friendly town with modal shift contributes to air quality improvements at local level and noise level reductions with positive effects on urban wildlife.</p> <p>In turn longer positive interactions with population and human health in facilitating. access to additional well designed green and blue space</p> <p>Positive effects on water quality arising from nature-based solutions from micro to macro scale. This can reduce pressure on stormwater overflows and conserve water, thus reducing abstraction pressures on water dependent habitats and species.</p>	<p>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna in the absence of detailed surveys and assessment.</p>
<p>Population and Human health</p>	<p>Land use planning impacts on the everyday lives of people and can either hinder or help promote healthy sustainable environments and communities.</p> <p>For example, the provision of safe walking routes and cycle-ways, parks, playgrounds, safe routes to school, public transport facilities, etc. result in direct and indirect health benefits and allow for healthier transportation</p>	<p>Activities associated with construction and operation, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas may result in emissions to air and water; with accompanying adverse effects on local health.</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>choices to be made by communities above private motor car. (BKT 31 Local Transport Plan, BKT 32 Transportation Infrastructure, BKT 33 Pedestrian and Cycle Network, BKT 34 Public Transport and Integrated Transportation Location, BKT 35 Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audits (RSA), BKT 36 Preservation of Routes, Road Upgrade and Infrastructure Provision, BKT 37 Reservation of Access Points)</p> <p>Many of the policies identified in the draft BLAP 2022-2028 may give rise to long term positive effects on population and human health both by responding and adapting to the impacts of climate change, promoting town centre, compact living, enhancing access to green space and improving the public realm. (BKT 21 Public Utilities, BKT 24 Universal Access, BKT 27 Social and Affordable Housing, BKT 28 Housing for Older Persons and People with Special Needs, BKT 29 Traveller Accommodation, BKT 10 Town Centre Management, BKT 9 Town Centre)</p> <p>Adaptation to climate change by reducing reliance on fossil fuel for heating as well as transport.</p> <p>Reuse of existing buildings represents embedding existing carbon in existing buildings. (BKT 8 Sequential Development, BKT 11 St. Brigid’s Campus, BKT 12 Community Facilities)</p>	
Water Resources including flood risk	<p>The Galway CDP 2022-2028 already includes a range of provisions and measures to address and minimise the adverse, including measures around green infrastructure, flood risk management and development control. The draft strategy however further enhances and strengthen these through the flood resilience actions and nature based solutions in particular. (BKT 43 Flood Risk Management Guidelines, BKT 46 Principles of Flood Management Guidelines, BKT 47 Flood Relief Scheme)</p> <p>Additional tree planting and a focus on riparian habitat provide for positive effects as they reduce soil run off and allow for water attenuation</p>	<p>A reduction in water quality in groundwater, springs and watercourses associated with the construction phase of new developments (short to medium term impacts)</p> <p>Surface water runoff from impermeable surfaces leading to reduced water quality in groundwater springs or surface waters affecting qualifying habitats and species downstream (impacts can range from short to long term);</p> <p>Changes in the flow rate of watercourses arising from an increased footprint of impermeable surfaces within the Plan</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>and filtration. Again this provides for longer, positive effects associated with linear habitat creation and ecological connectivity.</p> <p>Measures around SUDs, and other natural water retention measures are particularly positive, creating long term direct positive effects on water resources, as well as soil and biodiversity, landscape and population. (BKT 48 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems)</p> <p>Nature-based or combined grey-green solutions for water management can also provide additional co-benefits with regards to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Urban biodiversity (BKT 49 Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses, BKT 59 Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows) 2) Improving the urban environment and living conditions, with benefits for human well-being and quality of life (BKT 63 Bathing Area, BKT 16 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity, BKT 19 Water-Based Tourism) 3) Improvement of air quality, with benefits for human health 4) Improving the urban microclimate and reducing the urban heat island effect through the cooling effect of evapotranspiration; 5) Climate mitigation. As for all NBS, urban trees and green areas enhance direct carbon sequestration in plants and soils, but the quantities involved may not be significant enough for NBS to be considered an effective means for achieving local GHG reduction targets, especially when irrigation is required for maintaining plants (Baró et al., 2015; Pataki et al., 2011). However, green solutions may produce lower emissions compared to grey solutions (e.g. engineered solutions made from cement and other construction materials) that aim at the same goals. 6) Indirect economic benefits (increasing real estate values and tax income for local governments)¹³ 	<p>area - increasing the extent of impermeable surfaces will result in a decrease in infiltration and an increase in runoff.</p> <p>Generally, land use practices can result in water quality impacts and whilst surface water impacts may be identified quickly, impacts to groundwater can take much longer to ascertain due to the slow recharge rate of this water resource.</p> <p>Water quality impacts can also have human health impacts in the case where bacterial or chemical contamination arises.</p>

¹³ EKLIPSE report, page 12.

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
Soil and geology	<p>Soil quality and function may be enhanced through particular measures associated with flood resilience and nature based solutions.</p> <p>The promotion of brownfield and town centre sites embeds existing geological resources and reduces requirements for additional geological resources and greenfield development. (BKT 42 Constrained Land Use, BKT 20 Agriculture)</p> <p>The recognition of ecosystem services and green infrastructure further recognises the essential role and function that soil plays in terms of biodiversity, landscape, human health and climate change adaptation and mitigation. (BKT 48 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems, BKT 49 Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses, BKT 53 Inland Fisheries)</p> <p>The LAP also recognises and supports the ecosystem services approach which identifies the areas within the plan area that show the greatest carbon retention in the soil.</p> <p>Micro and macro nature-based solutions ranging from green roofs to larger nature water retention measures all serve to reduce the volume and rate of flow of water, thus impacting positively in terms of potential loss of soil associated with increased surface water runoff and extreme weather events.</p>	<p>Given the historical and recent landuse associated with a number of town centre sites, the potential for contamination soil presents a risk in the absence of mitigation.</p>
Landscape and Townscape	<p>Long term positive effects are identified for the draft LAP and landscape and townscape primarily through the public realm enhancement, green and blue infrastructure, increased tree planting etc.</p> <p>Many of the measures in the LAP strategy require a landscape level response such as recognition of green and blue infrastructure and corridors and this an important approach to take when responding to climate change. (BKT 62 Park)</p> <p>Public realm enhancement and reuse of existing buildings are also consistent with landscape SEOs. (BKT 61 Opportunity Sites)</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the over reliance on engineered and higher specification flood relief and climate adaption measures may result in long term cumulative adverse effects on both townscape character, by losing access to the River (visual amenity and views), engagement with the River (particularly through hard embankments/flood defences).</p> <p>The consideration of modal shift, increased pedestrianisation and cycling are all positive but require again consideration to avoid visual clutter associated with excessive infrastructural and signage.</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>Overall, positive effects identified for Landscape SEOs, as landscape change can be considerable with climate change effects in terms of changing water levels, habitat change, transport measures and adaptation measures such as flood risk management.</p> <p>An increase in open space, green infrastructure, public realm and permeability would all create long term positive effects for the Landscape SEOs.</p>	<p>The public realm enhancements offer a good opportunity to embed urban greening measures to avoid an over hardscaped public realm design.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Long term positive effects associated with the town centre use and intensification of use. (BKT 10 Town Centre Management, BKT 9 Town Centre)</p> <p>The relationship between the urban realm, townscape and cultural heritage features and intangible cultural heritage. (BKT 23 High Quality, Contextually Sensitive Design, BKT 25 Architectural Heritage, BKT 26 Architectural Conservation Areas)</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, potential adverse effects particularly in relation to the townscape setting and context of architectural conservation areas.</p>
Air Quality and Climatic Factors/ Climate Change	<p>Will contribute positively to climate change adaptation through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue and green infrastructure giving rise to increased surface water storage and potential carbon sequestration • Focus on energy efficiency and innovation (BKT 15 Industrial) • Other energy related measures are all identified as positive in relation to this SEO. <p>Key measures relating to behavioural change around transport and the increase in walking/cycling and public transport measures are essential in addressing transport emissions over the lifetime of the strategy and beyond. (BKT 40 Climate Change, BKT 33 Pedestrian and Cycle Network) Recognising the ecosystems functions of soil, water and biodiversity is a key element in the Nature Based solutions theme and is an important acknowledgement that also provides for positive effects across a number of SEOs.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the opportunity to embed meaningful actions in the plan that are needed to deliver the overall vision and aims is lost. Particularly in the areas of urban greening, and nature based solutions which offer co and multiple benefits in responding to climate change whilst enhancing the overall environmental quality of Ballinasloe and environs.</p>
Material Assets	<p>Many of the measures in the draft strategy are identified with a view to minimising adverse effects of climate change on material assets, and also responding and facilitating behavioural and modal change in energy use and transport. (BKT 21 Public Facilities, BKT 22 Water Supply, BKT 24</p>	<p>As above. In particular the opportunity to embed circular economy and reuse of existing buildings and brownfield development. reduction of waste and modal shift in transport which contribute to reduction of greenhouse gases.</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	Universal Access, BKT 38 Road Junction Improvements, BKT 45 Connections to the Public Sewer and Public Water Mains)	

7.2 Summary Evaluation of Landuse zonings

Zoning	Policy Objective	Description	Hectares
Existing Residential and Infill Residential	<i>To protect and improve residential amenities of existing residential areas.</i>	<i>To provide for house improvements alterations, extensions and appropriate infill residential development in accordance with principles of good design and protection of existing residential amenity.</i>	29.91
<p>SEA Comment: Most of the impacts identified for residential development zones are identified as being mitigated at project level through development management. Positive impacts were identified for population and human health, plus a number of material assets such as flood risk and sustainable transport. Consistent with SEOs PHH2, PHH3, C2, S2, MA1, MA2, and MA4.</p>			
Residential Phase 1	<i>To protect, provide and improve residential amenity areas within the lifetime of this plan.</i>	<i>To facilitate for the provision of high quality new residential developments at appropriate densities with layout and design well linked to the town centre and community facilities. To provide an appropriate mix of house sizes, types and tenures in order to meet household needs and to promote balanced communities.</i>	23.02
<p>SEA Comment: Consistent and positive for SEOs PHH2, PHH3, C2, W2, MA1, MA2, and MA4.</p>			
Residential Phase 2	<i>To protect, provide and improve residential amenity areas.</i>	<i>To facilitate the provision of high quality new residential developments at appropriate densities with layout and design well linked to the town centre and community facilities. Phase 2 residential is generally not developable during the lifetime of this plan subject to the provisions below. (*Single House developments for family members on family-owned lands: *Non-residential developments that are appropriate to the site context, any existing residential amenity and the existing pattern of development in the area;</i>	24.39

		<i>*Where it is apparent that R-Residential (Phase 1) lands cannot or will not be developed within the plan period, residential development maybe considered in a phased manner on some residential (Phase 2 lands).</i>	
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent with SEOs PHH2, PHH3, C2, W2, MA, MA2, and M4. Due to the gap between planning and execution (i.e. construction), Residential Phase 2 can potentially incorporate measures that can benefit SEOs C4, W3, W4, S1, S2, S3, MA3, and MA6.			
Town Centre	<i>To provide for the development and improvement of appropriate town centre uses including retail, commercial, office and civic/community uses and to provide for “Living over the Shop” scheme Residential accommodation, or other ancillary residential accommodation.</i>	<i>To develop and consolidate the existing town centre to improve its vibrancy and vitality with the densification of appropriate commercial and residential developments ensuring a mix of commercial, recreation and civic uses.</i>	17.75
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent with SEOs PHH1, PHH2, PHH3, C5, S2, S3, MA1, MA2, MA4, MA5, and CH2. Town-centred living encourages compact growth which serves to benefit the community, the economy and the environment.			
Mixed Use /Commercial	<i>To provide for the development of commercial and complementary mixed uses, on suitable lands that can provide focal points for the provision of services to surrounding neighbourhoods/areas and opportunities for commercial enterprises, retail developments and employment creation and which do not undermine the vitality and viability of the town centre.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development and improvement of existing employment areas and to facilitate opportunities for the development of new high quality commercial/mixed use developments in a good quality physical environment.</i>	30.13
SEA Comment: Impacts positively on SEOs PHH1 (Promotes avenues for employment of the working-age population), C5 (Promotes the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport by developing in focal points across the plan area), S2 (Re-uses existing built infrastructure in semi-developed neighbourhoods/areas), MA1 (Optimising existing and providing new infrastructure to match population needs), and MA6 (by capitalizing on the opportunity to switch to more sustainable modes of energy).			
Industrial	<i>Promote the sustainable development of industrial and industrial related uses, including manufacturing, processing of materials, warehousing and distribution</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development and improvement of existing employment areas and to facilitate opportunities for the development of new high quality industrial developments in a good quality physical environment.</i>	30.63

	<i>on suitable lands, with adequate services and facilities and a high level of access to the major road networks and public transport facilities.</i>		
SEA Comment: The range of impacts will vary according to the potential use; however for most of the SEOs, the impacts are considered to be addressed through mitigation at development management level. Green and blue infrastructure measures may also be integrated within this landuse zonings and offer longer term positive effects on Biodiversity, and Water SEOs.			
Agriculture	<i>To promote the development of agriculture and agriculture related uses in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development of agriculture and facilitate opportunities for farm diversification with agriculture related uses.</i>	286.00
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent for SEOs relating to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape, Air, Climate and Noise, Water, Soil and Geology.			
Business and Enterprise	<i>To provide for the development of business and enterprise.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development and improvement of existing employment areas and to facilitate opportunities for the development of new high-quality business and enterprise developments in a good quality physical environment.</i>	27.96
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent for PHH1, MA1, and MA3. On undeveloped lands, negative impacts are identified for biodiversity and soil due to development on greenfield sites, but for many SEOs these can be mitigated through development management and relevant policies and objectives in the draft Plan.			
Community Facilities	<i>To provide for civic, community and educational facilities.</i>	<i>To facilitate the development of necessary community, health, religious educational social and civic infrastructure.</i>	92.59
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent for PHH1, PHH2, PHH3, C4, and MA1. This zoning benefits the Ballinasloe community by providing spaces where citizens can come together, contributing positively to the wellbeing of the community. On undeveloped lands, negative impacts are identified for biodiversity and soil due to development on greenfield sites, but for many SEOs these can be mitigated through development management and relevant policies and objectives in the draft Plan.			
Open Space	<i>To protect and enhance existing open space and provide for recreational and amenity space.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development and improvement of existing active open spaces, formal exercise areas, sports grounds, playing fields.</i>	280.08
SEA Comment: Positive for population and human health, material assets and interrelationships. Further positive impacts are identified for soil and geology in the case sites are re-using existing the built environment. On undeveloped lands, negative impacts are identified for biodiversity and soil due to development on greenfield sites, but for many SEOs these can be mitigated through development management and relevant policies and objectives in the draft Plan.			

Tourism	<i>To promote and encourage cultural, historic and tourism potential for Ballinasloe as a Key Town.</i>	<i>To facilitate the development and improvement of tourism facilities that exists in Ballinasloe. Encourage new tourism development and investment where appropriate.</i>	2.95
SEA Comment: Tourism development contained and developed within existing built environments can be positive and consistent with PHH1, PHH3, CH1, L2 and MA1. However, impingement on undeveloped lands (greenfield site) might have negative effects for biodiversity and soil, which can be mitigated through development management and relevant policies and objectives in the draft Plan.			
Public Utility	To maintain lands providing service infrastructure.	To allow for lands to be designated for public utilities such as waste water treatment plants	0
Transport Infrastructure	Facilitate the provision and maintenance of essential transportation infrastructure.	To allow for the reservation of lands to facilitate public roads, foot paths, harbours, canals, cycleways, bus stops and landscaping together with any necessary associated works, as appropriate.	0

7.3 Cumulative and In-combination Effects

TABLE 7-2 POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE AND IN COMBINATION EFFECTS

Plan	Comment	Cumulative Effects
Neighbouring County Development Plans	These plans were subject to full SEA and AA and concluded that subject to full adherence and implementation of measures likely significant effects were not identified.	No in-combination impacts were predicted as a result of implementation of the Plans.
River Basin District Management Plans	The third cycle of this plan (2022-2027) is at draft stage. This plan is undergoing both SEA and AA and is in draft form.	No in-combination impacts were predicted as a result of implementation of the Plans.
Galway Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022	The plan supports a range of high level goals, actions and objectives. It was subject to SEA and AA Screening, and was developed with support from the Forward Planning Section.	The plan is consistent with the CDP and no adverse in combination or cumulative effects are identified.
Galway Heritage Plan 2017-2022	Key objectives as follows: -Objective 1: to increase awareness, appreciation and participation -Objective 2: to gather and share knowledge -Objective 3: to manage and conserve County's heritage, including biodiversity	Positive interactions with SEOs in relation to this plan, no adverse cumulative effects are identified.
Shannon Tourism Masterplan 2020-2030	Ballinasloe LAP aims to promote the use of the River Suck for water-based tourism under Policy objective BKT 17 Water-based Tourism. This will be subject to the relevant Planning and Environmental legislation, including the Habitats Directive. This will be carried out with regard to 'Shannon Tourism Masterplan 2020-2030' which involves waterways and waterside tourism potential and to enhance the water-based tourism product along the Shannon Navigation System..	This masterplan has been subject to a full SEA and AA, and it was determined that this masterplan shall not adversely affect habitats and species of European Sites, or give rise to significant environmental effects assuming that the mitigation measures detailed in the report are fully implemented (SLR 2020)
Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme (OPW)	Significant flooding occurred in Ballinasloe from the River Suck,	As no EIA or AA has been carried out on this project yet,

	<p>Deerpark River and other local water bodies in November 2009 and during winter 2015/2016. An Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) has been commissioned which is currently in preliminary design phases. An Environmental Constraints report has outlined that an AA Screening and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and EIAR will be required to assess the impacts of the FRS on the European Site (Ryan Hanley 2021)</p>	<p>there may be cumulative adverse impacts from the project and the plan on European Sites, but these are currently uncertain.</p>
Galway to Athlone Cycleway	<p>This project has been paused for a number of years but was restarted in 2020. This is part of a wider project of the Galway to Dublin Cycleway, being developed by Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport. The planning and detailed design is currently being carried out with the aim to apply to An Bord Pleanála's consideration in approximately three years. Five route options are being proposed, with several options including Ballinasloe.</p>	<p>It is assumed that a full Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement will be prepared on the final route option, however, it is not possible to determine the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail.</p>

8 Mitigation Measures

8.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the mitigation measures that will prevent, reduce, and offset as much as possible any significant adverse effects on the environment of the plan area resulting from the implementation of the LAP. Section (g) of Schedule 2B of the SEA Regulations (as amended) requires 'The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Plan'.

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where the environmental assessment identifies significant adverse effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such impacts or where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be generally divided into those that:

- Avoid effects;
- Reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effect;
- Repair effects after they have occurred, and
- Compensate for effects, by balancing out negative impacts with positive ones.

The iterative process of the LAP preparation has facilitated the integration of environmental considerations into the LAP. In addition, potential positive effects of implementing the LAP have been and will be maximized and potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset.

Many impacts will be more adequately identified and mitigated at project and EIA level. In general terms, all proposals for development will be required to have due regard to environmental considerations outlined in this Environmental Report and associated assessments including the Screening for Appropriate Assessment/Natura Impact Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Proposals for development which are deemed contrary to the environmental objectives contained in the Galway CDP 2022-2028 and Ballinasloe LAP 2022-20228 will not normally be permitted, and if permitted, not without the appropriate site and development specific mitigation measures. There were also a number of policies/objectives associated with the LAP that were identified as potentially generating significant adverse impacts on the environment, and suggested rewording of these proposals are put forward for consideration and recommended for inclusion in the LAP.

This chapter is structured as follows:

- 8.2 Environmental Protection Measures in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028
- 8.3 Mitigation measures –amendment of text in the Ballinasloe LAP

8.2 Existing Environmental Policies and Objectives in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

TABLE 8-1 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES IN THE GALWAY CDP 2022-2028

Reference	Text
LP 1 Lighting Schemes	To require that all developments shall ensure lighting schemes are designed so that excessive light spillage is minimised to ensure light pollution in the surrounding environment including residential amenity, wildlife and near public roads is limited. Such lighting schemes shall be submitted and agreed with the Planning Authority.
LP 2 Lighting and Climate Action	To require the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting in support of Climate Action
LP 3 Dark Skies	To encourage the maintenance of dark skies in rural areas and to limit light pollution in urban and rural areas.
F2 Sustainable Development	To encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European sites (SACs and SPAs) and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality.
F3 Native Woodlands	To ensure that existing native woodlands are protected and enhanced and, where appropriate, encourage the conversion of coniferous forest to native woodlands with a focus on opportunities for habitat linkage and wider eco-services.
F4 Forestry Development	To encourage forestry and forestry related development, as a means of diversifying from traditional agriculture activity with a preference for native species.
F5 Deforestation	To promote the avoidance of deforestation or commercial afforestation within European sites unless directly relating to the management of the site for its qualifying interests.
MEQ2 "Protection of the Environment"	<p>The Council shall require the following in relation to the management of authorised aggregate extraction</p> <p>(a) All quarries shall comply with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and by the guidance as contained within the DoEHLG Quarries and Ancillary Facilities Guidelines 2004, the EPA Guidelines 'Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry: Non Scheduled Minerals 2006 (including any updated/superseding documents) and to DM Standard 21 of this Development Plan;</p> <p>(b) Require development proposals on or in the proximity of quarry sites, to carry out appropriate investigations into the nature and extent of old quarries (where applicable). Such proposals shall also investigate the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works together with appropriate mitigation;</p> <p>(c) Require Development Proposals to assess the potential impact of extraction in areas where geo-morphological interest, groundwater and important aquifers, important archaeological features and Natural Heritage Areas are located;</p> <p>(d) Have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment of the County and its recommendations;</p> <p>(e) Ensure that any quarry activity has minimal adverse impact on the road network and that the full cost of road improvements, including during operations and at time of closure, which are necessary to facilitate those industries are borne by the industry itself.</p>

	<p>(f) Ensure that the extraction of minerals or aggregates does not adversely impact on residential or environmental amenity;</p> <p>(g) Protect all known un-worked deposits from development that might limit their scope for extraction."</p>
NHB 1 "Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of Designated Sites, Habitats and Species	<p>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) and extend to any additions or alterations to sites that may occur during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>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 (SI 94 of 1999).</p> <p>Support the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity, including the protection of the integrity of European sites, that form part of the Natura 2000 network, the protection of Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves, Wild Fowl Sanctuaries (and other designated sites including any future designations) and the promotion of the development of a green/ ecological network. "</p>
NHB 2 "European Sites and Appropriate Assessment	<p>To implement Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects likely to impact on European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s).</p> <p>All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. All such projects and plans will also be required to comply with statutory Environmental Impact Assessment requirements where relevant;</p> <p>To have regard to 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009' or any updated version."</p>
NHB 3 Protection of European Sites	<p>No plans, programmes, or projects etc. giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects⁹⁰).</p>
NHB 4 Ecological Appraisal of Biodiversity	<p>Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites. Where appropriate require an ecological appraisal, for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites, or a proposed European Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.</p>
NHB 5 Ecological Connectivity and Corridors	<p>Support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity in non-designated sites, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife areas where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>
NHB 6 Implementation of Plans and Strategies	<p>Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Heritage Plan 2030, the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy and any such plans and strategies during the lifetime of this plan.</p>

NHB 7 Mitigation Measures	Require mitigating measures in certain cases where it is evident that biodiversity is likely to be affected. These measures may, in association with other specified requirements, include establishment of wildlife areas/corridors/parks, hedgerow, tree planting, wildflower meadows/marshes and other areas. With regard to residential development, in certain cases, these measures may be carried out in conjunction with the provision of open space and/or play areas.
NHB 8 Increased Awareness of the County's Biodiversity and Natural Heritage	Facilitate increased awareness of the County's biodiversity and natural heritage through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in cooperation with statutory and other partners.
NHB 9 Protection of Bats and Bats Habitats	Seek to protect bats and their roosts, their feeding areas, flight paths and commuting routes. Ensure that development proposals in areas which are potentially important for bats, including areas of woodland, linear features such as hedgerows, stonewalls, watercourses and associated riparian vegetation which may provide migratory/foraging uses shall be subject to suitable assessment for potential impacts on bats. This will include an assessment of the cumulative loss of habitat or the impact on bat populations and activity in the area and may include a specific bat survey. Assessments shall be carried out by a suitably qualified professional and where development is likely to result in significant adverse effects on bat populations or activity in the area, development will be prohibited or require mitigation and/or compensatory measures, as appropriate. The impact of lighting on bats and their roosts and the lighting up of objects of cultural heritage must be adequately assessed in relation to new developments and the upgrading of existing lighting systems.
NHB 10 Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive	requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for European sites involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans. The NPWS's current priority is to identify site specific conservation objectives; management plans may be considered after this is done. Where Integrated Management Plans are being prepared by the NPWS for European sites (or parts thereof), the NPWS shall be engaged with in order to ensure that plans are fully integrated with the Plan and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations, including those of local communities.
NHB 11 Increases in Visitor Numbers to Semi-Natural Areas Visitor and Habitat Management	Seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects, such as greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones. Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the Plan shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.
WTWF 1 Wetland Sites	Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites in the County. Ensure that an appropriate level of assessment is completed in relation to wetland habitats that are subject to proposals which would involve drainage or reclamation that might destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the county. This includes lakes and ponds, turloughs, watercourses, springs and swamps, marshes, fens, heath, peatlands, some woodlands as well as some coastal and marine habitats. Protect Ramsar sites under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as Waterfowl Habitat).

P1 Protection of Peatlands	Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, education and culture, archaeological potential including any ancient walkways (toghers) through bogs.
P2 Best Practice in Peatland conservation and management	Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.
P3 Framework Plans	Seek to support relevant agencies such as Bord na Mona in advancing rehabilitation works for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of peatlands sites including for amenity purposes.
IS 1 Control of Invasive and Alien Invasive Species	It is a policy objective of the Council to support measures for the prevention and eradication of invasive species.
IS 2 Invasive Species Management Plan	Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are currently or previously present, an invasive species management plan will be required. A landscaping plan will be required for developments near water bodies and such plans must not include alien invasive species.
PO1 Delivery of All Ireland Pollinator Plan	To facilitate the delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan where possible.
TWHS 1 Trees, Hedgerows, Natural Boundaries and Stone Walls	Protect and seek to retain important trees, tree clusters and tree boundaries, ancient woodland, natural boundaries including stonewalls, existing hedgerows particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, where possible and replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary. Ensure that new development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands and that all planting schemes developed are suitable for the specific site and use suitable native variety of trees of Irish provenance and hedgerows of native species. Seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.
TWHS 2 Planting of Trees and Woodlands	Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and other organisations, the planting of trees and woodlands, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County's biodiversity, natural resources, amenity, landscape and developing tourism product. Encourage community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.
TWHS 3 Protection of Forestry	Protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest, other than areas of commercial forestry. Proposals for development in these areas should seek to interact with the landscape character of the forested areas and its limits while also enhancing the forested areas so as to increase biodiversity value.
BMSP 8 Jetty/Marina Development	Support the preparation of a feasibility study for a jetty/marina development in the vicinity of Bearna Pier and any necessary marine/foreshore works to facilitate public access to and use of the area around the pier, such as breakwaters. This feasibility study shall take account of the requirements to comply with the European Habitats Directive.
CT 2 Water Sports	To encourage the development of coastal tourism in areas such as water-sports and water-related activities and events subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.

CT 3 Tourism Development	To support proposals for tourism development in coastal areas where it can be demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the amenities of the area, the integrity of the natural environment or the economic value of the County's coastline and beaches.
CT 5 Tourism Products	To support the protection and enhancement of our islands, coastline and waterways as tourism products and attractions, subject to community and environmental carrying capacity.
HT 3 Sustainable Tourism Industry	To support the development of a more sustainable tourism industry which minimises adverse impacts on local communities, the built heritage, landscapes, habitats and species; leaving them undiminished as a resource for future generations, while supporting social and economic prosperity.
GICT 3 Tourism Development within An Gaeltacht and Islands	(a) Encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism potential of the Gaeltacht and Islands in a manner that respects, builds on, protects and enhances the cultural, built and natural heritage and local amenities of the area; (b) Provide where feasible, and support the provision of tourism infrastructure and services including, walking, cycling and water-based infrastructure and short-term guest accommodation facilities throughout the Gaeltacht area in appropriate locations. Such infrastructure and services shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance and ensuring that any new projects, such as greenways, are developed at suitable locations.
RE4 Solar Energy Developments	Promote and facilitate solar farm developments in suitable locations, having regard to areas of the County designated for this purpose in the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy. The Planning Authority will assess any planning application proposals for solar energy production having due regard to the Habitats Directive and to the detailed policy objectives and Development Standards set out in the Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy.

8.3 Mitigation Measures Amendment of Text

Additional text identified through the SEA process is included in **blue, bold** font.

SEA of Ballinasloe Local Area Plan Recommended Mitigation Measures	In draft LAP? Yes/no
<p>BKT 3 New objective To require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP. There shall be a requirement of Ecological Impact Assessment as appropriate in plan area.</p>	Yes
<p>BKT 19 Water-Based Tourism The Council will support, subject to meeting the requirements of relevant Irish Planning and European environmental legislation including the Habitats Directive, the development of the necessary infrastructure and amenities to support water-based tourism within the plan area.</p> <p>The Council shall:</p> <p>a) Collaborate with Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, other Local Authorities and other relevant agencies in the implementation of the ‘Shannon Tourism Masterplan’ which involves waterways and waterside tourism potential and to enhance water based tourism product along the Shannon Navigation System including Ballinasloe in order to make the town a more attractive inland water tourism destination. Galway County Council will have cognisance of the SEA and AA mitigation measures including in the Shannon Tourism Masterplan as appropriate.</p> <p>b) Continue to promote and enhance the public marina at Slí na hAbhainn as a sustainable marina resource including ancillary facilities and services as appropriate.</p> <p>c) There shall be a requirement for Ecological Impact Assessment as appropriate.</p>	Yes
<p>BKT 62 Park To carry out a feasibility study exploring the options for the development of a public park in Ballinasloe that reflects good practice in line with . Any proposal would be subject to a detailed planning and environmental assessment that accords with proper planning and sustainable development. Where appropriate recreational considerations and access to blue and greens space should be underpinned by the Green Space Principles¹⁴ including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance urban greening through planting strategies that mitigate noise and air pollution and maximise local biodiversity gain and facilitate sustainable drainage (e.g. deciduous wooded and wildflower meadow areas). 	Yes

¹⁴ Eco-Health: Ecosystem Benefits of Green Space for Health. EPA Research Report No 328

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A networked approach: emphasising green infrastructure networks (rather than isolated parks) can provide new opportunities for connecting existing and new green spaces and creating linkages between urban and rural areas. Examples include greenways and linear parks, local greenways or cycleways that link to regional and national greenways and de-culverting watercourses to provide new blue corridors. ● Well managed and maintained, creating a high-quality environment: poorly managed spaces or vandalism lead to negative perceptions among potential users. ● Multifunctional uses: examples include spaces that encourage active mobility, physical activity and sports, relaxation and tranquillity, and opportunities for social exchange (e.g. that incorporate community gardens or encourage parkruns). ● Create multisensory restorative environments that help mitigate the psychological stresses of modern living through the provision of “restive places for rejuvenation”. | |
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8.4 Appropriate Assessment Mitigation Measures

8.4.1 Implementation routes for physical routes

Measures or projects arising from the objectives, aims, strategies or policies of the LAP requiring physical works may either require planning consent or confirmation, or will be an exempted development.

Works that will require planning consent or confirmation, will be carried out by either a private developer or the Local Authority. Works may progress to construction stage as one of the following:

- Project led by private developer in line with the aims, policies, objectives or strategies of the Plan.
- Project led by the Local Authority under the Planning and Development Regulations.
- Project led by the Local Authority under the Strategic Infrastructure Act.

Project level assessments that may be required for all types of project include:

- Environmental Impact Assessment: For a project above the thresholds specified under Article 24 of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 as amended or a project likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria specified for under Article 27 of the same EIA Regulations 1989 as amended.
- Appropriate Assessment: All projects will be screened for Appropriate Assessment and, where there is a potential for a significant effect on a European (Natura 2000) site, an Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken in accordance the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

Exempted developments include those of limited scale and scope, that may fall under the category of flood mitigation works or housing protection schemes. Exempted developments may be carried out by Local Authorities under funding by the OPW, will be exempted in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and will comply with all relevant environmental legislation. This

could require the undertaking of an EIA or AA screening for physical works. Local Authorities must supply written confirmation of legislative compliance under condition of funding.

8.4.2 Project Mitigation: Consenting Process

The consenting process for the progression of measures, actions or projects supported, guided or recommended within the Plan involving physical works, will require the applicable environmental assessments. Also, the consenting authorities may set out specific environmental conditions as part of the project approval.

8.4.3 Project Mitigation: Pre-Construction / Detailed Design

For the detailed design of projects that may arise as a result of the Plan, where options are available, the design should use a hierarchy to mitigation measures along the following principles:

- Avoidance: avoid creating the potential impact where feasible.
- Mitigation: minimise the potential impact through mitigating measures
- Enhancement: Enhance the environment to better than pre-project conditions, where reasonably possible

The progression of any projects that may arise as a result of the Plan, through the detailed design phase can entail a series of surveys to inform the design, where the scale of surveys would be proportionate to the complexity and potential impacts of the project. These can include:

- engineering structure surveys,
- topographical surveys,
- habitat and species surveys[1]
- ornithological surveys,
- bat surveys,
- fish surveys,
- water quality surveys,
- archaeological surveys,
- landscape and visual assessments,
- land valuation surveys and
- other surveys as deemed necessary to prepare a project.

Where necessary, Wildlife Derogation Licences will be sought from the National Park and Wildlife Service Wildlife Licence Unit, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The scope of any necessary Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) will contain a WFD assessment if relevant, which will include a hydro-morphological assessment, to more clearly consider and support the WFD objectives. This WFD assessment will inform the project level AA regarding likely significant effects and adverse impacts on the site integrity of European sites in respect of their conservation objectives and if necessary, appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented at project level to ensure adverse effects will not occur.

Where a full EIS is not required for a project (i.e., has been screened out), an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) should be considered to demonstrate how a project accords with relevant planning policy and legislation where an EIA is not required. The findings of an EclA can help competent authorities understand ecological issues when determining applications for consent. Unlike EIA, EclA on its own is not a statutory requirement but can be a valuable evaluation process where habitats, species and ecosystems may be impacted from a development/project.

8.4.4 Project Monitoring

The Plan, with its associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and plan-level AA, sets out a series of monitoring requirements, in connection with the SEA objectives and the predicted effects of the Plan. For measures involving physical works, the project-level EIA and AA, where conducted, will set out the specific monitoring required for each measure.

1. In the context of ecological mitigation, the habitat and species surveys are conducted as required to assess the various aspects for the project, such as ecological surveys for:
 - protected or notable habitats and species, including Annex 1 habitats, Annex II and Annex IV species,
 - species protected under the Wildlife Acts,
 - species protected under the Flora Protection Order,
 - the resting and breeding places of relevant species and,
 - invasive species, both plant and animal.
2. There are a range standard type mitigation measures consisting of good construction practices and good planning of works, that are used within construction projects such as for example: Refuelling of plant and vehicles away from watercourses, Installation of wheel-wash and plant washing facilities, working in-channel or on specific works only within environmental windows e.g. in-stream works in Salmonid channels from May to September.

9 Monitoring

9.1 Introduction

It is proposed, in accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Directive, to base monitoring on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality, for example water pollution levels. Monitoring will focus on the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly impacted upon by the implementation of the LAP.

The targets and indicators are derived from the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) discussed in Chapter Five. The target underpins the objective whilst the indicators are used to track the progress of the objective and targets in terms of monitoring of impacts. The monitoring programme will consist of an assessment of the relevant indicators and targets against the data relating to each environmental component. Similarly, monitoring will be carried out frequently to ensure that any changes to the environment can be identified.

9.2 Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting

Should new data or the following occur, additional monitoring will be required:

- Pollution events associated with construction;
- Boil notices on drinking water;
- Fish kills;
- Court cases taken by the DEHLG regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; and,
- Complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts resulting from development which is granted permission under the LAP.

In turn the list below is subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data. Laois County Council are responsible for the implementation of the SEA Monitoring Programme including:

- Monitoring specific indicators and identifying any significant effects, including cumulative effects;
- Collating the Environmental Reports (such as Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Natura Impact Reports etc) submitted by developers in the LAP area;
- Reviewing the effectiveness of monitoring/mitigation measures during the lifetime of the LAP; and
- Identifying any cumulative effects.

It is recommended that the monitoring report be made available to the public upon its completion.

TABLE 9-1 INDICATORS, TARGETS, SOURCES AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (BFF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditions of European Sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species • Implement and review, as relevant, County Galway Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive- as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years). • DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years) • Consultations with the NPWS 	<p>Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</p>

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect the ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Galway Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022 	Internal review of local land use plans	Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality in Ballinasloe's water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing the protection of Biodiversity, flora and fauna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing the protection of Biodiversity, flora and fauna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Population and Human Health (PHH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 2.3 “Economic and Enterprise Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 2.3 “Economic and Enterprise Development” By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
	permitted under the Plan			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Galway County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil and Geology (S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compares to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH AA/Screening for AA for each application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the Ballinasloe 		to address constraints to doing so.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Water (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
				<p>related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
				Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets (MA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated • Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan • Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive • Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Irish Water • DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Galway County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% NOx, SOx, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NOx and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
				Population and human health above
Climatic Factors (C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of Galway County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisioning of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office Consultations with DECC (at monitoring evaluation) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) 		

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
	generation, built environment and transport sectors	emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the Ballinasloe using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Galway County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Galway County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
				Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Cultural Heritage (CH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with DHLGH 	

Environmental Component (Code)	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Actions
Landscape (L)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will reexamine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

Annex A: Assessment Matrix of Ballinasloe LAP 2022-2028

SEA Recommendations: Additional text recommended through the SEA process is presented in **bold blue font**.

No likely interaction with /insignificant impact with SEOs	0	Potential conflict with SEOs – likely to be mitigated	↕
Likely to improve status of SEOs	↑		
Probable conflict with SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	↓		

Mitigation measures from draft Galway CDP

Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.

- **LP 1 Lighting Schemes:** To require that all developments shall ensure lighting schemes are designed so that excessive light spillage is minimised to ensure light pollution in the surrounding environment including residential amenity, wildlife and near public roads is limited. Such lighting schemes shall be submitted and agreed with the Planning Authority.
- **LP 2 Lighting and Climate Action:** To require the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting in support of Climate Action
- **LP 3 Dark Skies:** To encourage the maintenance of dark skies in rural areas and to limit light pollution in urban and rural areas.
- **F2 Sustainable Development:** To encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European sites (SACs and SPAs) and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality.
- **F3 Native Woodlands:** To ensure that existing native woodlands are protected and enhanced and, where appropriate, encourage the conversion of coniferous forest to native woodlands with a focus on opportunities for habitat linkage and wider eco-services.
- **F4 Forestry Development:** To encourage forestry and forestry related development, as a means of diversifying from traditional agriculture activity with a preference for native species.
- **F5 Deforestation:** To promote the avoidance of deforestation or commercial afforestation within European sites unless directly relating to the management of the site for its qualifying interests.

- **MEQ2 "Protection of the Environment:** The Council shall require the following in relation to the management of authorised aggregate extraction
 - (a) All quarries shall comply with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and by the guidance as contained within the DoEHLG Quarries and Ancillary Facilities Guidelines 2004, the EPA Guidelines 'Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry: Non Scheduled Minerals 2006 (including any updated/superseding documents) and to DM Standard 21 of this Development Plan;
 - (b) Require development proposals on or in the proximity of quarry sites, to carry out appropriate investigations into the nature and extent of old quarries (where applicable). Such proposals shall also investigate the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works together with appropriate mitigation;
 - (c) Require Development Proposals to assess the potential impact of extraction in areas where geo-morphological interest, groundwater and important aquifers, important archaeological features and Natural Heritage Areas are located;
 - (d) Have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment of the County and its recommendations;
 - (e) Ensure that any quarry activity has minimal adverse impact on the road network and that the full cost of road improvements, including during operations and at time of closure, which are necessary to facilitate those industries are borne by the industry itself.
 - (f) Ensure that the extraction of minerals or aggregates does not adversely impact on residential or environmental amenity;
 - (g) Protect all known un-worked deposits from development that might limit their scope for extraction."
- **NHB 1 "Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of Designated Sites, Habitats and Species:** 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) and extend to any additions or alterations to sites that may occur during the lifetime of this plan.
 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 (SI 94 of 1999).
 Support the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity, including the protection of the integrity of European sites, that form part of the Natura 2000 network, the protection of Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves, Wild Fowl Sanctuaries (and other designated sites including any future designations) and the promotion of the development of a green/ ecological network. "
- **NHB 2 "European Sites and Appropriate Assessment:** To implement Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects likely to impact on European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s).
 All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. All such projects and plans will also be required to comply with statutory Environmental Impact Assessment requirements where relevant;
 To have regard to 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009' or any updated version."
- **NHB 3 Protection of European Sites:** No plans, programmes, or projects etc. giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects90).

- **NHB 4 Ecological Appraisal of Biodiversity:** Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites. Where appropriate require an ecological appraisal, for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites, or a proposed European Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.
- **NHB 5 Ecological Connectivity and Corridors:** Support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity in non-designated sites, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife areas where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
- **NHB 6 Implementation of Plans and Strategies:** Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Heritage Plan 2030, the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy and any such plans and strategies during the lifetime of this plan.
- **NHB 7 Mitigation Measures:** Require mitigating measures in certain cases where it is evident that biodiversity is likely to be affected. These measures may, in association with other specified requirements, include establishment of wildlife areas/corridors/parks, hedgerow, tree planting, wildflower meadows/marshes and other areas. With regard to residential development, in certain cases, these measures may be carried out in conjunction with the provision of open space and/or play areas.
- **NHB 8 Increased Awareness of the County's Biodiversity and Natural Heritage:** Facilitate increased awareness of the County's biodiversity and natural heritage through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in cooperation with statutory and other partners.
- **NHB 9 Protection of Bats and Bats Habitats:** Seek to protect bats and their roosts, their feeding areas, flight paths and commuting routes. Ensure that development proposals in areas which are potentially important for bats, including areas of woodland, linear features such as hedgerows, stonewalls, watercourses and associated riparian vegetation which may provide migratory/foraging uses shall be subject to suitable assessment for potential impacts on bats. This will include an assessment of the cumulative loss of habitat or the impact on bat populations and activity in the area and may include a specific bat survey. Assessments shall be carried out by a suitably qualified professional and where development is likely to result in significant adverse effects on bat populations or activity in the area, development will be prohibited or require mitigation and/or compensatory measures, as appropriate. The impact of lighting on bats and their roosts and the lighting up of objects of cultural heritage must be adequately assessed in relation to new developments and the upgrading of existing lighting systems.
- **NHB 10 Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive** requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for European sites involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans. The NPWS's current priority is to identify site specific conservation objectives; management plans may be considered after this is done. Where Integrated Management Plans are being prepared by the NPWS for European sites (or parts thereof), the NPWS shall be engaged with in order to ensure that plans are fully integrated with the Plan and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations, including those of local communities.
- **NHB 11 Increases in Visitor Numbers to Semi-Natural Areas Visitor and Habitat Management:** Seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects, such as greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones. Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the Plan shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures

may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.

- **WTWF 1 Wetland Sites:** Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites in the County. Ensure that an appropriate level of assessment is completed in relation to wetland habitats that are subject to proposals which would involve drainage or reclamation that might destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the county. This includes lakes and ponds, turloughs, watercourses, springs and swamps, marshes, fens, heath, peatlands, some woodlands as well as some coastal and marine habitats. Protect Ramsar sites under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as Waterfowl Habitat).
- **P1 Protection of Peatlands:** Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, education and culture, archaeological potential including any ancient walkways (toghers) through bogs.
- **P2 Best Practice in Peatland conservation and management:** Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.
- **P3 Framework Plans:** Seek to support relevant agencies such as Bord na Mona in advancing rehabilitation works for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of peatlands sites including for amenity purposes.
- **IS 1 Control of Invasive and Alien Invasive Species:** It is a policy objective of the Council to support measures for the prevention and eradication of invasive species.
- **IS 2 Invasive Species Management Plan:** Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are currently or previously present, an invasive species management plan will be required. A landscaping plan will be required for developments near water bodies and such plans must not include alien invasive species.
- **PO1 Delivery of All Ireland Pollinator Plan:** To facilitate the delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan where possible.
- **TWHS 1 Trees, Hedgerows, Natural Boundaries and Stone Walls:** Protect and seek to retain important trees, tree clusters and tree boundaries, ancient woodland, natural boundaries including stonewalls, existing hedgerows particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, where possible and replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary. Ensure that new development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands and that all planting schemes developed are suitable for the specific site and use suitable native variety of trees of Irish provenance and hedgerows of native species. Seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.
- **TWHS 2 Planting of Trees and Woodlands:** Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and other organisations, the planting of trees and woodlands, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County's biodiversity, natural resources, amenity, landscape and developing tourism product. Encourage community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.
- **TWHS 3 Protection of Forestry:** Protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest, other than areas of commercial forestry. Proposals for development in these areas should seek to interact with the landscape character of the forested areas and its limits while also enhancing the forested areas so as to increase biodiversity value.

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives						 <small>Climate change</small>			
Development shall only be permitted where there is satisfactory water and wastewater provision to service same, either existing or to be provided in tandem with the development.									
BKT 3 Environmental Assessments To require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP. There shall be a requirement of Ecological Impact Assessment as appropriate in plan area.									
BKT 4 Proliferation of Individual Uses Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre by ensuring that it remains the primary retail, commercial and mixed-use centre in the town and prohibit a proliferation of any individual use that, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, does not contribute to the vitality and viability of the town centre.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
BKT 5 Collaboration It is a Policy Objective of Galway County Council to engage with adjoining local authorities and collaborate with relevant stakeholders in relation to strategic planning and sustainable development of adjoining areas and the town of Ballinasloe.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Comment: The above-mentioned objectives of the draft BLAP have positive implications for all SEOs, particularly population and human health and interrelationships. The alignment with hierarchy of plans and policies, including Core Strategy and associated provisions in the current Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (BKT1) are consistent across all SEOs and are identified as creating in combination positive effects. Objectives BKT2, BKT4 and BKT5 pertaining to development in a sustainable manner are positive for all the SEOs as well. The provision of a new Objective Environmental Assessments is recommended to strengthen over all environmental management									
BKT 6 Residential Development Phasing Support the development of lands designated as Residential (Phase 1) within the lifetime of the Plan, subject to normal planning, access and servicing requirements, and reserve the lands designated as Residential (Phase 2) for	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives						 <small>Climate change</small>			
<p>the longer-term growth needs of Ballinasloe. Residential (Phase 2) lands are generally not developable for housing within the lifetime of this Plan, with the exception of the following developments, which may be considered by the Planning Authority, subject to a suitable evidence based case being made for the proposal:</p> <p>a) Single house developments for local family members on family-owned land, subject to a 7-year occupancy clause.</p> <p>b) Non-residential developments that are appropriate to the site context, residential amenities, the existing pattern of development in the area and the policy objectives in the Plan.</p> <p>c) Where it is apparent that Residential (Phase 1) lands cannot or will not be developed for residential purposes within the plan period, residential development may be considered in limited cases in a phased manner on suitable Residential (Phase 2) lands, in exceptional circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development on Residential (Phase 2) lands will normally only be considered where 50% of the lands in Residential (Phase 1) are committed to development. • Residential developments on Residential (Phase 2) lands will be subject to compliance with the Core Strategy, the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, connectivity, including infrastructure and public footpath and lighting to the town centre, the sequential approach, avoidance of leap-frog developments, and subject to meeting normal planning, environmental, access and servicing requirements. Developments will only be permitted where a substantiated evidence-based case has been made to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority and the development will not prejudice the future use of the lands for the longer-term growth needs of each settlement. 									

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p>BKT 7 Residential Infill Development Within the town centre, small scale limited infill housing development will be considered on appropriate sites. These infill sites shall have regard to the existing character of the street, respecting the existing building line, scale, proportions, layout, heights and materials of surrounding developments. A proposed site must have a safe means of access and egress and comply with development management standards for new dwellings.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>BKT 8 Sequential Development Endeavour to promote the orderly and phased development of residential development in accordance with the principles of the sequential approach as set out in the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages) Guidelines 2009 (or as updated). This shall include a presumption in favour of the sequential development of suitably serviced Residential (Phase 1) lands emanating outwards from the town core and/or sequential extensions to the existing residential fabric of suitably serviced Residential (Phase 1) lands within the LAP boundary, subject to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development and the current County Development Plan.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: The above-mentioned objectives in relation to residential development have the potential to impact most SEOs positively, particularly population and human health and material assets, soil, climate and air and interrelationships. Housing developments objectives with an overarching goal to support the sustainable residential development in appropriate areas (BKT 6) in a phased manner (BKT5) to meet the principles set out in the DECLG Guidelines Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas (2009), and in line with the County Development Plan (BKT7) have the potential to affect all SEOs positively.</p>									
<p>BKT 9Town Centre 1. It is a Policy Objective of Galway County Council that Ballinasloe Town Centre will remain the primary focus for the location of new retail and commercial development. The Planning Authority will ensure that the</p>	0	↑	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑	↑

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives						 <small>Climate change</small>			
<p>location of future retail development is consistent with the key policy principles and order of priority as set out in the Guidelines for Planning Authorities Retail Planning 2012 (and any updated/superseded document) and will require Retail Impact Assessments, including details of the sequential approach and Design Statements for retail developments in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines.</p> <p>2. This plan will also promote the development of commercial and complementary mixed uses, on suitable lands that can provide focal point for the provision of services to the town and opportunities for commercial enterprises, retail developments and employment creation.</p> <p>3. The plan will protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre by ensuring that it remains the primary retail, commercial and mixed-use centre of Ballinasloe and prohibit a proliferation of any individual use or other uses, which in the opinion of the Planning Authority do not contribute to the vitality and viability of the town centre.</p>									
<p>BKT 10 Town Centre Management</p> <p>Subject to appropriate resources, the Council in collaboration with local stakeholders shall prepare town centre management plans for Ballinasloe as necessary.</p> <p>The Management Plans will consider some or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Public realm improvement works; b) Upgrade of public lighting; c) Connectivity between the town centre and the wider fringes of the towns; d) Shop front design/improvement of the town centre; e) Upgrade and improvement of street furniture; f) Provision of appropriate quality soft landscaping and planting as well as functional public spaces; g) Car parking management; h) Consideration of reuse of backlands within the town centre for civic space/other uses. 	0	↑	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑	↑
Comment:									

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p>Promotion of Town Centre development under the Town Centre Management Plan is positive in relation to MA, CC and PH SEOs in particular. The Management Plans will complement and support the town centre by improving the connectivity withing the centre, enhance public realms, upgrade the fabric of the streetscape. Town centre viability and support for appropriate uses, and design features will provide together for positive long term effects.</p>									
<p>BKT 11 Saint Brigid’s Campus It will be a Policy Objective of the Council to promote the regeneration and reuse of the existing Saint Brigid’s Campus through appropriate measures such as master planning in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Various funding streams and support will be sought to secure adequate investment in this historic campus.</p>	0	↑	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0
<p>Comment: Objective BKT 11 is positive for positive long-term effects on PHH, Soil and Geology (through promoting reuse), Landscape/townscape, Cultural Heritage (regenerate or reuse existing building) and material assets. Regeneration/ Reuse of existing buildings contributes to cultural heritage by preserving, restoring and enhancing built heritage. It also enhances streetscapes with indirect long term positive effects on MA.</p>									
<p>BKT 12 Community Facilities Promote the sustainable development of community facilities on suitable lands with a high level of access to the local community, including educational, community, civic, public, institutional, recreational, cultural and other complementary uses as appropriate.</p>	↑	↑	0	0	↑	0	↑	0	↑
<p>Comment: Community Facilities focuses on the delivery of accessible, diverse and equitable community services via collaborations with key stakeholders and in alignment with core/settlement strategies. The policy is overall compatible with the SEOs for population and human health and additionally beneficial for material assets, water and interrelationships due to its accessibility and service-oriented approach aimed at catering to the needs of Ballinasloe residents.</p>									
<p>BKT 13 Business and Enterprise To facilitate the expansion of business and enterprise uses in the plan area of Ballinasloe where appropriate and to facilitate the provision of further employment opportunities in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p>	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p>BKT 14 Business and Technology Support the development of Ballinasloe Key Town as the driver of employment development in east County Galway, utilising its existing assets such as access to established employment sites, its strategic location with</p>	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives						 <small>Climate change</small>			
sustainable public transport and access to a highly educated and skilled workforce.									
<p>Comment: Objective BKT 12 to enhance existing employment are positive in relation to PH SEO in particular. Objective BKT13 pertaining to land-use management and sustainable development of Ballinasloe as a Key Town is additionally positive towards the SEOs for material assets and interrelationships</p>									
<p>BKT 15 Industrial Promote the sustainable development of industrial and industrial related uses, including manufacturing, processing of materials, warehousing and distribution on suitable lands with adequate services and facilities and a high level of access to the major road networks and public transport facilities. Adequate perimeter treatment and/or screening will be required to ensure high quality interfaces with public spaces and any adjoining residential areas or other sensitive land uses as appropriate.</p>	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↕	↑	↕	↑
<p>Comment: The above objective pertaining to development of industrial and industrial related uses, including manufacturing, processing of materials, warehousing and distribution on suitable lands is positive for SEOs for population and human health, material assets, and interrelationships. The range of impacts will vary according to the potential use; however for most of the SEOs, the impacts are considered to be addressed through mitigation at development management level.</p>									
<p>BKT 16 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity Promote the sustainable management, use and/or development, as appropriate, of open space/recreation and amenity lands. This will include: a) Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community and retain existing open space and recreational facilities, unless it can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are no longer required by the community; b) Appropriate management and use of any flood risk areas within the OS zone to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate, the risk and potential impact of flooding; c) Appropriate management and use of any areas of high biodiversity value.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment:</p>									

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The impacts of objective BKT 15 is positive for all the SEOs. The opportunity to enhance open spaces through public realm improvements and/or green and blue infrastructure measures contribute positively longer term to biodiversity, water and climate change adaptation SEOs in particular. The use of lands for recreation and amenity use will have positive implications for population and human health, material assets, water and soil.									
<p>BKT 17 Tourism</p> <p>a) It is a policy objective of the Council to encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism potential of Ballinasloe in a manner that respects, builds on, protects and enhances the cultural, built and natural heritage and local amenities of the town.</p> <p>b) Provide where feasible and support the provision of tourism infrastructure and services including, walking cycling and water-based infrastructure and short-term guest accommodation facilities in appropriate locations in Ballinasloe.</p>	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑
<p>BKT 19 Tourism Development</p> <p>Encourage and facilitate the sustainable development of the tourism potential of Ballinasloe and its environs in a manner that respects, builds on, protects and enhances the cultural, built and natural heritage of the town and the local amenities within the plan area including natural heritage and biodiversity.</p> <p>Key projects and initiatives that will be supported in this plan shall:</p> <p>a) Facilitate the sustainable development of East Galway as a cultural and tourist destination while simultaneously safeguarding its integrity. Promote active collaboration between all stakeholders both in County Galway and adjoining counties and region.</p> <p>b) Collaborate with relevant tourism agencies in the enhancement and increased economic value of Ballinasloe's town twinning linkages and to create a broader tourist offer within the concept of the 'Fair Towns'.</p> <p>c) Ensure that in particular that all such developments shall meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive and shall not adversely affect habitats and species protected by Article 10 of the Directive and any other sites that maybe considered as stepping stones in support of European sites.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

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<p>BKT 19 Water-Based Tourism The Council will support, subject to meeting the requirements of relevant Irish Planning and European environmental legislation including the Habitats Directive, the development of the necessary infrastructure and amenities to support water-based tourism within the plan area.</p> <p>The Council shall:</p> <p>a) Collaborate with Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, other Local Authorities and other relevant agencies in the implementation of the ‘Shannon Tourism Masterplan’ which involves waterways and waterside tourism potential and to enhance water based tourism product along the Shannon Navigation System including Ballinasloe in order to make the town a more attractive inland water tourism destination. Galway County Council will have cognisance of the SEA and AA mitigation measures including in the Shannon Tourism Masterplan as appropriate.</p> <p>b) Continue to promote and enhance the public marina at Slí na hAbhainn as a sustainable marina resource including ancillary facilities and services as appropriate.</p>	0	↑	0	0	↕	0	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: All objectives for tourism are positive for population and human health and cultural heritage. Preservation of built, natural and cultural heritage will further enhance the SEOs for landscape and interrelationships from the development and management of blueways and greenways have been found to be beneficial for the co-existence and wellbeing of people and nature. Outdoor spaces that have been curated to suit recreational activities and gatherings have been particularly appreciated during the COVID-19 pandemic. BKT 16 that focuses on the development in consideration with the European Sites ensures the conservation of the BFF SEOs as well.</p>									
<p>BKT 20 Agriculture There will be a general presumption against residential development on Agricultural (A) zoned lands, located within the plan boundary except for single house developments for family members on family-owned lands (see Policy Objectives RH1 and RH2 of the County Development Plan.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment:</p>									

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Objective BKT 20 that does not favour residential development on agricultural lands in line with the Rural Housing Objectives RH1 and RH2 of the County Development Plans is over all positive for all the SEOs.									
BKT 21 Public Utilities a) Facilitate the provision and maintenance of essential public utility infrastructure, together with the necessary ancillary facilities and uses, as appropriate. b) Development proposals in the vicinity of public utilities infrastructure will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	↑	0	↑
Comment: Objective BKT 21 is overall positive, with significant effects on the PHH, W, MA and interrelationship SEOs in particular as it aims to provide essential public utilities as appropriate in line with the enhanced development of Ballinasloe as whole.									
BKT 22 Water Supply It is a policy objective of the Council to secure the delivery of a water treatment plant upgrade within the lifetime of the plan, subject to appropriate resources in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.	↑	↑	0	0	↑	0	↑	0	↑
Comment: Objective BKT 20 aims to ensure adequate water supply by upgrading the water treatment plant in collaboration with Irish Water to meet the domestic, commercial and industrial users in the city. This objective is positive for most SEOs for water and population and human health, as well as to marine environments and biodiversity and ensuring the overall health of the interrelationships between biotic and abiotic components of the environment.									
BKT 23 High Quality, Contextually Sensitive Design Ensure that new developments are responsive to their site context and in keeping with the character, amenity, heritage, environment and landscape of the area. New development proposals will be required to complement the existing character of the area in terms of scale, height, massing, building line, urban grain and definition and through high quality design proposals for buildings/structures/shop fronts, the use of high quality, appropriate materials and the provision of appropriate signage, lighting, landscaping proposals and other such details.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	↑	↑
BKT 24 Universal Access Ensure that housing developments, community facilities, public spaces, public roads, public footpaths and transport services give due consideration	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	↑

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to the needs of disabled or mobility impaired people and the requirements of the Disability Act 2005, the Council’s Disability Action Plan 2007-2015 (and any updates to this document), the Traffic Management Guidelines 2003, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) and National Disability Authority (NDA) advice notes titled Access: Improving the Accessibility to Historic Buildings and Places 2011 (and any subsequent reviews/updates to these documents).									
<p>Comment: The impact of objective BKT 23(developments keeping with the character, amenity, heritage, landscape of the site) is positive towards the SEOs of PHH, MA, L and interrelationships. Consideration of the needs of disabled or mobility impaired people in terms of housing developments, road network and accessibility to public areas (BKT 24) is beneficial to certain SEOs for population and human health and material assets.</p>									
BKT 25 Architectural Heritage Ensure the protection and conservation of the architectural heritage in the plan area, in particular by implementing the relevant legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and policy guidance contained within the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2004/2011 and the published DAHG & NDA advice series titled Access: Improving the Accessibility of Historic Buildings and Places2011 (or any superseding document Policy Objective AH 2 – Protected Structures (Refer to the Current Galway County Development Plan) Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of structures included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	↑	↑
BKT 26 Architectural Conservation Areas Protect, conserve and enhance the essential character of the Ballinasloe Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) through the appropriate management and control of the design, location and layout of new development, respecting surviving historic plots and street patterns, alterations or extensions to existing structures, and/or modifications to the	0	↑	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	↑

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character or setting of the Architectural Conservation Areas. The identification of areas of special interest within the plan boundary may be considered during the lifetime of the plan.									
<p>Comment: Objective BKT 25 is beneficial for the SEOs pertaining to cultural heritage and landscape due to the objectives of preserving, restoring and enhancing built heritage. Additionally, the policy will help to enrich the quality of life for Ballinasloe residents as it looks to protect and enhance the existing built heritage of the city by steering newer developments to enhance the character or setting of existing protected structures and promote sustainable building design, best conservation practice and the appropriate maintenance, adaption and reuse of historic buildings, which is also positive for SEOs relating to soil.</p> <p>Objective BKT 26 in the interest of Architectural Conservation Area is beneficial for SEOs relating to cultural heritage and population and human health. The more tangible objectives relating to any new development concurrent with the existing historic furniture and streetscape further adds to material assets.</p>									
BKT 27 Social and Affordable Housing Require that a minimum of 20% of all new eligible residential sites are set aside for the development of new social and affordable housing units, unless addressed through suitable alternative arrangements by agreement with the Planning Authority, in accordance with the Galway County Council Housing Strategy and Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and any subsequent amendments to the Part V provision to reflect Government policy.	0	↑	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0
BKT 28 Housing for Older Persons and People with Special Needs Facilitate, as appropriate, development for housing for older persons, people with disabilities and people with special needs in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BKT 29 Traveller Accommodation Support the provision of adequate accommodation facilities for the Traveller Community in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 for County Galway (or any updated/superseding document).	0	↑	0	↑	↑	0	↑	0	↑
BKT 30 Other Residential Development There shall be a general presumption in favour of the development of nursing/care homes and retirement accommodation/facilities and community/day care centres on residential zoned lands, community facility	0	↑	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	↑

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zoned lands or adjacent to the established town centre or as suitable re-use for protected structures or other buildings (e.g. institutional or educational buildings) that would have limited re-development potential given their size and architectural character, subject to normal planning, environmental, access and servicing requirements.									
<p>Comment: Objectives in relation to Housing Strategy (BKT, 27, 28, and 29) have the potential to impact most SEOs positively, particularly population and human health and material assets, soil, and interrelationships. Housing developments that are delivered with the vision of inclusion after appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders like Galway County Council has potential to result in positive impacts for landscape/cityscape. Moreover, objectives with an overarching goal to support the development of sustainable communities and neighbourhoods, in accordance with the Galway County Council Housing Strategy and Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), have the potential to affect all SEOs positively. Objective BKT 29 in relation to Traveller Accommodation stands beneficial for SEOs for population and human health, soil, water and interrelationships. The development of standard, suitable and sustainable accommodation sites for the Traveller community will benefit material assets.</p>									
BKT 31 Local Transport Plan Support the implementation of the Local Transport Plan as set out in Section 3 in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. Galway County Council will apply the mitigation measure in the SEA and AA of the above Local Transport Plan	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
BKT 32 Transportation Infrastructure Facilitate the provision and maintenance of essential transportation infrastructure. This shall include the reservation of lands to facilitate public roads, footpaths, cycle ways, bus stops and landscaping together with any necessary associated works, as appropriate.	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↕	↑	↕	↑
BKT 33 Pedestrian and Cycle Network a) Encourage and support the development of a series of cycle and pedestrian routes in the Ballinasloe area and in accordance with the Galway to Dublin Cycle Route and the Townspark Relief Road where feasible and in a sensitive manner, incorporating the streams, rivers, woods, and canal. Indirect impacts on built heritage, natural heritage and designated conservation areas arising from such recreational activities should be duly considered and addressed as part of any proposal.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

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b) Ensure that in particular that all such developments shall not adversely affect habitats and species protected by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and any other sites that maybe considered in support of European sites.									
<p>BKT 34 Public Transport & Integrated Transportation Location Promote Ballinasloe as an integrated transportation location, which supports the provision of improved and enhanced public transport services and facilities, including rail, bus services, the Rural Transport Programme, park and ride/park and stride facilities and all associated ancillary requirements in consultation with the relevant transport providers and with the NTA.</p> <p>a) In consultation with the relevant agencies, investigate the potential of developing a Public Transport Node/Hub in the town, or other suitable location/s, to provide a facility for transferring between one transport service to another.</p> <p>b) Seek to enhance access along the Sarsfield Road to the Railway Station, upgrade connectivity with existing parking facilities to the northeast of the railway station/Sarsfield Road to the proposed location for the public transportation hub/node including any ancillary park and ride facilities, as appropriate.</p>	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	↑
<p>BKT 35 Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audits (RSA) Require all significant development proposals to be accompanied by a Road Safety Audit and Traffic & Transport Assessment carried out by suitably competent consultants, which are assessed in association with their cumulative impact with neighbouring developments on the road network, in accordance with the requirements contained within the TII's Traffic & Transport Assessment Guidelines (PE-PDV-02045) 2014 (including any updated/superseding document) and 'Road Safety Audit' (GE-STY-01024) December 2017.</p>	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0
<p>BKT 36 Preservation of Routes, Road Upgrades and Infrastructure Provision Prohibit development on lands which are reserved for proposed road/street corridors and associated buffers and where development would affect a</p>	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0

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route, line, level or layout of any proposed new roadway or any junction required between a proposed and existing road.									
BKT 37 Reservation of Access Points Reserve access points for future development and the development of backlands that may be identified for reservation by the Planning Authority during the plan period, to ensure adequate vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access to backlands, in order to facilitate efficient development of these lands and to ensure connectivity and accessibility to lands with limited road frontage.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BKT 38 Road Junction Improvements Continue to carry out road junction improvements at the following locations: a) River Street and Main Street (adjacent to the Bank of Ireland); b) Harris Road and R446/Dunlo Street; c) Dunlo Street and R446/Dunlo Hill; d) Complete Works on Relief Road and proposed Link Road at Dunlo. The provision of the above listed road junction improvements shall be in compliance with the EU Habitats Directive and The Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) (as updated).	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0
BKT 39 Ballinasloe Relief Road To support the delivery of the Ballinasloe Relief Road	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0
<p>Comment: The development of a compact city in alignment with the objectives of the Ballinasloe Local Transport Plan will benefit all SEOs. The support of the BLAP in the implementation of the Ballinasloe Local Transport Plan will facilitate a stronger public transport system and a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, which will have implications for all environmental indicators beyond population and human health and material assets. Longer term positive effects are identified in relation to the integration of sustainable landuse and transport with accompanying positive effects around compact growth, and PHH, BIO and SG SEOs. The Ballinasloe Local Transport Plan (LTP) was subject to full SEA and AA and mitigation measures identified in these environmental assessments should be reflected and adhered to in the delivery of the LTP in conjunction with other environmental commitments in the BLAP.</p> <p>BKT 32 that focuses on development of pedestrian and cycle network is positive across all the SEOs. BKT 33 is largely focused on improving the public transport services, i.e. bus, rail and taxi services across the city. The objectives are designed to improve the capacity of public transport to meet the needs of the diverse population (population and human health), which should reduce car dependency (population and human health) and emissions (air and climate). Improvement in the public transport interchanges (e.g. flexible transfer-ticketing systems, closing the physical distance between modal changes) will improve the experience of public transport users due to added convenience. Beyond these direct positive effects</p>									

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<p>on material assets and population and human health and air and climate, optimisation in the public transport system can contribute positively in indirect ways to augmenting the health of the population, ecosystems and natural processes. Similarly, land use and transport integration and preservation of routes and road upgrades has positive implications for material assets, population and human health and climate and air across most of its comprising objectives. Objective BKT 38 supporting the Ballinasloe Relief Road is particularly positive towards the SEOs of PHH and MA.</p>									
<p>BKT 40 Climate Change To implement, through this Local Area Plan Policy Objectives that support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrate land use and transportation, and maximise opportunities through development location, form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon dioxide and greenhouse emissions.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>BKT 41 European Sites Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 Network (including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Liability Directive, the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010 (and any subsequent or updated guidance). A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the plan area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, including a Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or 	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

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<p>project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000;</p> <p>or</p> <p>3. The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</p>									
<p>Comment: BKT 40 in relation to development focusing on improved climate resilience and reduced greenhouse gas emissions is positive across all the SEOs. Similarly, BKT 41 objective pertaining to compliance with EU Habitats Directive, EU Birds Directive and associated national legislation and protection of Natural 2000 Sites, and protection of local biodiversity and important corridors and sites along with subjecting plans/ projects to Appropriate Assessment when required are positive across all SEOs due to the strong interrelationships between all environmental indicators and an overarching approach that encourages the conservation of whole habitats with all its ecosystem functions.</p>									
<p>BKT 42 Constrained Land Use To facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk within zoning plan areas. This zoning limits new development, while recognising that existing development uses within these zones may require small scale development, as outlined below, over the life of the Local Area Plan, which would contribute towards the compact and sustainable urban development of the town. The underlying zoning or the existing permitted uses are deemed to be acceptable in principle for minor developments to existing buildings (such as small extensions to houses, most changes of use of existing buildings), which are unlikely to raise significant flooding issues, provided they do not obstruct important flow paths, introduce a significant</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

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<p>additional number of people into flood risk areas or entail the storage of hazardous substances.</p> <p>Since such applications concern existing buildings or developed areas, the sequential approach cannot be used to locate them in lower-risk areas and the Justification Test will not apply. Development proposals within this zone shall be accompanied by a detailed Flood Risk Assessment, carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines and Circular PL 2/2014 (or as updated), which shall assess the risks of flooding associated with the proposed development.</p> <p>Proposals shall only be considered where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that they would not have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities, or increase the risk of flooding to other locations. The nature and design of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures required for development in such areas will also be required to be demonstrated, to ensure that flood hazard and risk will not be increased. Measures proposed shall follow best practice in the management of health and safety for users and residents of the development. Specifications for developments in flood vulnerable areas set out in this plan shall be complied with</p> <p>as appropriate. (Please refer also to Policy Objective BKT 41)</p>									
<p>BKT 43 Flood Risk Management Guidelines</p> <p>It is the policy objective of Galway County Council to support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) (and any updated/superseding legislation or policy guidance) and Department Circular PL2/2014 or any updated / superseding version.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>BKT 44 Flood Risk Management and Assessment</p> <p>It is a Policy Objective of the Council Council to comply with the requirements of the DoEHLG/OPW The Planning System and Flood Risk</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

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<p>Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its accompanying Technical Appendices Document 2009 (including any updated/superseding documents). This will include the following:</p> <p>(a) Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines;</p> <p>(b) Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, and justification test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document); Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts;</p> <p>(c) Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted; (d) Galway County Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding.</p>									
<p>BKT 45 Connections to the Public Sewer and Public Water Mains Where public wastewater services are available, new development proposals shall be required to connect to same.</p>	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	↑	0	↑
<p>BKT 46 Principles of Flood Risk Management Guidelines The Council shall implement the key principles of flood risk management set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines as follows:</p> <p>(a) Avoid development that will be at risk of flooding or that will increase the flooding risk elsewhere, where possible;</p> <p>(b) Substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible; and</p> <p>(c) Mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

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Development should only be permitted in areas at risk of flooding when there are no alternative, reasonable sites available in areas at lower risk that also meet the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development. Vulnerable development in areas which have the highest flood risk should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances (through a prescribed Justification Test) if adequate land or sites are not available in areas which have lower flood risk.									
BKT 47 Flood Relief Scheme The Council shall support and co-operate with the Office of Public Works (OPW) in the delivery of the forthcoming Flood Relief Scheme for Ballinasloe. Appropriate measures to accommodate the delivery of the Flood Risk Scheme should be facilitated where possible, in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
BKT 48 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the existing surface water drainage system throughout the plan area and ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in new developments. Surface water runoff from development sites will be limited to pre-development levels and planning applications for new developments will be required to provide details of surface water drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems proposals.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
BKT 49 Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses Protect waterbodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
BKT 50 Flood Risk Assessment for Planning Applications and CFRAMS Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

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<p>Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in Development Management Standard 69. Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at elevated risk of flooding, even for developments appropriate to the particular flood zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The Council shall have regard to the results of any CFRAM Studies in the assessment of planning applications. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test in addition to the site-specific Flood Risk Assessment. In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required and the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed.</p>									
<p>BKT 51 FRA and Climate Change Flood Risk Assessments in Ballinasloe shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) shall be consulted with to this effect.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>BKT 52 FRA and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Flood risk may constitute a significant environmental effect of a development proposal that in certain circumstances may trigger a sub-threshold EIA. FRA should therefore be an integral part of any EIA undertaken for projects within Ballinasloe.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>BKT 53 Inland Fisheries It is the Council policy objective to consult, where necessary, with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies in the construction of flood alleviation measures in Ballinasloe.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>BKT 54 Flood Vulnerable Zones</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

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It is Council policy objective to ensure that applications pertaining to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following - floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events.									
BKT 55 Flood Risk Management Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: The above-mentioned objectives focused on flood risk assessment and sustainable management of flood prone areas in line with the appropriate guidelines (BKT 42-45) and delivery of a flood relief scheme (BKT 47) are consistent with all the SEOS and avoid potential adverse effects arising from in appropriate development and landuse activities. Additionally, the objective BKT 53 pertaining to consultation with relevant agencies in the construction of flood alleviation measures consolidates the other objectives related to flood risk management and assessment (BKT 49-55)</p> <p>The use of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems in developmental designs as proposed in BKT 48 are beneficial for all SEOs as it manages surface water runoff from construction sites to minimise detrimental effects to its surrounding environment. These basins also serve as biodiversity habitat for species that are commonly found in urban watercourses and can act as a substitute for natural waterbodies around areas with anthropogenic interference. The use of green infrastructure, similarly, can supplement SUDs in urban sites to regulate ecosystem functions, provide habitats for species and increase human wellbeing from proximity to nature.</p>									
BKT 56 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling Promote the prevention, reduction and recycling of waste in new developments, new development proposals shall be required to submit proposals demonstrating how this is to be achieved and shall seek to ensure on-site provision for waste storage and segregation (bio-waste/dry recyclables/residual waste) pending collection at all new domestic and non-domestic premises.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Objective BKT 56 in relation to waste management has positive implications for all SEOs, but particularly material assets, population and human health and soil. The objective encourages the management of waste in accordance with the Connacht Ulster Waste Plan 2015-2021 and promotes the prevention, reduction and recycling of wastes at both</p>									

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives									
domestic and non-domestic premises. This is line with the EU Directives and National Policies aiming to optimize waste streams to stimulate the Circular Economy reduces the strain on all environmental resources by reduces the demand for raw material to manufacture new goods as well as reducing the amount of waste materials to be sent to the landfill.									
BKT 57 Telecommunications & Broadband To facilitate the sustainable delivery of a high capacity and high-quality ICT infrastructure within the plan area, including telephony and broadband services, to the requirements of the relevant service providers and in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0
BKT 58 Open Access Fibre Ducting Facilitate and promote the installation of underground shared telecommunications physical infrastructure, where practicable, in line with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications documents including ‘Recommendations for Open Access Fibre Ducting and Interior Cabling for New Residential Buildings ‘Making Homes Fibre Ready’, 2011, Support and facilitate delivery of the National Broadband Plan and the National Digital Strategy for Ireland 2013, ‘Doing more with Digital – Phase 1 Digital Engagement’ and Galway County Digital strategy 2020-2023 (including any updated/superseding documents).	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0
Comment: The above-mentioned objectives (BKT 57 and 58) across Telecommunications and smart technology including the installation of telecommunications infrastructure are beneficial for material assets and population and human health.									
BKT 59 Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows a) Protect important trees, tree clusters and hedgerows in the plan area and ensure that development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands. Ensure that all planting schemes use suitable native variety of trees. b) Seek to retain natural boundaries, including stone walls, hedgerows and tree boundaries, wherever possible and replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary where removal is unavoidable. Discourage the felling of mature trees where possible. All works to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Act, 1946 (as amended).	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives									
c) Carry out a tree survey on important tree stands within the plan area by suitably qualified personnel.									
<p>Comment: Urban Woodlands and Trees are positive across most SEOs for biodiversity and interrelationships. The enhanced management of trees and hedgerows in accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Act, 1946 (as amended) will be positive across all SEOs.</p>									
<p>BKT 60 Development Management Standards and Guidelines Ensure that the general development management standards and guidelines set out in the current <i>Galway County Development Plan</i>, or any subsequent variation or review shall apply as appropriate in the plan area. In addition, any specific development management guidelines set out within this Local Area Plan shall also be applied, as appropriate, to development proposals in the plan area.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: The application of overarching mitigation measure and development management standard to any development proposals in the plan area is overall positive.</p>									
<p>BKT 61 Opportunity Sites To encourage and support the appropriate and sustainable development or redevelopment where appropriate of lands identified as development opportunity sites within the land use zoning map.</p>	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Utilisation of identified opportunity sites within the plan area for appropriate and sustainable development is positive across the SEOs in relation to PHH, S,W, C, MA,L and interrelationships.</p>									
<p>BKT 62 Park To carry out a feasibility study exploring the options for the development of a public park in Ballinasloe. Any proposal would be subject to a detailed planning and environmental assessment that accords with proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>Where appropriate, recreational considerations and access to blue and greens space should be underpinned by the Green Space Principles including</p>	↕	↑	↑	↑	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives						 <small>Climate change</small>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance urban greening through planting strategies that mitigate noise and air pollution and maximise local biodiversity gain and facilitate sustainable drainage (e.g. deciduous wooded and wildflower meadow areas). • A networked approach: emphasising green infrastructure networks (rather than isolated parks) can provide new opportunities for connecting existing and new green spaces and creating linkages between urban and rural areas. Examples include greenways and linear parks, local greenways or cycleways that link to regional and national greenways and de-culverting watercourses to provide new blue corridors. • Well managed and maintained, creating a high-quality environment: poorly managed spaces or vandalism lead to negative perceptions among potential users. • Multifunctional uses: examples include spaces that encourage active mobility, physical activity and sports, relaxation and tranquillity, and opportunities for social exchange (e.g. that incorporate community gardens or encourage parkruns). • Create multisensory restorative environments that help mitigate the psychological stresses of modern living through the provision of “restive places for rejuvenation”. 									
<p>BKT 63 Bathing Area To seek to carry out a feasibility study exploring the options for the establishment of a bathing area along the River Suck. Any proposal would be subject to a detailed environmental assessment that accords with appropriate guidance.</p>	↕	↑	↑	↑	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: The above objective pertaining to development of a public park adjacent to existing marina in Ballinasloe after subjecting the planning process to environmental assessments to ensure sustainable development is overall positive for most of the SEOs with mitigable impacts on water and biodiversity.</p>									
Opportunity Site 1 OPT-BKT1 Haydens Hotel									

Ballinasloe LAP Policies and Objectives										
		↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↕	↑

Location: Haydens Hotel, Dunlo Street

Area: 1660 by 1205m2

- Brownfield site;
- Prime location for redevelopment of lands in close proximity to the Main Street
- Located within Ballinasloe Town Centre Architectural Conservation Area;
- No Protected Structures are located within the site;
- Located within Archaeological Zone;
- Public realm improvements would be beneficial;
- Development could be intensified to provide a key landmark building;

Comment:

Based on a review of aerial photography, this opportunity site comprises of a brownfield land and supports built land and artificial surfaces. Key location within town centre; opportunities to support adaptive re-use of existing buildings; overall positive effects and consistent with SEOS.

SEA Evaluation on Ballinasloe LAP landuse zoning classifications

Zoning	Policy Objective	Description	Hectares
Existing Residential and Infill Residential	<i>To protect and improve residential amenities of existing residential areas.</i>	<i>To provide for house improvements alterations, extensions and appropriate infill residential development in accordance with principles of good design and protection of existing residential amenity.</i>	29.91

SEA Comment:

<p>Most of the impacts identified for residential development zones are identified as being mitigated at project level through development management. Positive impacts were identified for population and human health, plus a number of material assets such as flood risk and sustainable transport. Consistent with SEOs PHH2, PHH3, C2, S2, MA1, MA2, and MA4.</p>			
<p>Residential Phase 1</p>	<p><i>To protect, provide and improve residential amenity areas within the lifetime of this plan.</i></p>	<p><i>To facilitate for the provision of high quality new residential developments at appropriate densities with layout and design well linked to the town centre and community facilities. To provide an appropriate mix of house sizes, types and tenures in order to meet household needs and to promote balanced communities.</i></p>	<p>23.02</p>
<p>SEA Comment: Consistent and positive for SEOs PHH2, PHH3, C2, W2, MA1, MA2, and MA4.</p>			
<p>Residential Phase 2</p>	<p><i>To protect, provide and improve residential amenity areas.</i></p>	<p><i>To facilitate the provision of high quality new residential developments at appropriate densities with layout and design well linked to the town centre and community facilities. Phase 2 residential is generally not developable during the lifetime of this plan subject to the provisions below.</i> <i>(*Single House developments for family members on family-owned lands:</i> <i>*Non-residential developments that are appropriate to the site context, any existing residential amenity and the existing pattern of development in the area;</i> <i>*Where it is apparent that R-Residential (Phase 1) lands cannot or will not be developed within the plan period, residential development maybe considered in a phased manner on some residential (Phase 2 lands).</i></p>	<p>23.14</p>
<p>SEA Comment: Positive and consistent with SEOs PHH2, PHH3, C2, W2, MA, MA2, and M4. Due to the gap between planning and execution (i.e. construction), Residential Phase 2 can potentially incorporate measures that can benefit SEOs C4, W3, W4, S1, S2, S3, MA3, and MA6.</p>			
<p>Town Centre/Commercial</p>	<p><i>To provide for the development and improvement of appropriate town centre uses including retail, commercial, office and</i></p>	<p><i>To develop and consolidate the existing town centre to improve its vibrancy and vitality with the densification of appropriate commercial and residential developments ensuring a mix of commercial, recreation and civic uses.</i></p>	<p>18.70</p>

	<i>civic/community uses and to provide for "Living over the Shop" scheme Residential accommodation, or other ancillary residential accommodation.</i>		
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent with SEOs PHH1, PHH2, PHH3, C5, S2, S3, MA1, MA2, MA4, MA5, and CH2. Town-centred living encourages compact growth which serves to benefit the community, the economy and the environment.			
Commercial/Mixed Use	<i>To provide for the development of commercial and complementary mixed uses, on suitable lands that can provide focal points for the provision of services to surrounding neighbourhoods/areas and opportunities for commercial enterprises, retail developments and employment creation and which do not undermine the vitality and viability of the town centre.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development and improvement of existing employment areas and to facilitate opportunities for the development of new high quality commercial/mixed use developments in a good quality physical environment.</i>	31.55
SEA Comment: Impacts positively on SEOs PHH1 (Promotes avenues for employment of the working-age population), C5 (Promotes the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport by developing in focal points across the plan area), S2 (Re-uses existing built infrastructure in semi-developed neighbourhoods/areas), MA1 (Optimising existing and providing new infrastructure to match population needs), and MA6 (by capitalizing on the opportunity to switch to more sustainable modes of energy).			
Industrial	<i>Promote the sustainable development of industrial and industrial related uses, including manufacturing, processing of materials, warehousing and distribution on suitable lands, with adequate services and facilities and a high level of access to the major road networks and public transport facilities.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development and improvement of existing employment areas and to facilitate opportunities for the development of new high quality industrial developments in a good quality physical environment.</i>	30.63

SEA Comment: The range of impacts will vary according to the potential use; however for most of the SEOs, the impacts are considered to be addressed through mitigation at development management level. Green and blue infrastructure measures may also be integrated within this landuse zonings and offer longer term positive effects on Biodiversity, and Water SEOs.			
Agriculture	<i>To promote the development of agriculture and agriculture related uses in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development of agriculture and facilitate opportunities for farm diversification with agriculture related uses.</i>	285.91
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent for SEOs relating to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape, Air, Climate and Noise, Water, Soil and Geology.			
Business and Enterprise	<i>To provide for the development of business and enterprise.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development and improvement of existing employment areas and to facilitate opportunities for the development of new high-quality business and enterprise developments in a good quality physical environment.</i>	27.96
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent for PHH1, MA1, and MA3. On undeveloped lands, negative impacts are identified for biodiversity and soil due to development on greenfield sites, but for many SEOs these can be mitigated through development management and relevant policies and objectives in the draft Plan.			
Community Facilities	<i>To provide for civic, community and educational facilities.</i>	<i>To facilitate the development of necessary community, health, religious educational social and civic infrastructure.</i>	92.59
SEA Comment: Positive and consistent for PHH1, PHH2, PHH3, C4, and MA1. This zoning benefits the Ballinasloe community by providing spaces where citizens can come together, contributing positively to the wellbeing of the community. On undeveloped lands, negative impacts are identified for biodiversity and soil due to development on greenfield sites, but for many SEOs these can be mitigated through development management and relevant policies and objectives in the draft Plan.			
Open Space/Recreation and Amenity	<i>To protect and enhance existing open space and provide for recreational and amenity space.</i>	<i>To facilitate the further development and improvement of existing active open spaces, formal exercise areas, sports grounds, playing fields.</i>	276.93
SEA Comment: Positive for population and human health, material assets and interrelationships. Further positive impacts are identified for soil and geology in the case sites are re-using existing the built environment. On undeveloped lands, negative impacts are identified for biodiversity and soil due to development on greenfield sites, but for many SEOs these can be mitigated through development management and relevant policies and objectives in the draft Plan.			

Land Use Zoning									
Objective: To protect and improve residential amenities of existing residential areas.									
<p>Comment: Confirms existing land use.</p> <p>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Moycarn area-<i>Risk is limited to existing residential development, plus the hotel (tourism), both of which must have the JT applied. No undeveloped zoned land at flood risk. Typical restrictions to development within Flood Zone A/B (coming out of the JT) will ensure that there is no new infill residential development. Works must be limited to extensions and changes of use, no bedrooms on ground floor. Any extensions to the hotel should be within Flood Zone C.</i></p>									
Residential Infill Area: 06.89ha Objective: To protect and improve residential amenities of existing residential areas.	0	0	0	0	0	↕	0	0	0
<p>Comment: Confirms existing land use. Most of the areas proposed for residential landfills are on existing residential lands. However, some of these areas are vulnerable to flooding as an effect from climate change. Most of the impacts identified for residential infill zones are identified as being mitigated at project level through development management.</p> <p>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Derrymullan area- <i>Most of the risk is limited to existing developments and is defended to the north of the Railway line (Derrymullan Flood Defence Wall). The JT must be applied for the defended existing residential area. The existing Business & Enterprise site is in Flood Zone B only and the JT does not apply. The site(s) zoned for infill residential (north Derrymullan circled red on the map sheet) is not within or adjacent to the core and is unlikely to pass a justification test. This site should be rezoned to a less vulnerable or water compatible use. South of the railway line there is significant undefended risk to existing residential and the leisure centre (CF zoning). The JT must be applied. The future FRS may defend this area, but further development in at risk areas would be premature at present. Typical restrictions to development within Flood Zone A/B (coming out of the Justification Test) will ensure that there is no new infill residential development in defended areas or existing undefended residential. Limited to extensions and changes of use, no bedrooms on ground floor. Any new extension to the Leisure Centre will require avoidance of Flood Zone B and an associated FRA.</i></p>									
Residential 1 Existing Residential Area: 23.02ha Objective: To protect, provide and improve residential amenity areas within the lifetime of this plan.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p>Comment: Confirms existing land use. Specific commentary on each of these sites are provided at the end of this table.</p> <p>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Dubarry and West of Dubarry- <i>The JT must be applied to the existing development (Residential). Typical restrictions to development within Flood Zone A/B (coming out of the JT) will ensure that there is no new infill residential development (in existing residential sites) within Flood Zone A/B. Uses within the Community Facilities should be restricted to water compatible use within the Flood Zone (graveyard is fine, playing pitches etc.), a more detailed FRA should</i></p>									

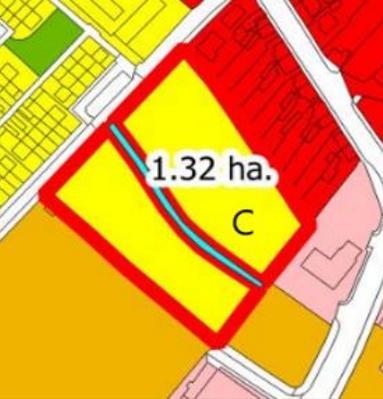
Land Use Zoning						 <small>Climate change</small>			
<i>be submitted as part of any PA). It is recommended that this watercourse is added to the brief of the Ballinasloe FRS as the culvert appears to be undersized and is presenting increased risk downstream.</i>									
Residential 2 – New Proposed Residential Area: 23.14ha Objective: <i>To protect, provide and improve residential amenity areas.</i>	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0
<p><i>Comment: Most of the impacts identified for residential development zones are identified as being mitigated at project level through development management. Positive impacts were identified for population and human health, plus a number of material assets such as flood risk and sustainable.</i></p> <p><i>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Dubarry and West of Dubarry- The JT must be applied to the existing development (Residential). The Phase 2 Residential lands cannot pass the JT and we recommend rezoning of the lands to a water compatible use leaving a margin between the Flood Zone and any remaining Phase 2 lands.</i></p>									
Town Centre Area: 18.70ha Objective: <i>To provide for the development and improvement of appropriate town centre uses including retail, commercial, office and civic/community uses and to provide for “Living over the Shop” scheme Residential accommodation, or other ancillary residential accommodation.</i>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: <i>The land use zoning for town centre relates primarily to existing town centre use and the land is artificial surfaces, therefore this is consistent with land use objectives.</i></p> <p><i>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Town Centre and Lidl zonings- Most of the risk is limited to existing developments which must be subject to a JT. Existing Tourism, Commercial and Town Centre requires JT. Typical restrictions to development within Flood Zone A/B (coming out of the JT) will ensure that there is no new infill residential development in the TC or Mixed use zoning prior to development of the FRS. Limited to extensions and changes of use, no bedrooms on ground floor. Commercial redevelopment is more viable as a less vulnerable use but with appropriate FRA. Lidl site is likely to be refurbished/extended and will require an appropriately detailed FRA at DM stage.</i></p> <p><i>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Town Centre and Nursing Home- Most of the risk is limited to existing developments which should be subject to the JT for Town Centre and Commercial/Mixed Use. Difficulty may arise in passing the JT for the Town Centre lands circled black and the Commercial/Mixed use land circled red in the map sheet. These both appear to offer opportunity for new development/redevelopment within the Flood Zones. If development is to pass the JT then it will have to sterilise most types of development until the Flood Relief Scheme is built. For consideration by Mayo CC. Typical restrictions to development within Flood Zone A/B (coming</i></p>									

Land Use Zoning						 <small>Climate change</small>			
<i>out of the JT) will ensure that there is no new infill residential development in the TC or Mixed use zoning prior to development of the FRS. Limited to extensions and changes of use, no bedrooms on ground floor. Commercial redevelopment is more viable as a less vulnerable use but with appropriate FRA.</i>									
Commercial and Mixed Use Area: 31.55ha Objective: To provide for the development of commercial and complementary mixed uses, on suitable lands that can provide focal points for the provision of services to surrounding neighbourhoods/areas and opportunities for commercial enterprises, retail developments and employment creation and which do not undermine the vitality and viability of the town centre.	0	↑	0	↑	0	↕	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: The impacts are identified to be positive for PHH, S, MA, L, and interrelationships with the mitigable impacts for climate.</p> <p>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Ballinasloe East - <i>Most of the risk is limited to existing developments and are subject to a Justification test for Residential, Commercial Mixed Use and Public Utility. Typical restrictions to development within Flood Zone A/B (coming out of the JT) will ensure that there is no new infill residential development in the TC or Mixed use zoning prior to development of the FRS. Limited to extensions and changes of use, no bedrooms on ground floor. Commercial redevelopment is more viable as a less vulnerable use but with appropriate FRA.</i></p> <p>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Sarsfield Road- <i>Most of the risk is limited to existing developments which must be subject to the JT. JT applies to Existing Residential, C2 Commercial Mixed Use and CF Community Facilities (Scoil an Chroi Naofa). Typical restrictions to development within Flood Zone A/B (coming out of the Justification Test) will ensure that there is no new infill residential development in defended areas or existing undefended residential. Limited to extensions and changes of use, no bedrooms on ground floor. Mixed use sites likely to be ok as long as not used for residential. Are these really Mixed use???</i></p> <p>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to St. Brigid's Hospital- <i>Risk is present to a large central low lying area of the St Brigid's site and the JT must be applied for the lands. There is some amenity space within Flood Zone A/B. Typical restrictions to development within Flood Zone A/B (coming out of the JT) will ensure that there is no new redevelopment of highly/less vulnerable development within the part of the site under Flood Zone A/B. The site could be phased for development with later phases not being completed until the FRS is complete, as a brownfield site this could be justified.</i></p>									
Industrial Area: 30.63ha Objective: Promote the sustainable development of industrial and industrial related uses, including	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕

Land Use Zoning									
<i>manufacturing, processing of materials, warehousing and distribution on suitable lands, with adequate services and facilities and a high level of access to the major road networks and public transport facilities.</i>									
Comment: The range of impacts will vary according to the potential use; however for most of the SEOs, the impacts are considered to be addressed through mitigation at development management level.									
Agriculture Area: 285.91ha Objective: <i>To promote the development of agriculture and agriculture related uses in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.</i>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Comment: Confirms existing land use.									
Business & Enterprise Area: 27.96 ha Objective: <i>To provide for the development of business and enterprise.</i>	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comment: Most of these lands are on either agricultural lands or are areas of existing land-use activities such as Dubarry. Subject to implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, no significant adverse effects are identified for this zoning. It is likely to impact positively population and human health of the area.									
SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Dubarry and West of Dubarry- <i>The JT must be applied to the existing development (Business & Enterprise).The Dubarry site can pass the JT but if there is any potential planning application for an extension then further development should be restricted to Flood Zone C and more detailed FRA required to clarify the indicative flood extents from this watercourse.</i>									
Business and Technology Area: 23.89ha Objective:	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0
Comment: Within the plan area, this zoning largely corresponds to existing landuse activities. The area of undeveloped land identified for this zoning is an area north of Dubarry, which, based on a review of aerial photograph is characterised by agricultural land. Positive impacts have been identified particularly for PHH and MA.									
Community Facilities Area: 92.59ha	⇅	↑	↑	⇅	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Land Use Zoning									
Objective: To provide for civic, community and educational facilities.									
<p>Comment: Positive impacts are identified for population and human health, transport and air quality for these zonings with mitigable impacts for the SEOs in relation to soil and biodiversity.</p> <p>SFRA provides the following comment in relation to Dubarry and West of Dubarry- <i>The JT must be applied to the existing development (Community Facilities).Uses within the Community Facilities should be restricted to water compatible use within the Flood Zone (graveyard is fine, playing pitches etc.), a more detailed FRA should be submitted as part of any PA). It is recommended that this watercourse is added to the brief of the Ballinasloe FRS as the culvert appears to be undersized and is presenting increased risk downstream.</i></p>									
Open Space & Amenity Area: 276.93ha Objective: To protect and enhance existing open space and provide for recreational and amenity space.	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑	0	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Generally, impacts are positive for a range of parameters including soil and geology, population and human health, flood risk, water quality and landscape. The opportunity to enhance these areas through public realm improvements and/or green and blue infrastructure measures contribute positively longer term to biodiversity, water and climate change adaptation SEOs also.</p>									
Tourism Amount: 2.95ha Objective: To promote and encourage cultural, historic and tourism potential for Ballinasloe as a Key Town.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: The land zoned for tourism is the area comprising of Shearwater Hotel. The impacts are positive for most of the SEOs particularly PHH, MA, L and interrelationships.</p>									
Public Utility Area: 02.41ha Objective: To maintain lands providing service infrastructure.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	↑	0	↑
<p>Comment: The impacts are identified as overall positive, particularly for PHH, W, MA and interrelationship SEOs in particular as it aims to provide essential public utilities as appropriate in line with the enhanced development of Ballinasloe as whole.</p>									
Transport Infrastructure Area: 75.80 ha	⇅	↑	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	↑	⇅	↑

Land Use Zoning									
Objective: Facilitate the provision and maintenance of essential transportation infrastructure.									
Comment: A significant amount of area is dedicated to the transportation services across the whole town of Ballinasloe. The impacts are identified to be positive for PHH, MA and interrelationships. However, for the rest of the SEOs the impacts are identified to be mitigable.									
Residential Phase 1- Area A 	⇅	↑	0	⇅	0	0	↑	0	⇅
Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land and supports a mature tree line in the north-west. Mitigation measures will include retainment of these tree lines as much as possible.									
Residential Phase 1- Area B	⇅	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	⇅

Land Use Zoning									
									
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of undeveloped greenfield land with no old buildings or tree lines within the zoned area.</p>									
Residential Phase 1- Area C 	⇅	↑	0	⇅	⇅	0	↑	0	⇅
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land and supports a mature tree line in the north and east as well as along the watercourse. Mitigation measures will include retainment of these tree lines that fall within the zoned area and consider integration of existing watercourse as a blue infrastructure measure.</p>									
Residential Phase 1- Area D	⇅	↑	0	⇅	⇅	0	↑	0	⇅

Land Use Zoning									
									
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land and supports a mature tree line in the north and east as well as along the watercourse. Mitigation measures will include retainment of these tree lines that fall within the zoned area and consider integration of existing watercourse as a blue infrastructure measure.</p>									
Residential Phase 1- Area E 	⇅	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	⇅
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land (agricultural) and supports a few mature tree lines. Mitigation measures will include retainment of these tree lines that fall within the zoned area.</p>									
Residential Phase 1- Area F	⇅	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	⇅

Land Use Zoning									
									
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land (undeveloped) and supports a couple of mature tree lines. Mitigation measures will include retainment of these tree lines that fall within the zoned area.</p>									
Residential Phase 1- Area G 	↕	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	↕
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of undeveloped greenfield land with no old buildings or tree lines within the zoned area.</p>									
Residential Phase 1- Area H	↕	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	↕

Land Use Zoning						 Climate change			
									
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land (agricultural) and supports mature tree lines. Mitigation measures will include retainment of these tree lines that fall within the zoned area.</p>									
Residential Phase 1- Area I 	↕	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	↕

Land Use Zoning									
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land (agricultural and undeveloped) and supports mature tree lines. Mitigation measures will include retainment of these tree lines that fall within the zoned area.</p>									
<p>Residential Phase 1- Area J</p> 	⇅	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	⇅
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land (agricultural) with no old buildings or tree lines within the zoned area.</p>									
Residential Phase 1- Area K	⇅	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	⇅

Land Use Zoning						 Climate change			
									
<p>Comment: Based on the review of aerial photography, this residential landuse zoning comprises of greenfield land (agricultural and undeveloped) and supports a couple of mature tree lines. Mitigation measures will include retainment of these tree lines that fall within the zoned area.</p>									

ANNEX B: Review of relevant plans and programmes and in-combination effects

Positive reflects a potential positive in combination effect
Potential conflict reflects a potential conflicting effect

Instrument	Summary of objectives	Positive	Potential Conflict
Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland	This framework is Ireland's main contribution to the Rio 20+ summit in 2012. The framework sets out 70 measures to improve the lives of Irish people, both in the present and the future. Set in the context of sustainable development, the framework addresses challenges, aims and implementation of Ireland's development agenda. The document is useful for understanding Ireland's policy position on sustainable development, as well as an overview of the types of issues discussed when addressing sustainable development, particularly on a country/policy level.		
Actions for Biodiversity 2017 – 2021 (Ireland's 3rd National Biodiversity Plan)	Objectives include the enhancement and conservation of biodiversity. Although such issues would be dealt with at local or site level, the Plan should have regard to these objectives and promote such objectives where possible.		
Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000	The purpose of the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2000 is to provide for the protection of Wildlife (both Flora and Fauna) and the control of activities, which may impact adversely on the conservation of Wildlife.		
National Heritage Plan (2002)	The purpose of the National Heritage Plan is to set out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of our heritage over the next five years. The National Heritage Plan establishes clear priorities across the sector and enables stakeholders interested in heritage to work towards common goals. These goals are focussed on the core objective of protecting our heritage, as well as promoting it as a resource to be enjoyed by all. They are in line with the principles underlying the Government's Policy Statement on Heritage.		
Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns and Villages) (2009)	The aim of these guidelines is to set out the key planning principles which should be reflected in development plans and local area plans, and which should guide the preparation and assessment of planning applications for residential development in urban areas.		
Geological Heritage Sites Designation (under Wildlife Amendment Act 2000)	Amendment to the Act to provide for statutory protection for important geological and geomorphological sites, including fossil sites by designation as NHAs;		
Water Services Strategic Plan/Capital Investment Programme	Sets out Irish Water's budgetary plan for IW investment from the period 2020-2024 for improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.		
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2014-2020	Strategic Framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage for the management of Ireland's waterways.		
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (and Technical Appendices) for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, OPW), 2009	Sets out the key principles of the assessment of flood risk, and how these are applied at the different spatial scales within the hierarchy of the planning system. Flood risk assessments will differ in scale, detail and breadth of flood risk issue considered.		

National Climate Change Strategy (2007-2012)	<p>The national climate change strategy 2007-2012 sets target for the key sectors within the state and economy in order to achieve overall Kyoto targets. Energy policy is required to make a substantial contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emission through energy efficiency, changes in fuel mixes and the increased use of renewable energy. Renewable energy is identified as the most effective way to reduce the contribution of power generation to greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to a considerable natural resource in wind energy, Ireland also has the potential to be a world leader in ocean energy technology.</p>		
Review of Ireland's climate change policy and Climate Action and Low Carbon Bill 2013	<p>The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill sets out the legal framework for Ireland's transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by no later than 2050. It provides for a 2030 interim target, five-yearly carbon budgets, sectoral emissions ceilings, an annually updated Climate Action Plan and a Long-Term Climate Action Strategy.</p>		
National Mitigation Plan (DCCA)	<p>The National Mitigation Plan represented an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government Plan drew on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments, and reflected the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.</p> <p>The Plan included over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and begin the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades.</p>		
Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020 (DTAS)	<p>Strategy for sustainable transition of the Transport sector in Ireland.</p>		
National Clean Air Strategy (to commence)	<p>The overall objective of the Strategy to integrate air quality considerations into policy making across government departments has the potential to be a significant driver to improve Ireland's ambient air quality and as a result reduce the impacts of air pollution on human health and the environment.</p>		
National Broadband Plan Intervention Strategy –SEA ER and AA (DCCA)	<p>The Intervention Strategy sets out a series of detailed Government policy objectives in respect of the proposed state intervention to ensure high speed broadband services are provided to all parts of Ireland. It outlines various aspects of the proposed intervention including the type of network envisaged, the minimum speeds being demanded, the length of the contract for services, and whether the network should be public or privately owned.</p>		
National Monuments Act 1930 with subsequent amendments	<p>Act (and subsequent Amendments) to make provision for the protection and preservation of national monuments and for the preservation of archaeological objects in Saorstát Eireann and to make provision for other matters connected with the matters aforesaid.</p>		
Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)	<p>A practical guide to help understand how structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest are protected under planning law.</p>		

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)	NIAH is to aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage, especially by advising planning authorities on the inclusion of particular structures in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).		
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland –2015 (DCHG)	Integrates environmental protection policies and actions across a number of sectors including for example forestry, agriculture, land use planning, energy, transport, and telecommunications. The Strategy can contribute to managing the various elements of landscape as well as contributing to the understanding of the processes and interconnection of these elements. This will facilitate the delivery of a range of sustainable environmental outputs including biodiversity gain, good water status, flood risk management, sustainable soils management, and climate change mitigation.		
Draft Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines, (2000)	Guidelines for approaching landscape appraisal in Ireland, particularly for Landscape Character Assessment.		
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).	Revised and consolidated the law relating to planning and development by repealing and re-enacting with amendments the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1999; to provide, in the interests of the common good, for proper planning and sustainable development including the provision of housing; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the Roads Act 1993, the Waste Management Act 1996, and certain other enactments.		
Planning Policy Statement, 2015	Gives an overview of key principles and policies which will ensure that Planning legislation in Ireland addresses, the interests of the common good, and the proper planning and sustainable development of urban and rural areas.		
Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015	An Act to make provision with respect to land in areas in which housing is required and in areas which are in need of renewal to prevent it lying idle or remaining vacant, to establish a register of vacant sites in those areas, to provide for a vacant sites levy, to amend the Derelict Sites Act 1990 , to amend Parts II, III and V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 , to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and to provide for related matters.		
National Development Plan	As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It is an ambitious plan that balances the significant demand for public investment across all sectors and regions of Ireland with a major focus on improving the delivery of infrastructure projects to ensure speed of delivery. The NDP sets out funding to underpin key Government priorities. Specifically, allocations will support the realisation of critical goals laid out in Housing for All and will enable a step-change in investment to ameliorate the effects of climate change.		

National Planning Framework (DHPLG)	National document that will guide at a high-level strategic planning and development for the country over the next 20+ years, so that as the population grows, that growth is sustainable (in economic, social, and environmental terms). Finalization of the NPF alongside the ten-year National Development Plan will put together one plan to guide strategic development and infrastructure investment at national level. The NPF with the National Development Plan will also set the context for each of Ireland's three regional assemblies to develop their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies taking account of and coordinating local authority County and City Development Plans in a manner that will ensure national, regional and local plans align.		
Rural Development Programme (DAFM)	It ensures the on-going competitiveness of the agriculture sector, the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action and the balanced territorial development of rural areas.		
National CFRAMS Programme (OPW)	Objectives of the CFRAM Study include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and map the existing and potential future flood hazard within the CFRAM study area • Assess and map the existing and potential future flood risk within the CFRAM study area • Identify viable structural and non-structural options and measures for the effective and sustainable management of flood risk in the Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) and within the CFRAM Study Area as a whole • Prepare a set of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) for the CFRAM Study Area, and associated Strategic Environmental and, as necessary, Habitats Directive (Appropriate) Assessment, that sets out the policies, strategies, measures and actions that should be pursued by the relevant bodies, including the OPW, Local Authorities and other Stakeholders, to achieve the most cost-effective and sustainable management of existing and potential future flood risk within the Study Area, taking account of environmental plans, objectives and legislative requirements and other statutory plans and requirements. 		
National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (DHPLG)	The Plan sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. Ireland is required to produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).		
National Renewable Electricity Policy Framework (in preparation DCCA)	It is a key national plan for guiding and optimizing the opportunities for renewable electricity development on land in Ireland. Expansion of renewable electricity is a core element of Ireland's national transition to progress towards meeting our various climate, energy, and air quality obligations.		
Grid 25 Implementation Strategy (Eirgrid)	A high-level strategy to outline how it intended to undertake the development of the grid in the short, medium and long-term, particularly in the context of connecting new sources of renewable electricity onto the grid to meet National and European renewable energy targets.		

Draft National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA, in preparation)	Sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.		
Agri Food Strategy 2030 (DAFM)	It sets out the EPA's overall recommendations to establish an environmentally sustainable agri-food sector, while also recognizing the need to achieve a balance between economic, social and environmental considerations.		
National Forestry Programme / Forestry Policy Review (DAFM)	It represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the suggested period. It also aims to address the constraints that have the potential to limit the development of forest sector in Ireland.		
Draft National Marine Planning Framework (DAFM)	Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a new way of looking at how we use the marine area and planning how best to use it into the future. MSP will try to balance the different demands for using the sea including the need to protect the marine environment. It's about planning when and where human activities take place at sea. It's about ensuring these activities are as efficient and sustainable as possible. Marine spatial planning involves stakeholders in a transparent way in the planning of maritime activities. Ireland's Marine Spatial Plan is known as the National Marine Planning Framework.		
National Peatland Strategy, SAC Raised Bog Management Plan (DCHG)	The Strategy clearly and objectively sets out what we need to do in order to achieve the overall Vision for Ireland's peatlands. It is clear from the outset that the Strategy is based on a commitment to the responsible and environmentally sustainable management of our peatlands for this and future generations.		
Climate Action Plan 2019 (DCCAE)	Climate disruption is already having diverse and wide-ranging impacts on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources. The Climate Action Plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address this issue.		
Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Low Carbon Roadmaps	Following the first Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management (OPW; 2015), a new plan has been prepared in 2019 under the National Adaptation Framework and as a key action under the Climate Action Plan 2019 and updates the 2015 Plan taking into account new information available on climate change and its potential impacts and developments in flood risk management since 2015.		
Framework for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure in Transport (DTAS)	This Policy aims to reduce overall travel demand and maximize the transport network efficiency. The objectives include reduction of fossil fuel reliance, transport emissions and improvement in transport accessibility.		

Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (DCCAE)	<p>The OREDP identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland’s abundant offshore renewable energy resources for increasing indigenous production of renewable electricity, thereby contributing to reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions, improving the security of our energy supply and creating jobs in the green economy. The ORED sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland’s significant potential in this area. In this way, the OREDP will provide a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland’s offshore renewable energy resources.</p>		
State of the Environment Report 2020 (EPA, in preparation)	<p>Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 presents the most recent integrated information on the quality of Ireland's environment. The report outlines the current state of our environment at a strategic level. It also provides an update on the environmental challenges that Ireland faces, nationally and globally.</p>		
National Bioenergy Plan (DCCAE)	<p>Provides a clear framework for the sustainable development of Ireland’s bioenergy resources and the delivery of real economic benefits to Ireland</p>		
National Mitigation Plan (DCCAE)	<p>Draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments and reflected the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.</p>		
10 Year Tourism Strategy (Fáilte Ireland)	<p>To stimulate innovation and improve international competitiveness, Fáilte Ireland has launched a significant new Tourism Development and Innovation Fund which will be the main source of funding in the sector. The objectives of this strategy are framed here within the internationally recognised VICE model. This identifies sustainable tourism as the interaction between Visitors, the Industry that provides services to them, the Community and culture that hosts them and their collective impact on and response to the Environment where it all takes place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; • To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; • To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and • To recognise, value and enhance Ireland’s natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism 		
National Greenway Strategy (DTTAS)	<p>The objective of the Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over a 10 year period with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</p>		

Urban Development & Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHPLG)	<p>These guidelines are published by the Minister under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and are intended to set out national planning policy guidelines on building heights in relation to urban areas, as defined by the census, building from the strategic policy framework set out in Project Ireland 2040 and the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>In determining planning policy and making planning decisions around appropriate building heights, the planning process has to strike a careful balance between on the one hand enabling long-term and strategic development of relevant areas, while ensuring the highest standards of urban design, architectural quality and place-making outcomes on the other.</p>		
Instrument	Summary of objectives	Positive	Potential Conflict
Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for Galway (NWRA)	<p>The formulation of policies geared towards achieving a greater dispersal of economic growth and development throughout the regions.</p>		
Relevant CFRAMS Flood Risk Management Plan (OPW)	<p>Objectives of the CFRAM Study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify and map the existing and potential future flood hazard within the CFRAM study area ● Assess and map the existing and potential future flood risk within the CFRAM study area ● Identify viable structural and non-structural options and measures for the effective and sustainable management of flood risk in the Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) and within the CFRAM Study Area as a whole ● Prepare a set of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) for the CFRAM Study Area, and associated Strategic Environmental and, as necessary, Habitats Directive (Appropriate) Assessment, that sets out the policies, strategies, measures and actions that should be pursued by the relevant bodies, including the OPW, Local Authorities and other Stakeholders, to achieve the most cost-effective and sustainable management of existing and potential future flood risk within the Study Area, taking account of environmental plans, objectives and legislative requirements and other statutory plans and requirements. 		
Regional Waste Management Plan (CUWR)	<p>The waste management plans in Ireland are statutory planning documents whose objective is to set out a framework for the prevention and management of wastes for a defined regional area. The preparation of the waste plans is the statutory responsibility of the local authorities and two or more local authorities may jointly prepare a waste plan. Once prepared a plan is valid for a period of up to 6 years and under statutory obligations must be evaluated once every 6 years.</p>		
National Investment Framework for Transport Investment (DTTAS)	<p>Sets out the Department of Transport's strategy for the development and management of Ireland's land transport network (roads, public transport, walking and cycling) over the next two decades.</p>		

National River Basin Management Plans (DHPLG)	The Plan sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. Ireland is required to produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).		
Water services Investment Programme	Sets out Irish Water's budgetary plan for IW investment from the period 2020-2024 for improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.		
Water Services Strategic Plans	Details arrangements that IW proposes and measures proposed between 2019 and 2024 to implement the objectives of the Water Services Strategic Plan		
Ballinasloe Town Development Plan	The Ballinasloe Town Development Plan is a statement of policy that sets a framework for the future sustainable growth and development of the town over the period 2009-2015. The role of the development plan is to set out a vision and growth strategy for the town, to identify important features and landmarks that should be protected, to identify areas and zones that are suitable for particular types of development, to set out policies that will guide the manner in which development is carried out and to clarify proposals including planned projects in the area.		
Galway County Transport Strategy	Galway City Council & Galway County Council, in partnership with the National Transport Authority, have developed the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS), an Integrated Transport Strategy for Galway City & Environs. The GTS sets out a series of actions and measures, covering infrastructural, operational and policy elements to be implemented in Galway over the next 20 years and sets out a framework to deliver the projects in a phased manner.		
Local Transport Plan for Ballinasloe	Local Transport Plan for Ballinasloe which will be incorporated into the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Local Area Plans as appropriate.		
Galway County Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022	Acts as a roadmap to build on the overarching goal of " <i>creating an inclusive county with a clear sense of identity where we work together towards achieving the full economic, social, community, linguistic and cultural potentials of County Galway and all its people through citizen engagement at a local level</i> ".		
Galway County Council and Ballinasloe Town Council Joint Housing Strategy	Collaboration between Galway County Council and Ballinasloe Town Council to prepare a Strategy to meet the housing demands for both housing authorities/		
Galway County Renewable Energy / Wind Energy Strategies	Galway County Council (GCC) has prepared a Wind Energy Strategy (WES) for County Galway. The strategy provides strategic direction to encourage renewable energy and to guide the siting and design of wind energy developments in appropriate locations within the County.		
Galway County Tourism Strategies	Jointly led by Galway City and County Council to promote tourism and decentralise the tourism market from Galway City and Connemara to develop and highlight other destination brand identities.		

Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024	<p>The plan aims to initiative an ongoing process to protect biodiversity over a timeframe of ten years with an annual review mid-term and a new plan at the end of the 10-year cycle.</p> <p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness and appreciation of biodiversity • To maintain and enhance biodiversity within the plan area • To increase knowledge and understanding of biodiversity 		
Heritage Plan 2016-2020	<p>The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides, for the first time, a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of our waterways.</p>		
Litter Management Plan 2019-2022	<p>This plan sets out their objectives to prevent and control litter as well as measures to encourage public awareness. The plan must also set out the measures and arrangements by which they intend to achieve their objectives. In preparing a litter management plan the local authority is obliged to consult with local community and voluntary interests before a plan is adopted by the Council members.</p>		
Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022	<p>The Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-22 was launched on September 12 2018 , with a vision to design, drive and deliver a strategy that transforms Galway into a working model of cultural sustainability, community participation, best practice and world class cultural and creative experiences.</p>		
Galway County Arts Plan 2020-2024	<p>New initiatives will be introduced in addition to supporting existing programmes, partnerships and infrastructure for the arts that have been successfully developed over a long number of years. Strategic priorities will support the growth and continuing development of the arts, not only encompassing County Galway's needs and ambitions but also placing them within the overall context of local, national and European strategies for the Arts.</p>		
Galway 2020 Making Waves	<p>Vision for Galway to be a catalyst of the future of inclusivity, participation and cultural sustainability, with the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regenerate the cultural life of the city and spread its influence across Europe. • Re-open our eyes to the immense cultural landscape of Galway and of Europe. • Re-energise communities that have been undermined by economic decline and migration. <p>Re-instil a confidence in the power of culture to shape our lived environment</p>		

Galway to 2025- Draft Tourism Strategy (2016)	<p>Vision to strengthen Galway’s status as a world-class destination offering exciting and unexpected experiences. Aims include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of visitors⁹ and value of tourism; 2. Successfully manage Galway’s reputation, sharing and marketing the experience of Galway, what it stands for, why it’s different and irresistible; 3. Support expanding or emerging tourism businesses (particularly micro and medium-sized) to create excellent products, visitor experiences and attract investment; 4. Support communities to be the ambassadors of the region – instilling pride, a strong sense of place and showcasing our unique heritage and culture, land and seascapes; 5. Guide, develop and provide sustainable world-class products and experiences - relevant to the market and Galway’s communities; and <p>Work in partnership, listen and remain accountable and willing to innovate.</p>		
Major Emergency Plan	<p>Galway County Council’s Major Emergency Plan sets out the specific arrangements and co-ordinated response in the event of a major emergency, which involves the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard analysis and risk assessment • Response planning • Recovery planning <p>Involvement in inter-agency training, exercises and regional forums</p>		
Ballinasloe Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy	<p>Strategic flood risk assessment report of the draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015-2021 for assessing the d Material Alterations to the Ballinasloe Draft Local Area Plan 2015 - 2021 in the context of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Draft Plan.</p>		
Galway County Council Walking & Cycling Strategy Report 2012	<p>Strategy for switching to more sustainable modes of transport for Galway County, including exploring avenues of behavioural change and introducing traffic calming measures and improving walking and cycling routes for pedestrians along school routes and town centres.</p>		
Draft Galway County Council Development Plan 2022-2028	<p>The Galway County Development Plan (2022-2028) has been prepared in accordance with Sections 11 and 12 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). A Development Plan is required to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the Development Plan and shall consist of a written statement and a plan or plans indicating the development objectives for the area in question.</p>		