

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

FOR THE ATHENRY LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030

for: Galway County Council

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Galway



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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Conclusion Statement for the Athenry Local Area Plan. The obligation to undertake AA derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as transposed into Irish legislation by, inter alia, the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of any European Site in view of its conservation objectives. This AA Conclusion Statement should be read in conjunction with the Plan and associated documents including the AA Natura Impact Report (NIR).

1.2 Legislative Requirements in relation to AA

In carrying out the AA for the Plan, Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires, inter alia, that the Council considers the matters arrayed in the first column on Table 1.1 below. The second column identifies how these issues have been addressed.

Table 1.1 Matters taken into account by the AA

Matter specified by the Regulations	How addressed by AA
(a) the Natura Impact Report	An AA NIR accompanies this AA Conclusion Statement and the Plan.
(b) any supplemental information furnished in relation to any such report	This AA Conclusion Statement accompanies the NIR that provides additional detail on European Sites.
(c) if appropriate, any additional information sought by the authority and furnished by the applicant in relation to a Natura Impact Report	
(d) any information or advice obtained by the public authority	Submissions made during the Plan preparation/AA process resulted in updates being made to the Plan that resulted in updates being made to the AA NIR.
(e) if appropriate, any written submissions or observations made to the public authority in relation to the application for consent for proposed plan or project	
(f) any other relevant information	Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake Stage 2 AA (Stage 2 AA was not required for the Alterations).

In addition to the above, the Regulations require that the Council makes available for inspection a determination regarding the outcome of the assessment with respect to whether or not the Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site (a copy of this determination is provided at Section 4).

1.3 AA Conclusion Statement

Non-Statutory AA guidance (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009) states that (Section 4.14) it *"is recommended that planning authorities include a clear and discrete AA Conclusion Statement as a distinct section in the written statement of the plan separate to the SEA statement."* This guidance recommends that the following issues are addressed by the AA Conclusion Statement:

- Summary of how the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan (see Section 2);
- Reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered as part of the AA process (see Section 3);
- A declaration that the Plan as adopted will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites (provided at Section 4); and
- The NIR (the AA NIR is accompanied by this AA Conclusion Statement and has informed the AA Determination – see Section 4).

Furthermore, as stated in the Draft "Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2021):

"...There is a similar requirement to publish a determination relating to the AA that may have been undertaken. Under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive the determination (often termed an 'AA Conclusion Statement') must state as to whether or not the Draft Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. However as stated in Section 3.5, this determination must have been made prior to the adoption of the Draft Plan."

This AA Conclusion Statement addresses the above issues, including the signed AA Determination included at Section 4.

Section 2 How the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at the Council in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan.

The Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. The findings of the AA were integrated into the Plan through mitigation measures. These mitigation measures ensure that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.¹ The mitigation measures included in the Local Area Plan that most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 2.1 below.

Furthermore, the detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department for the higher-level County Development Plan, combined with specialist input from the SEA and AA processes, resulted in the integration of mitigation into that Plan that must be complied with in the Plan area. These measures are identified on Table 2.2.

Table 2.1 Measures included in the Local Area Plan that will protect European sites and their sustaining resources²

Component ³	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
Alignment with Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028	<p>ASP 1 Consistency with Core Strategy Galway County Council will ensure that developments permitted within the plan area are consistent with the zoned land allocations in the Core Strategy and associated provisions of the <i>Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028</i>.</p> <p>Section 1.0 The successful implementation will positively impact Athenry, ensuring that it develops sustainably and works in tandem with the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (GCDP).</p> <p>ASP 83 Development Management Standards, Guidelines and Other Provisions Ensure that all of the provisions and general development management standards and guidelines set out in the current <i>Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028</i>, or any subsequent variation or review shall apply as appropriate in the plan area. Provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report shall apply regardless of whether the County Development Plan expires and/or is reviewed. 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>
Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	<p>ASP 3 Environmental Assessment 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.</p> <p>ASP 24 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community; Existing open space, sports and recreational facilities should be retained unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are surplus to requirements of the local community or are to be replaced by an equivalent or better provision; 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; Appropriate management and use of any areas of high biodiversity value; Tourism; Encourage and assist the development of the tourist potential within Athenry in a manner that protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner. <p>ASP 35 Green Network and the Landscape Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management.</p> <p>ASP 59 Athenry Relief Road Facilitate the timely delivery of any improvements to the existing transportation network, including the development of new transport infrastructure and the implementation of traffic management measures subject to normal planning and environmental considerations. Where possible, there will be minimal hedgerow/stone wall removal and beneficial landscaping and planting to maintain wildlife corridors. The Athenry Relief has Part 8 Planning Permission.</p>

¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

² Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

³ The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e., a measure providing for the protection of water could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, for example. All of the measures included in this table would benefit the protection of European sites.

Component ³	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>ASP 61 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources Promote and encourage development which is resilient to climate change by ensuring that development proposals demonstrate sustainable design principles for new buildings/ services/site including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Measures such as green roofs and green walls to reduce internal overheating and the urban heat island effect; b) Ensuring the efficient use of natural resources (including water) and making the most of natural systems both within and around buildings; c) Minimising pollution by reducing surface water runoff through increasing permeable surfaces and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); d) Reducing flood risk, damage to property from extreme events—residential, public and commercial; e) Reducing risks from temperature extremes and extreme weather events to critical infrastructure such as roads, communication networks, the water/drainage network, and energy supply; f) Promoting and protecting biodiversity and green infrastructure. <p>ASP 62 European Sites Protect European Sites including Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) that form part of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), 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 updated/superseding 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 and a Habitats Directive 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 impacts on the integrity of any European Sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); Or 2. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites (that does not host 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, 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 European Sites; Or 3. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites (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 European Sites. <p>ASP 63 Trees, Parkland/Woodland, and Hedgerows 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 a suitable native variety of trees (excluding Ash). Seek to retain natural boundaries, including stone walls, hedgerows and tree boundaries, wherever possible and replace them with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary where removal is unavoidable. Discourage the felling of mature trees where possible. All work is to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Act, 1946 (as amended). Carry out a tree survey on important tree stands within the plan area by suitably qualified personnel.</p> <p>ASP 64 Biodiversity & Ecological Networks Support the protection of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan Area including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, natural springs, peatlands, wetlands, stonewalls, and other landscape features such as Esker Riada, where these form part of the ecological network. Seek to retain and/or incorporate these natural features into developments, to avoid ecological fragmentation and maintain ecological corridors.</p>
<p>Peatlands, wetlands and surface water courses</p>	<p>ASP 35 Green Network and the Landscape Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management.</p> <p>ASP 64 Biodiversity & Ecological Networks Support the protection of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan Area including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, natural springs, peatlands, wetlands, stonewalls, and other landscape features such as Esker Riada, where these form part of the ecological network. Seek to retain and/or incorporate these natural features into developments, to avoid ecological fragmentation and maintain ecological corridors.</p> <p>ASP 69 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 the riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate. To contribute towards the protection and improvement of the status of surface and ground waters in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the development proposal would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments.</p> <p>ASP 73 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. The development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council is statutorily obliged to prevent any further deterioration in the quality status of the waters in Athenry (Clarín River and the Clare River Drainage Area) and to ensure good quality status by 2021.</p>
<p>Water services, groundwater and water quality (*WFD)</p>	<p>ASP 2 Service Led Development Development under the plan shall be preceded by sufficient capacity in the public wastewater infrastructure and potable water infrastructure. Potential developers shall make a Pre-Connection Enquiry to Uisce Éireann in order to establish the feasibility of a connection to the public network.</p> <p>ASP 29 Water Supply, Wastewater and Combined Drainage Infrastructure Support Uisce Éireann in the provision and maintenance of adequate wastewater disposal and water supply and the maintenance of existing combined (sewage and surface water) drainage infrastructure, in accordance with EU Directives,</p>

Component ³	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>to service Athenry. This will include satisfactory capacity for public wastewater and a satisfactory quantity and quality of water supply, Sustainable Drainage System and approaches and techniques with the plan area shall also be supported. The removal of surface water from combined drainage infrastructure is strongly encouraged in order to free up capacity for future development.</p> <p>ASP 30 Water Supply and Water Conservation Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply, promote water conservation to reduce the overall level of water loss in the public supply and require that new domestic developments provide for water supply metering in accordance with their connection agreement with Uisce Éireann.</p> <p>ASP 31 Connections to the Public Sewer and Public Water Mains Developments shall connect to the public sewer and public water mains, subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water, to protect all waters in the plan area, consolidate the urban structure and control ribbon development along approach roads into Athenry.</p> <p>ASP 61 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources Promote and encourage development which is resilient to climate change by ensuring that development proposals demonstrate sustainable design principles for new buildings/ services/site including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Measures such as green roofs and green walls to reduce internal overheating and the urban heat island effect; Ensuring the efficient use of natural resources (including water) and making the most of natural systems both within and around buildings; Minimising pollution by reducing surface water runoff through increasing permeable surfaces and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); Reducing flood risk, damage to property from extreme events—residential, public and commercial; Reducing risks from temperature extremes and extreme weather events to critical infrastructure such as roads, communication networks, the water/drainage network, and energy supply; Promoting and protecting biodiversity and green infrastructure. <p>ASP 69 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the existing surface water drainage system in Athenry. Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all 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. To maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water, the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers is not permitted. Refer also to Section 3.5 of the accompanying SFRA, "Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Surface Water Guidance and Strategy"</p> <p>ASP 74 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. The development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council is statutorily obliged to prevent any further deterioration in the quality status of the waters in Athenry (Clarín River and the Clare River Drainage Area) and to ensure good quality status by 2021.</p>
Tourism	<p>ASP 24 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community; Existing open space, sports and recreational facilities should be retained unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are surplus to requirements of the local community or are to be replaced by an equivalent or better provision; 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; Appropriate management and use of any areas of high biodiversity value; Tourism; Encourage and assist the development of the tourist potential within Athenry in a manner that protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner. <p>ASP 26 Tourism Development It will be a Policy Objective of the Council to seek to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the sustainable development of Athenry 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 regions. Collaborate with relevant tourism agencies in the enhancement of Athenry town, and increasing the economic value, to create a broader tourism offering, such as the concept of the 'Heritage Town'. 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 may be considered as stepping stones in support of European sites. Support tourism based enterprises at this location (identified on Map 2) with due recognition and respect to Athenry Castle and surrounding Town Walls
Built environment	<p>ASP 23 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 permit 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>ASP 33 Public Spaces and Streets Promote the development of high quality public spaces consisting of streets, squares, parks and amenities connected by a network of pedestrian and cycling routes. Public spaces should have a high standard of design and street furniture that will create a coherent character for the area. This would include appropriately designed and located park benches, bus shelters, bicycle storage facilities, refuse bins, signage, street sculpture, etc. but should avoid the over-proliferation of different elements and/or cluttering of public spaces.</p> <p>ASP 35 Green Network and the Landscape Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management.</p>

Component ³	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>ASP 27 Agriculture There will be a general presumption against residential development on Agricultural zoned lands, located within the plan boundary except for single house developments for family members on farm family-owned lands.</p> <p>ASP 36 Street-Oriented Development and Responsive Frontages Promote street-oriented development along the urban street network within the built areas of the town and the approach routes to the town. This will include improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport as appropriate and the promotion of high quality buildings or landscaping edges to these routes. Buildings and spaces should be designed to provide a human scale along street frontages with the use of appropriate building heights and responsive ground floor treatments. Intensive, fine-grained developments will generally be encouraged to provide a diversity of building forms and public spaces.</p> <p>ASP 50 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.⁴</p> <p>ASP 51 Transportation Infrastructure Facilitate the provision and maintenance of essential transportation infrastructure. This shall include the reservation of lands to facilitate public roads, footpaths, cycleways, bus stops and landscaping together with any necessarily associated works, as appropriate.</p> <p>ASP 52 Sustainable Transportation Facilitate any Smarter Travel initiatives that will improve sustainable transportation within the Plan Area and facilitate sustainable transportation options including public transportation, rail freight, electric vehicle rentals, car clubs, and public bike schemes, as appropriate.</p> <p>ASP 53 Pedestrian and Cycle Network Facilitate the improvement of the pedestrian and cycling environment and network so that it is safe and accessible to all, through the provision of the necessary infrastructure. New development shall promote and prioritise walking and cycling, shall be permeable, adequately linked and connected to neighbouring areas, the town centre, recreational, educational, residential and employment destinations and shall adhere to the principles contained within the national policy document Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020 and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013), as updated in 2019.</p> <p>ASP 56 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 route, line, level or layout of any proposed new roadway or any junction required between a proposed and existing road.</p> <p>ASP 61 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources Promote and encourage development which is resilient to climate change by ensuring that development proposals demonstrate sustainable design principles for new buildings/ services/site including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Measures such as green roofs and green walls to reduce internal overheating and the urban heat island effect; b) Ensuring the efficient use of natural resources (including water) and making the most of natural systems both within and around buildings; c) Minimising pollution by reducing surface water runoff through increasing permeable surfaces and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); d) Reducing flood risk, damage to property from extreme events—residential, public and commercial; e) Reducing risks from temperature extremes and extreme weather events to critical infrastructure such as roads, communication networks, the water/drainage network, and energy supply; f) Promoting and protecting biodiversity and green infrastructure.
Extractive Industry	<p>Although there is not extractive industry at present in the Plan, area, the Plan does state that it is “Open for Consideration” in the Land Use Matrix of the Plan – which states the following conditions: “A use that is classified as <i>Open for Consideration</i> is one that the Local Authority may permit where it is satisfied that the suggested form of development will be compatible with the policy objectives for the zone, will not conflict with permitted uses and conforms to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including the policy objectives, set out in this plan.”</p>
Invasive species	<p>The management of invasive species’ occurrence and risk where required is provided for via alignment with and adherence to the Galway Development Plan 2022-2028 Policy Objectives, via policy ASP 1, and in Section 1.0 of the Plan, which states the following: “The successful implementation will positively impact Athenry, ensuring that it develops sustainably and works in tandem with the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (GCDP).” This statement, and policy ASP 1, therefore renders any development or project resulting from the implementation of this Plan subject to compliance with Policy Objectives IS 1 and IS 2 of the Galway Development Plan 2022-2028.</p>
Agriculture	<p>ASP 70 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 the riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate. To contribute towards the protection and improvement of the status of surface and ground waters in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the development proposal would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments.</p> <p>ASP 74 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. The development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council is statutorily obliged to prevent any further deterioration in the quality status of the waters in Athenry (Clarín River and the Clare River Drainage Area) and to ensure good quality status by 2021.</p>

⁴ Including complying with the measures outlined in relation to this Policy Objective in Table 9.1 of the SEA Environmental Report and Table 5.1 of the AA Natura Impact Report.

Component ³	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
<p>Flood Risk Management</p>	<p>ASP 24 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community; b) Existing open space, sports and recreational facilities should be retained unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are surplus to requirements of the local community or are to be replaced by an equivalent or better provision; c) 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; d) Appropriate management and use of any areas of high biodiversity value; e) Tourism; f) Encourage and assist the development of the tourist potential within Athenry in a manner that protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner. <p>ASP 35 Green Network and the Landscape Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management.</p> <p>ASP 61 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources Promote and encourage development which is resilient to climate change by ensuring that development proposals demonstrate sustainable design principles for new buildings/ services/site including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Measures such as green roofs and green walls to reduce internal overheating and the urban heat island effect; b) Ensuring the efficient use of natural resources (including water) and making the most of natural systems both within and around buildings; c) Minimising pollution by reducing surface water runoff through increasing permeable surfaces and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); d) Reducing flood risk, damage to property from extreme events—residential, public and commercial; e) Reducing risks from temperature extremes and extreme weather events to critical infrastructure such as roads, communication networks, the water/drainage network, and energy supply; f) Promoting and protecting biodiversity and green infrastructure. <p>ASP 65 Constrained Land Use To facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of Flood Risk within the zoning plan area. This zoning indicates where the Plan Making Justification Test may need to be applied and as such can limit 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. New development will generally be limited to water-compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B, and a detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas. The underlying zoning or the existing permitted uses may be deemed to be acceptable in principle, however within Flood Zone A/B development is typically limited to extensions, renovations and change of use. Infill highly vulnerable development and demolition and reconstruction can only take place in Flood Zone C. Less vulnerable development in Flood Zone B will also need to be considered carefully. These aspects are assessed on a case by case basis under the application of the Plan Making Justification Test and as supported by specific objectives in the written statement. Where the Justification Test is passed there is also a requirement for a detailed Flood Risk Assessment at Development Management stage. The FRA should be carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk</p> <p>ASP 66 Flood Risk Management Guidelines It is the policy objective of Galway County Council to support, in cooperation 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>ASP 67 Flood Risk Management and Assessment It is a Policy Objective of the Council to comply with the requirements of the DoEHLG/OPW The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its accompanying Technical Appendices Document 2009 (including any updated/superseding documents). This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines; 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; 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 the risk of flooding. <p>ASP 68 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Avoid development that will be at risk of flooding or that will increase the flooding risk elsewhere, where possible; b) Substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible; and, c) Mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible. <p>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 a lower flood risk.</p> <p>ASP 71 Preservation of Bridges on Clarinbridge River It is a policy objective of Galway County Council to have due recognition of the integrity of existing bridges within the town boundary along Clarinbridge River due to their active role in preventing flooding events within Athenry.</p> <p>ASP 72 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 Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in Development Management Standards2</p>

Component ³	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>and 3. 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>ASP 73 Flood Risk Assessment and Climate Change Flood Risk Assessment in Athenry shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The Flood Risk Management – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019 shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>ASP 75 Flood Risk Assessment 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 Athenry.</p> <p>ASP 76 Flood Vulnerable Zones It is a policy objective of the Council 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.</p> <p>ASP 77 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> <p>Section 2.11 Development applications need to comply, as relevant and appropriate, with these County Development Plan measures as well as the measures relating to flood risk management that have been integrated into the Plan.</p>
Forestry	<p>The appropriate and considered sustainable development and maintenance of the forestry sector within the Plan boundary, is provided for via alignment with and adherence to the Galway Development Plan 2022-2028 Policy Objectives, via policy ASP 1, and in Section 1.0 of the Plan, which states the following: “The successful implementation will positively impact Athenry, ensuring that it develops sustainably and works in tandem with the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (GCDP).” This statement, and policy ASP 1, therefore renders any development or project resulting from the implementation of this Plan subject to compliance with Policy Objectives F 2 and F 3 the Galway Development Plan 2022-2028.</p>
Light, air & noise pollution	<p>The appropriate and considered development and maintenance of projects and infrastructure within the Plan boundary with regard to light, air and noise pollution, is provided for via alignment with and adherence to the Galway Development Plan 2022-2028 Policy Objectives, via policy ASP 1, and in Section 1.0 of the Plan, which states the following: “The successful implementation will positively impact Athenry, ensuring that it develops sustainably and works in tandem with the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (GCDP).” This statement, and policy ASP 1, therefore renders any development or project resulting from the implementation of this Plan subject to compliance with Policy Objectives NHB 1, NHB 3, NHB 8, LP 1, LP 3, WM 5, NP 1, NP 2, NP 3, NP 4, and NP 5, of the Galway Development Plan 2022-2028.</p> <p>ASP 32 High Quality, Contextually Sensitive Design Ensure that new developments are responsive to their site context and in keeping with the character, heritage, amenities, 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.</p>
Climate/ Renewable Energy/ Green/Blue Infrastructure	<p>ASP 60 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>ASP 61 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources Promote and encourage development which is resilient to climate change by ensuring that development proposals demonstrate sustainable design principles for new buildings/ services/site including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Measures such as green roofs and green walls to reduce internal overheating and the urban heat island effect; h) Ensuring the efficient use of natural resources (including water) and making the most of natural systems both within and around buildings; i) Minimising pollution by reducing surface water runoff through increasing permeable surfaces and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); j) Reducing flood risk, damage to property from extreme events–residential, public and commercial; k) Reducing risks from temperature extremes and extreme weather events to critical infrastructure such as roads, communication networks, the water/drainage network, and energy supply; l) Promoting and protecting biodiversity and green infrastructure. <p>ASP 73 Flood Risk Assessment and Climate Change Flood Risk Assessment in Athenry shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The Flood Risk Management – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019 shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>ASP 82 Renewable Energy Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy and associated infrastructure within the Plan area and encourage the integration of micro-renewable energy sources into the design and construction of new developments as appropriate.</p>
Waste Management	<p>ASP 78 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling Promote the prevention, reduction and recycling of the 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>

Table 2.2 Measures included in the County Development Plan that will protect European sites and their sustaining resources⁵

Topic	Measures
<p>Various – see below</p>	<p>MM1 "Monitoring. The Council shall, in conjunction with the Regional Assembly and other sources as relevant, implement the monitoring programme as set out in the SEA Environmental Report and Statement. This will include the preparation of stand-alone SEA Monitoring Reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To accompany the report required of the manager under section 15(2) of the Act, including information in relation to progress on, and the results of, monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Development Plan 2. On the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in advance of the beginning of the review of the next Plan." <p>PRP 2 Corridor and Route Selection Process</p> <p>Policy objectives relating to new roads and other transport infrastructure projects that are not already provided for by existing plans/ programmes or are not already permitted, are subject to the undertaking of feasibility assessment, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>WM 5 Construction and Environmental Management Plans</p> <p>Construction Environment Management Plans shall be prepared in advance of the construction of relevant projects and implemented throughout. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures which have been integrated into the Plan and any lower tier Environmental Impact Statement or Appropriate Assessment. CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse; b. location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities; c. details of site security fencing and hoardings; d. details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction; e. details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage; f. measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network; g. measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris; h. alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works; i. details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels; j. containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained (such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater); k. disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil, including compliance with 2006 Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; l. a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains; <p>WM 6 Waste Management. To continue to meet the duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008, including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>WM 7 Recycling Infrastructure. To provide for the provision of recycling infrastructure throughout the county where it is considered necessary and support the provision of additional recycling infrastructure throughout the county.</p> <p>WM 8 Sustainable Waste Management Practices. Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>WM 9 Separate Collection of Waste. Encourage and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations, 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>MAS 1 Separation Distances from SEVESO Sites</p> <p>To ensure that appropriate distances are maintained between any proposed development and any existing Seveso II establishment, in the interest of the health and safety of the occupiers of the proposed development.</p> <p>MAS 2 Soil Protection Measures</p> <p>To require that, the siting of new establishments, or modification of existing establishments classified under the Seveso II Directive, and new development in the vicinity of existing establishments shall take into account the need to prevent major accidents involving hazardous substances and safeguard both the public and the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAS 3 SEVESO III Sites <p>Take into account the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive, relating to the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances, and the recommendations of the Health and Safety Authority in the assessment of all planning applications located within the consultation distance of such sites.</p> <p>TI 4 Tourism and Infrastructure Capacity</p> <p>The potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals. Galway County Council will support Irish Water and Fáilte Ireland to ensure that tourism is serviced by adequate and appropriate water services infrastructure.</p> <p>MCH 2 Marine Based Environment. It is a Policy Objective of the Council to protect and enhance where appropriate marine biodiversity in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>MCC 1 Environmental Values of the Coast. Protect the amenity, character, visual, recreational, economic potential and environmental values of the coast. Ensure that natural coastal defences including sand dunes, beaches and coastal wetlands are not compromised by inappropriate development.</p> <p>MCC 2 "Protection of Coastal Habitats. To strictly control the nature and pattern of development within coastal areas and ensure that it is designed and landscaped to the highest standards and sited appropriately so as not to detract from the visual amenity of the area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development shall be prohibited where the development poses a significant or potential threat to coastal habitats or features, and/or where the development is likely to result in altered patterns of erosion or deposition elsewhere along the coast.

⁵ Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

Topic	Measures
	<p>b) To prohibit development along the coast outside existing towns and villages where such development is not adequately safeguarded over the lifetime of the development without the need to construct additional coastal defences." MCC 3 "Protection of Coastal Area. It is a policy objective to protect the Coastal Area through the following measures: a) Ensure that conservation works undertaken in coastal areas are in accordance with best practice and measures to protect the coast, the coastal edge and coastal habitats are supported; b) Seek to prevent the unauthorised removal of sand and related beach material; c) Protect, enhance and conserve beaches in the County from inappropriate development and seek to maintain the current status of the designated Blue Flag beaches and Green Coasts and to increase the number of beaches and coasts holding this status in the future; d) Facilitate an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to ensure the conservation, management and protection of man-made and natural resources of the coastal zone;" MCC 4 Integrated Framework Management Plan. Support the preparation of an Integrated Galway Bay Framework Management Plan by all relevant stakeholders to provide for the sustainable and integrated development of the Galway Bay Area in a co-ordinated manner. 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. AD1 Sustainable Agriculture Practices. To facilitate the development of sustainable agricultural practices and facilities within the county, subject to complying with best practice guidance, normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards in Chapter 15 Development Management and Standards. AD3 Modernisation of Agriculture Buildings. To facilitate the modernisation of agriculture and to encourage best practice in the design and construction of new agricultural buildings and installations to protect the environment, natural and built heritage and residential amenity. AT 2 Local Airstrips. (a) The Council shall liaise with the Irish Aviation Authority with regard to the effects of any development proposals in the vicinity of local airstrips. (b) Support that the Cleggan and Inishbofin airstrips be brought into use to support economic development⁶.</p>
<p>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</p>	<p>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. "</p>

⁶ Bringing these airstrips into use would need to be subject to detailed studies and formal approval of any proposals by Galway County Council. Any proposal would need to demonstrate: a contribution towards the proper planning and sustainable development of the county; compliance with all environmental legislation and policies and objectives contained within the Plan and higher level planning documents, including the National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy; and that no effect on the integrity of any European Site would occur.

Topic	Measures
	<p>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."</p> <p>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 projects⁷).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>PO1 Delivery of All Ireland Pollinator Plan. To facilitate the delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan where possible.</p>

⁷ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Topic	Measures
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Soil	<p>SQ 1 Soil Impact Assessments. Ensure good soil quality throughout the county by requiring developments of a certain nature (as specified in the relevant environmental legislation) to carry out assessments of the impact of the development on soil quality.</p> <p>SQ 2 Soil Protection Measures. To ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate.</p> <p>SQ 3 Soil Protection, Contamination and Remediation</p> <p>Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p> <p>All undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment. All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p> <p>Treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>ESK1 Protection of Eskers Systems. Protect and conserve the landscape, natural heritage and biodiversity value of esker systems in the county. Assess applications for quarrying and other proposed developments with reference to their status or relative importance, for example, amenity, landscape and scientific value in the context of the overall esker system.</p> <p>ESK2 Esker Areas. Have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment of the County of Galway and its recommendations relating to the Esker areas and any other subsequent relevant reports/ data.</p>
Water	<p>RH 11 Waste Water Treatment provision. Where a connection to the public wastewater network is not available, provide for sustainable rural housing in the county in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses (2009).</p> <p>AD4 Agriculture Waste. To ensure agricultural waste is managed and disposed of in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner having regard to the environment and in full compliance with the European Communities Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations (2014) and relevant best practice guidelines.</p> <p>WS 1 Enhancement of Water Supply Infrastructure. Liaise with Irish Water, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure, to facilitate existing and future growth.</p> <p>WS 2 Protection of Water Supplies. Collaborate with Irish Water and the Group Water Federation Scheme to protect, conserve and enhance all existing and potential water resources in the County to ensure compliance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 (as amended) and compliance of water supplies with the parameters identified in these Regulations.</p> <p>WS 3 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021. Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>WS 4 Requirement to Liaise with Irish Water – Water Supply. Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply and require that all new developments intending to connect to a public water supply liaise with Irish Water with regard to the water (and waste water) infrastructure required.</p> <p>WS 5 Private Water Supply. Support the provision of a private water supply in instances where there is no public water supply or where the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity to serve the proposed development. This will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in the EU and national legislation and guidance including adherence to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, and would not be prejudicial to public health or would not significantly impact negatively on the source or yield of an existing supply.</p>

Topic	Measures
	<p>WS 6 Water Framework Directive. Support the preparation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>WS 7 Water Quality. Require that new development proposals would ensure that there would not be an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p> <p>WS 8 Proliferation of Septic Tanks. Encourage the use of high standard treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>CWS 1 Water Conservation with all Developments. To ensure all developments incorporate water conservation measures such as rain water harvesting to minimise wastage of water supply.</p> <p>CWS 2 Water Mains Rehabilitation. To assist Irish Water in their commitment to water conservation and support efforts to tackle leakage through find and fix (active leakage control) and water mains rehabilitation.</p> <p>CWS 3 Promotion of Water Conservation. To support Irish Water in promoting public awareness and involvement in water conservation measures by households, business and industry.</p> <p>WW 1 Enhancement of Wastewater Supply Infrastructure. Work in conjunction with Irish Water to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure, to facilitate future growth in the county.</p> <p>WW 2 Delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure. Liaise and co-operate with Irish Water in the implementation and delivery of the Water Services Strategic Plan (2015) and the Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-2024 and other relevant investment works programmes of Irish Water in the delivery of infrastructure within the county.</p> <p>WW 3 The Greater Galway Area Strategic Drainage Study. To seek to accelerate and support the delivery of the Greater Galway Area Strategic Drainage Study and the associated solutions as identified in the RSES as an essential infrastructure requirement, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Irish Water and Galway City Council.</p> <p>WW 4 "Requirement to Liaise with Irish Water – Wastewater. Ensure that new developments will only be permitted which are adequately serviced with sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) to the public sewer unless provided for otherwise by the plan. Developers shall liaise with Irish Water with regard to the waste water (and water)infrastructure to ensure sufficient capacity is available prior to the submission of a planning application. "</p> <p>WW 5 Serviced Sites. Support the servicing of small towns and villages including initiatives to provide an alternative to one-off housing in the countryside, in accordance with the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>WW 6 Private Wastewater Treatment Plants. Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment System 2021 (Population Equivalent ≤10).</p> <p>WW 7 Sustainable Drainage Systems. To require the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of SuDS measures be incorporated in all new development (including extensions to existing developments). All development proposals shall be accompanied by a comprehensive SuDS assessment including run-off quantity, run off quality and impacts on habitat and water quality.</p> <p>WW 8 Storm Water Infrastructure. To support the improvement of storm water infrastructure and to increase the use of sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>WW 9 Integrated Wetland Wastewater Treatment Systems Galway County Council will encourage the use of integrated wetland wastewater treatment systems for both one off and multi-unit housing developments that accord with the prevailing regulations and standards including the relevant EPA Code of Practice.</p> <p>WW10 Surface Water Drainage To require all new developments to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm.</p> <p>WW11 Protection of Irish Water Collection Systems To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>WR 1 Water resources. Protect the water resources in the plan area, including rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, springs, turloughs, surface water and groundwater quality, as well as surface waters, aquatic and wetland habitats and freshwater and water dependant species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the River Basin District Management Plan 2018 – 2021 and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same) and also have regard to the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Management Plans.</p> <p>WR 2 River Basin Management Plans. It is a policy objective of the Council to implement the programme of measures developed by the River Basin District Projects under the Water Framework Directive in relation to: Surface and groundwater interaction, Dangerous substances, Hydro-morphology, Forestry, On site wastewater treatment systems, Municipal and industrial discharges, Urban pressures, Abstractions.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>IW 1 Inland Waterways.</p> <p>(a) Protect and conserve the quality, character and features of inland waterways by controlling developments close to navigable and non-navigable waterways in accordance with best practice guidelines.</p> <p>(b) Preserve, protect and enhance Galway's inland lakes and waterways for their amenity and recreational resource amenity.</p> <p>(c) Protect the riparian zones of watercourse systems throughout the County, recognising the benefits they provide in relation to flood risk management and their protection of the ecological integrity of watercourse systems and ensure they are considered in the land use zoning in Local Area Plans.</p> <p>(d) The Council will support in principal the development and upgrading of the Inland Waterways and their associated facilities in accordance with legislation, best practice and relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and bodies including Waterways Ireland.</p> <p>(e) Ensure all abstractions of water will be subject to assessment for compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>(f) Seek to provide additional accesses to lake shores and rivers for public rights of way, parking and layby facilities, where appropriate.</p> <p>(g) Developments shall ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken, where appropriate, including investigations into the nature and extent of any soil/groundwater contamination"</p> <p>FL 1 Flood Risk Management Guidelines. 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>

Topic	Measures
Air and Climatic Factors	<p>AQ 1 Ambient Air Quality. To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>AQ 2 Assessment of Air Quality. To require developments which would have the potential to have adverse impacts on air quality to carry out assessments of the impact of the development on air quality.</p> <p>AQ 3 Air Quality Mitigation Measures. To require the use of appropriate mitigation measures such as dust dampeners to minimise the potential impacts of developments on air quality.</p> <p>AQ 4 Air Purification. The Council shall encourage landscaping and deciduous tree planting in an environmentally sensitive manner within towns and villages as a means of air purification, the filtering of suspended particles and the improvement of their micro-climate.</p> <p>AQ 5 Radon. The Council shall have regard, to the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Development Plan).</p> <p>NP 1 Galway County Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023. To implement the Galway County Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure.</p> <p>NP 2 Developments within Noise Maps (Noise Action Plan 2019-2023). To require that where new developments are proposed within the noise limits of the noise maps for the designated sections of roads in the County, appropriate mitigation measures are undertaken so as to prevent harmful effects from environmental noise.</p> <p>NP 3 Noise Impact Assessments. To require an assessment of impact of the development on noise levels, having regard to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 and 2003 and the EPA Noise Regulations 1994 when assessing planning application.</p> <p>NP 4 Noise Pollution and Regulation. Restrict development proposals causing noise pollution in excess of best practice standards and Regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise, other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA</p> <p>NP 5 Noise Mitigation Measures. Require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors. The provision of a noise audit may be required where appropriate</p> <p>CC1 Climate Change. Support and facilitate the implementation of European, national and regional objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p>CC2 Transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient society. It is the Council's policy objective to support the transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency.</p> <p>CC3 County Galway Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. To implement the County Galway Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 as appropriate</p> <p>CC4 Local Authority Climate Action Plan. Support the preparation of a Climate Action Plan for County Galway.</p> <p>CC5 Climate Adaptation and Mitigation. To promote, support and direct effective climate action policies and objectives that seek to improve climate outcomes across County Galway through the encouragement and integration of appropriate mitigation and adaptation considerations and measures into all development and decision making processes.</p> <p>CC6 Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy. To support the implementation of the Renewable Energy Strategy contained in Appendix 1 of the Galway County Development Plan to facilitate the transition to a low carbon county.</p> <p>CC7 Climate Action Fund. Support the delivery of sustainable development projects under the European Green Deal and utilise the Climate Action Fund/ Just Transition Fund established under the National Development Plan to encourage public and private climate mitigation and adaptation projects in line with criteria set out by the Fund at that time.</p> <p>CC8 Climate Action and Development Location. To implement, through the plan and future local areas plans, policies 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>CC9 Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation. Galway County Council shall incorporate climate change adaptation into land use planning, building layouts, energy, transport, natural resource management, forestry, agriculture and marine waters.</p> <p>CC10 Green Infrastructure. Galway County Council shall promote the benefit of open spaces and implement the integration of green infrastructure/networks (e.g. interconnected network of green spaces (including aquatic ecosystems) and other physical features on land) into new development and regeneration proposals in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p>
Material Assets	<p>RH 11 Waste Water Treatment provision. Where a connection to the public wastewater network is not available, provide for sustainable rural housing in the county in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses (2009).</p> <p>AD4 Agricultural Waste. To ensure agricultural waste is managed and disposed of in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner having regard to the environment and in full compliance with the European Communities Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations (2014) and relevant best practice guidelines.</p> <p>WS 1 Enhancement of Water Supply Infrastructure. Liaise with Irish Water, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure, to facilitate existing and future growth.</p> <p>WS 2 Protection of Water Supplies. Collaborate with Irish Water and the Group Water Federation Scheme to protect, conserve and enhance all existing and potential water resources in the County to ensure compliance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations Drinking Water Regulations 2014 (as amended) and compliance of water supplies with the parameters identified in these Regulations.</p> <p>WS 3 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021. Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>WS 4 Requirement to Liaise with Irish Water – Water Supply. Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply and require that all new developments intending to connect to a public water supply liaise with Irish Water with regard to the water (and waste water) infrastructure required.</p> <p>WS 5 Private Water Supply. Support the provision of a private water supply in instances where there is no public water supply or where the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity to serve the proposed development. This will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in the EU and national legislation and guidance including adherence to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, and would not be prejudicial to public health or would not significantly impact negatively on the source or yield of an existing supply.</p> <p>WS 6 Water Framework Directive. Support the preparation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>WS 7 Water Quality. Require that new development proposals would ensure that there would not be an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p>

Topic	Measures
	<p>WS 8 Proliferation of Septic Tanks. Encourage the use of high standard treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>WW 9 Integrated Wetland Wastewater Treatment Systems Galway County Council will encourage the use of integrated wetland wastewater treatment systems for both one off and multi-unit housing developments that accord with the prevailing regulations and standards including the relevant EPA Code of Practice.</p> <p>WW10 Surface Water Drainage To require all new developments to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm.</p> <p>WW11 Protection of Irish Water Collection Systems To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>CWS 1 Water Conservation with all Developments. To ensure all developments incorporate water conservation measures such as rain water harvesting to minimise wastage of water supply.</p> <p>CWS 2 Water Mains Rehabilitation. To assist Irish Water in their commitment to water conservation and support efforts to tackle leakage through find and fix (active leakage control) and water mains rehabilitation.</p> <p>CWS 3 Promotion of Water Conservation. To support Irish Water in promoting public awareness and involvement in water conservation measures by households, business and industry.</p> <p>WW 1 Enhancement of Wastewater Supply Infrastructure. Work in conjunction with Irish Water to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure, to facilitate future growth in the county.</p> <p>WW 2 Delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure. Liaise and co-operate with Irish Water in the implementation and delivery of the Water Services Strategic Plan (2015) and the Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-2024 and other relevant investment works programmes of Irish Water in the delivery of infrastructure within the county.</p> <p>WW 3 The Greater Galway Area Strategic Drainage Study. To seek to accelerate and support the delivery of the Greater Galway Area Strategic Drainage Study and the associated solutions as identified in the RSES as an essential infrastructure requirement, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Irish Water and Galway City Council.</p> <p>WW 4 "Requirement to Liaise with Irish Water – Wastewater. Ensure that new developments will only be permitted which are adequately serviced with sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) to the public sewer unless provided for otherwise by the plan. Developers shall liaise with Irish Water with regard to the waste water (and water) infrastructure to ensure sufficient capacity is available prior to the submission of a planning application. "</p> <p>WW 5 Serviced Sites. Support the servicing of small towns and villages including initiatives to provide an alternative to one-off housing in the countryside, in accordance with the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>WW 6 Private Wastewater Treatment Plants. Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment System 2021 (Population Equivalent ≤10).</p> <p>WW 7 Sustainable Drainage Systems. To require the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of SuDS measures be incorporated in all new development (including extensions to existing developments). All development proposals shall be accompanied by a comprehensive SuDS assessment including run-off quantity, run off quality and impacts on habitat and water quality.</p> <p>WW 8 Storm Water Infrastructure. To support the improvement of storm water infrastructure and to increase the use of sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>WM 1 Connacht and Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015-2021. Support the implementation of the Connacht and Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 or any updated version of this document within the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>WM 2 Requirements for Waste Management. Support and promote the circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, and to sustainably manage residual waste. New developments will be expected to take account of the provisions of the Waste Management Plan for the Region and observe those elements of it that relate to waste prevention and minimisation, waste recycling facilities, and the capacity for source segregation.</p> <p>WM 3 Waste Recovery and Disposal Facilities. Support and facilitate the provision of adequate waste recovery and disposal facilities for the county.</p> <p>WM 4 Waste Legalisation. To require that all waste disposal shall be undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency and relevant Waste Management Legislation.</p>

Section 3 Consideration of Alternatives

This section summarises the alternatives considered for the Plan during the preparation process. These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects (including those related to ecology and European sites) which are identified by the SEA (informed by the AA) and are summarised below; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Council.

3.1 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the existing, already in force, Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

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

3.2 Type 1: Alternatives Already Considered

The preparation of the County Development Plan and associated SEA process already considered various different types of alternatives, including those relating to population allocations, which were integrated into that Plan and which set requirements for lower tier planning in the County.

3.3 Type 2: Land Use Zoning Alternatives

Alternative Type 2 (i): "More Consolidated, More Compact"

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

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

The development of the Town Centre would be more compact and sustainable under this scenario and would support the longer-term viability of the settlement. 30% of Residential units would be expected on Town Centre lands.

Opportunity sites identified with clear design and proposed uses identified – making successful applications for the sustainable, compact development of the town more likely.

The approach under Alternative Type 2 (i): "More Compact Development" would benefit the protection of various environmental components. Although potentially adverse effects associated with land use development would exist, they would be mitigated to a significant degree.

Alternative Type 2 (ii): "Less Consolidated, Less Compact"

By not following a more compact, serviced/serviceable land and infrastructure assessment approach, this alternative would not allow for water supply, waste water, compact growth, public transport and co-ordinated development considerations to be integrated into the Plan to the highest degree.

Additional infrastructure would be required to accommodate sporadic development, more than would be required for Alternative 1 'More Compact Development' and some development may have to be serviced by private waste water treatment systems which would have to be properly maintained.

The development of the Town Centre would be less compact and less sustainable under this scenario and would not optimally support the longer-term viability of the settlement. 30% of Residential units would be less likely to be achieved on Town Centre lands (in comparison with Type 2 (i)).

Opportunity sites are identified but no clear guidance on the design parameters or uses identified – making successful applications for the sustainable, compact development of the town less likely.

An opportunity to mitigate potentially adverse effects arising from land use development to a significant degree would have been missed by the approach under Alternative Type 2 (ii): "Less Compact Development".

Selected Alternative: Type 2 (i): "More Consolidated, More Compact"; however, certain Material Alterations (including MA40, MA41, MA42, MA43, MA46, MA47, MA49, MA51 and MA65) would introduce elements of Type 2 (ii): "Less Compact Development".

3.4 Type 3: Alternatives for Transport

Type 3 (i) Low Carbon Corridors and Connections

Supporting the use of a low carbon corridors and connections within the Plan boundary (Type 3 (i) Alternative A) would facilitate a greater achievement of sustainable modes of transport more likely. This would be likely to improve the potential for meeting important objectives relating to emissions/energy objectives. Applications for such development would be more likely to be granted permission. Project level consideration of environmental impacts and mitigation, including those relating to construction, would need to take place in the context of more detail around potential proposals.

Not explicitly supporting the use of a low carbon corridors and connections within the Plan boundary, would make a greater achievement of the sustainable modes of transport less likely. This would be likely to reduce the potential for meeting important objectives relating to emissions/energy objectives. Applications for such development would be less likely to be granted permission. Project level consideration of environmental impacts and mitigation, including those relating to construction, would need to take place in the context of more detail around potential proposals.

Selected Alternative: Alternative A

Type 3 (ii) How to provide new transport infrastructure

The provision of new transport infrastructure, with all additional environmental mitigation left to be defined until project level (Alternative A) would offer the least certainty for environmental protection and management and would be more likely to result in important individual projects (relating to sustainable mobility and emissions objectives) not getting permission.

Specifying environmental constraints (including those related to habitats and potential impacts such as disturbance from lighting – e.g. minimising river crossings, avoiding sensitive habitats, not increasing barriers to flood waters and sustainable design and construction techniques) at Plan level (Alternative B) would offer the most certainty for environmental protection and management and would be more likely to result in important individual projects (relating to sustainable mobility and emissions/energy objectives) receiving permission.

Selected Alternative: Alternative B

Type 3 (iii) Road Space Capacity

Reallocating road space would have the potential to change behaviours and would influence the profile of users of the urban centre and mode share of transport. Reallocating road space within Athenry to walking, cycling and public transport to accompany / occur concurrently with the provision of any additional road space capacity that may arise in the future (Type 3 (ii) Alternative A) could take the form of removing traffic from streets, removing lanes of traffic, narrowing carriageways, traffic management measures, or removing on-street parking to provide cycle tracks or widened footpaths. This would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility. This would also facilitate the enhancement of the public realm (including cultural heritage and its context) by contributing towards the replacement of motorised transport modes with more sustainable and non-motorised modes. Project level consideration of environmental impacts and mitigation, including those relating to construction, would need to take place in the context of more detail around proposals. To not accompany the development of additional road space capacity by a corresponding reallocation of road space within Athenry to walking, cycling and public transport (Type 3 (ii) Alternative B) would not benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility.

Selected Alternative: Alternative A

Section 4 AA Determination

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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Appropriate Assessment Determination under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the

Athenry Local Area Plan 2024-2030

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would affect the integrity of any European site(s), this Appropriate Assessment determination is being made by Galway County Council relating to the potential for the Athenry Local Area Plan 2024-2030 that is being adopted¹ to have effects on the integrity of European sites.

In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment (AA), the Council is taking into account the matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the following²:

- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan;
- The Screening for AA Report prepared for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents.

As part of the AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 6 (no.) European sites. Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as residential, town centre, community, business and enterprise, business and technology, open space, tourism, agriculture, public utilities, transport and other infrastructure that introduce sources for effects through construction phase hydrological interactions; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments - these sources could result in disturbance effects and interactions with water quality.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusions presented and determines that:

- Implementation of the Plan would have had the potential to result in effects to the integrity of European sites, if unmitigated.
- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures into the Plan that will, in addition to the measures already in force through the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and reliably mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.

¹ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all and any alterations; and all and any further modifications considered by the AA process.

² A consolidated Natura Impact Report has also been made available, integrating relevant elements of these matters into one document.

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- In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects have been considered in this assessment and the mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan – these measures are robust and will ensure there will be no effects on the integrity of European sites as a result of the implementation of the Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.
- Having incorporated mitigation measures³ and taking into account the measures already in force through the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028⁴, the Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any effect on the integrity of any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁵. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

Signed: Brendan Dunne

Name: BRENDAN DUNNE

Date: 09.01.2024

Signatory: Valerie Fayhnan

Date: 09.01.2024

³ As detailed under the following reference numbers in the consolidated Natura Impact Report: ASP 1, Section 1.0, ASP B2, ASP 3, ASP 23, ASP 34, ASP 58, ASP 61, ASP 62, ASP 63, ASP 34, ASP 63, ASP 69, ASP 73, ASP 2, ASP 28, ASP 29, ASP 30, ASP 60, ASP 68, ASP 25, ASP 22, ASP 32, ASP 26, ASP 35, ASP 49, ASP 50, ASP 51, ASP 52, ASP 55, ASP 64, ASP 65, ASP 66, ASP 67, ASP 70, ASP 71, ASP 72, ASP 74, ASP 75, ASP 76, Section 2.11, ASP 59, ASP 81 and ASP 77.

⁴ As detailed under the following reference numbers in the consolidated Natura Impact Report. MM1, PRP 2, WM 5, WM 6, WM 7, WM 8, WM 9, MAS 1, MAS 2, MAS 3, TI 4, MCH 2, MCC 1, MCC 2, MCC 3, MCC 4, GICT 3, AD1, AD3, AT 2, LP 1, LP 2, LP 3, F2, F3, F4, F5, MEQ2, NHB 1, NHB 2, NHB 3, NHB 4, NHB 5, NHB 6, NHB 7, NHB 8, NHB 9, NHB 10, NHB 11, WTWf 1, P1, P2, P3, IS 1, IS 2, PO1, TWHS 1, TWHS 2, TWHS 3, BMSP 8, CT 2, CT 3, CT 5, HT 3, GICT 3, RE4, SQ 1, SQ 2, SQ 3, ESK1, ESK2, RH 11, AD4, WS 1, WS 2, WS 3, WS 4, WS 5, WS 6, WS 7, WS 8, CWS 1, CWS 2, CWS 3, WW 1, WW 2, WW 3, WW 4, WW 5, WW 6, WW 7, WW 8, WW 9, WW10, WW11, WR 1, WR 2, WTWf 1, IW 1, FL 1, AQ 1, AQ 2, AQ 3, AQ 4, AQ 5, NP 1, NP 2, NP 3, NP 4, NP 5, CC1, CC2, CC3, CC4, CC5, CC6, CC7, CC8, CC9, CC10, RH 11, AD4, WM 1, WM 2, WM 3 and WM 4.

⁵ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.